

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 1092

DATE: 19 April 2016

Dear Chris Fish,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 22 March 2016. You asked:

After the contracts with private sector providers have ended, how will the work experience / work placements be sourced and arranged in order to comply with The Welfare Reform Act 2012 (Part 2, 16(e) 'undertaking work experience or a work placement').

In other words:-

Which organisation(s) or government department(s) will take responsibility for arranging work placements / work experience for claimants, after the contracts with private sector providers have ended?

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 (section 16(3)(e)) enables the Department for Work and Pensions to require a claimant to take part in work experience or a work placement.

The department has offered a range of work experience placement opportunities for claimants. We always intended to review the Mandatory Work Activity Programme and Community Work Placement element of Help to Work when contracts end in 2016. The labour market is in a different and much improved position compared with when these programmes were introduced and the support we provide through our Jobcentres and contracted provision needs to evolve and be responsive to these changes and the needs of our claimants. We are therefore ceasing these two work placement programmes when contracts end and we are currently designing the future support we will offer unemployed claimants building on the best evidence we have on value for money and employment impacts. The responsibility for sourcing voluntary work experience placements lies with Jobcentre Plus and this work experience opportunity will continue to be available to claimants who would benefit from a period of work related activity.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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.gov.uk