

DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Ron Hub,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) review request which was received on 11 October 2017. In that request, you asked for a review of your FOI numbered 3936. You asked:

*1. Even though the specifics of the providers' in-house job search engines may not be known yet I believe you should still be able to provide information relating to my points 2, 3 and 4 as the information should not be specific to exactly which job search engine a provider may be using. Please provide that information.*

*2. Where you have stated:*

*"In respect of your request 5a, I can confirm that the current policy is WHP providers will not be able to mandate a long term unemployed participant to create a profile and public CV in Universal Jobmatch (UJM) where the participant had not done so already. "*

*Please provide the source of information that you based this reply on, as I requested.*

## **DWP Response**

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. Your review request is upheld as we held additional information which should have been included in response to your Fol request 3936 and is set out below.

In Q1 you refer to your points 2, 3 and 4 of your Fol request 3936 which I have copied below for ease of reference.

*With respect to the new Work and Health Programme starting autumn 2017:*

- 1.....*
- 2. Please provide the information you hold that explains whether it is mandatory (in the sense of a doubt being raised against the claimant if they refuse to use them) for a claimant to use any of these in-house job search engines and if so which ones and with which provider.*
- 3. If usage of these in-house job search engines is mandatory please supply all the information you hold that explains why they are mandatory.*
- 4. If the in-house job search engines are not mandatory please supply all the information you hold that explains why they are not mandatory.*

I can confirm the Work and Health Programme (WHP) policy intention is that WHP providers are able to mandate long term unemployed (LTU) participants to undertake reasonable activity (taking into account the participant's circumstances) which would help them find and retain work. Subject to the conditions the provider must follow, as detailed in our response to your Fol request 3936, this would include the option to make the use of in-house provider job search engines a mandatory activity for LTU participants (addressing your point 2). The legal basis for this was also set out in

response to Fol 3936 covering LTU participants in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit (addressing your point 3).

It is important to emphasise that WHP providers will have the freedom to develop their own approaches to help participants into work and job search is an important part of this. Providers will discuss and seek agreement with participants about work-related activities that will offer the best prospects of employment for that individual.

These freedoms include WHP providers having the discretion to mandate a participant to undertake any reasonable activity which, in their opinion, will enhance that participant's prospects of employment. Such activity could include a requirement for that individual to use specific job search portals or websites on a mandatory basis where that is seen as offering the best prospects for that particular individual. For a different individual the provider may decide that there is no need give a mandate to undertake such activity (addressing your point 4).

It is intended that the WHP provider guidance will be updated to reflect this policy and I refer you to our response to your Q2 below for more information on this guidance.

In response to your Q2 I can confirm the source of information you are seeking as the Work and Health Programme (WHP) provider guidance. However, Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts this information from disclosure. This is because the information is intended for publication at a future date. The Department intends to publish the Work & Health Programme (WHP) provider guidance on gov.uk to coincide with the start of WHP delivery.

This exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be weighed in the balance. There is a public interest in information being released as soon as possible. However, I am satisfied that there is a strong public interest in permitting public authorities to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities I am satisfied that in this instance the Department has a reasonable entitlement to make its own arrangements to do so.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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**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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)