

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: VTR 3467

DATE: 19 August 2014

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 03 August 2014. You asked:

Transgressors of law undertake no choice Community Payback (CP) community work punishments, will Jobseekers doing no choice Help to Work Community Work Placements (CWP) be doing the same no choice work as those doing Community Payback?

Is there any information held that shows that no CWP should be exactly the same as those for CP? Please disclose the information you have that shows how any Jobseeker can lodge a prior Conscientious Objection, with the DWP, to undertaking CWP akin to anyone on CP?

Community Work Placements

Work placements must be of benefit to the community

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/312731/cwp-annex-1.pdf

Community Payback

It must benefit the local community

It must not take paid work away from others

No one must make a profit from the work

It must be challenging and demanding

It must be worthwhile and constructive

Offenders must be seen to be putting something back into the community.

<http://www.kentprobation.org/index.php?page=27>

Jobless treated same as offenders

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/jobless-treated-same-as-offenders-20140730-3cujc.html>

The welfare to work companies we have contracted to provide Community Work Placements are experienced at delivering different programmes across different areas of Government. These are two entirely different schemes and we would expect the requirements of placements for offenders to be different, often with much higher levels of supervision.

Community Work Placements are about giving long-term unemployed people vital skills and experience, and the placements must all be appropriate for the individual, while also being of benefit to the local community.

The Jobcentre Plus (JCP) Adviser will notify providers of any claimant participation restrictions which must be recorded and taken into account when planning a placement; providers will also be notified if a claimant requires any reasonable adjustments and/or additional support/arrangements

Provider guidance at paragraphs 206 to 208 states:

“You must ensure that any restrictions on the type of work the claimant is seeking are taken into account when sourcing work placements - for example, if a claimant has a particular religious belief impacting on the type of work they can carry out or, if a claimant is unable to do heavy lifting due to a health condition or disability.

Where claimants have agreed attendance and participation restrictions with JCP (and only where JCP have notified you as detailed on the PRaP referral or change of circumstances notification) you **must not** mandate claimants to undertake activity that contradicts these restrictions. Claimants without attendance and/or participation restrictions can be mandated to undertake activity on evenings and weekends provided it is appropriate in their circumstances.

You should manage claimants’ expectations of available opportunities but wherever possible placements must be appropriate to the claimant’s desired employment sector and/or occupation type, and local labour market. Placements must be designed to give claimants experience of work, help strengthen their CVs and enable them to compete more effectively in the job market ”

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/314475/community-work-placements-provider-guidance.pdf

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy FoI Team

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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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