

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 1865

DATE: 27 June 2017

Dear Mr Lupton,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 28 April 2017. You asked:

DWP single departmental plan: 2015 to 2020

I would like e versions of your particular project implementation plans for the youth obligation and work and health programme.

Youth Obligation

The Implementation Plans for Youth Obligation can not be released as they are not held centrally. But to be helpful we have explained the implementation of Youth Obligation below.

Youth Obligation is covered by the existing Welfare Reform Regulations. There was a commitment in the Conservative Manifesto of 2015 to deliver Youth Obligation and the intent to deliver by April 2017. This was published in the DWP Departmental Plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020/dwp-single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020>

In 2016, we developed Youth Obligation policy messaging and designed and developed the supporting processes and issue guidance in readiness for the release date of 26 April 2017.

In 2017, the Youth Obligation implementation planning involves several activity streams that are reviewed regularly. This includes updates to Transformation Planning Group, budget checks and reviews of the memorandum of understanding between DWP and the Department for Education. 2017 Youth Obligation planning also involves commercial activity, including exploring options and drafting an Invitation to Tender. Another activity in the implementation plan for 2017 involves the design, sign off and data collection for Youth Obligation management information. The Youth Obligation implementation plan also checks that key aspects of the Youth Obligation IT build is delivered and training products are reviewed and refreshed. The last main area for checking is the assurance that sites are ready to go live and that implementation has happened.

Youth Obligation went live to 49 existing Universal Credit full service sites on the 26 April 2017. This meant that any 18 – 21 year old who made a new claim in a full service area from that date is considered for their eligibility for Youth Obligation.

The future implementation of Youth Obligation will be aligned to the national rollout of Universal Credit, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-transition-to-full-service>

Work and Health Programme

I have established that project implementation plans for the Work and Health Programme are not currently held by the Department.

It may be helpful if I explain that the Department for Work and Pensions is currently in a live procurement for the Work and Health Programme and defined implementation plans will be available once the successful supplier has been selected in September 2017.

This commercial timeline and outcomes from the commercial dialogue with providers will feed into detailed implementation plans to support delivery of the Work and Health Programme.

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@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