

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 594

2/3/15

Dear Mr Harris,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on the 13 February 2015.
You asked:

On 4 February 2015, Rt Hon Esther McVey MP, Minister of State for Employment told the Work and Pensions Committee "... and there is further research that, should somebody have been sanctioned, it helps them into work afterwards."

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/work-and-pensions-committee/benefit-sanctions-policy-beyond-the-oakley-review/oral/17970.html>

Please supply me with the research the Minister referred to that "should somebody have been sanctioned, it helps them into work afterwards."

The minister referred to a range of international evidence regarding the impacts on employment following a benefit sanction. Recent studies from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland show an increased employment uptake for recipients of unemployment insurance or welfare benefits after a benefit sanction has been imposed.

Please find attached a list with a selection of the existing research:

van den Berg G, van der Klaauw B, van Ours J (2004) Punitive sanctions and the transition rate from welfare to work. J Labor Econ 22:211–241

Abbring J, van den Berg G, van Ours J (2005) The effect of unemployment insurance sanctions on the transition rate from unemployment to employment. Econ J 115:602–630

Lalive R, van Ours J, Zweimüller J (2005) The effect of benefit sanctions on the duration of unemployment. J Eur Econ Assoc 3:1386–1417

van der Klaauw B, van Ours J (2013) Carrot and stick: how re-employment bonuses and benefit sanctions affect exit rates from welfare. J Appl Econometrics 28(2):275–298

Svarer M (2011) The effect of sanctions on the exit rate from unemployment: evidence from Denmark. Economica 78(312):751–778

Boockmann et al (2014) Intensifying the use of benefit sanctions: an effective tool to increase employment? IZA Journal of Labor Policy 3:21

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol 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 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745