

14 February 2017

Dear Ian Wolf,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 24 January 2017. You asked:

- For summary information of the "Community Employment Specialist" role.

The Community Employment Specialist (CES) role is an innovative way of working. This independent role will provide community based disability support to unemployed disabled people, as well as offering an opportunity for Job Centre Plus staff to gain an in depth knowledge of disability issues and the barriers disabled people face. This CES's role sits within the Journey into Employment (J2E) job club but works in the Jobcentre as well, offering unemployed disabled people advice, mentoring and support to overcome barriers.

The CES will provide a vital link between the JCP office, local disability provision and the J2E job club. This dual role will enable a joined up package of support to be provided which will incorporate work ready activities and the more innovative holistic, peer support approaches provided by J2E.

The Community Employment Specialist (CES) will have a lived experience or expert knowledge of disability and a real insight into the issues disabled people face in finding and securing employment.

The CES will need excellent communication skills and be able to manage a range of tasks in the J2E Job Club, Jobcentre Plus and in the local community. This role will provide an opportunity to lead a change agenda and actively influence and support employers in the local community to change their attitudes towards employing disabled people or those with a health condition and work with them to build a better understanding of disability and being Disability Confident.

- Does the "Journey to Employment job clubs" "Peer-led sessions" involve unpaid claimants as peers and provision for expenses incurred by peers?

All sessions in the Journey to Employment job club are delivered and overseen by staff who receive payment for their time. The Community Employment Specialist (CES) role is a paid role.

People are not mandated to deliver peer support, participation in the J2E peer support job clubs is voluntary; as part of their personal development participants are encouraged to get involved to boost their confidence, motivation and feelings of responsibility.

Participant's expenses incurred from taking part in the J2E job club is covered by the Job centre

- Copy of the application form for funding and information is attached separately

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)