

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 4205

9 September 2013

Dear Mr Snyder,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 3 September 2013. You asked

For your Decision Makers (DM) section please do email me the good reasons or DM reasons communicated for not having to register with Universal Jobmatch (UJ), after deciding not to register when Directed and being subsequently referred for DM Action. Do you keep statistics on DM Action and Referral on UJ? What types of stats does the DM section record? Do email me the statistical information for the DM sections activities, management information and performance indicators covering March 2013 to now.

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not provide that a public authority must create new information to answer questions; nor does it provide that a public authority give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

In cases where a person asks a question, rather than request recorded information, we do our utmost to provide the recorded information that best answers the question. Once the public authority has provided the recorded information, it has met its obligations under the Act; interpretation of the information provided is left to the requestor.

The factors that constitute 'good reason' are not defined in legislation and consequently, no recorded information exists to answer your enquiry. Good reason is determined by the Decision Maker, taking into account all available information.

For the period 3 June 2013, when this sanction type started to 31 July 2013, our records show that 531 referrals were made to Decision Makers on the grounds of failing to comply with a Jobseeker's Direction to create a profile and CV in Universal Jobmatch. This resulted in 343 sanctions being applied.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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@dwpgsi.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