

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: VTR4493

8th January 2013

Dear Jason Davies,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which is detailed below along with our response which has been grouped by subject.

Please refer to this web link:

<http://unemploymentmovement.com/forum/unemployment/4452-warning-on-new-universal-jobsmatch-form#6781>

On that web page there is a scanned copy of a document from Taunton JCP. With reference to this document:

1. Is this document specific to Taunton JCP or will all Jobcentres be issuing these?
2. Is it specific to people on the Work Programme or is it applicable to all job seekers?
3. Please provide reference to the guidelines that support the assertion on this document that "To satisfy JSA conditionality you will be required to confirm the details below and confirm you have registered on the Universal Jobsmatch site" Please provide specific confirmation that a land line number, a mobile number and an email address are required as previous FOIs have shown that none of these are required for JSA conditionality because they conflict with Data Protection rights.

The letter referred to in your request is not a nationally approved Universal Jobmatch (UJ) product. We have therefore requested all Jobcentre Plus offices refrain from using locally produced products and as a result of this, documents of this nature should no longer be in circulation.

Turning to the question you raise about supplying a land line number, a mobile number and an email address, it is not mandatory for a person claiming Jobseeker's Allowance to supply these details.

6. Please confirm, or otherwise, that the statement "Q8. Does everyone have to register to search for jobs?

No, but if not, jobseeker's will not be able to access all the facilities listed in question 7." in this DWP document: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-jobmatch-faqs.pdf>, is correct, i.e. that there is no mandation to Universal Jobmatch and that JSA is not conditional on signing up for it.

We intend to introduce mandation for Universal Jobmatch in 2013.

It is not currently mandatory for jobseekers to use the Universal Jobmatch service but it has always been our intention to mandate some JSA claimants to register with Universal Jobmatch and upload a CV so that they can make full use of the service.

We intend to require those claimants to do this under a Jobseeker's Direction, when some changes have been made to the service to fully support this. Jobseeker's Directions require Jobseeker's Allowance claimants to take specific actions which will help them find work, and failure to do so without good reason may result in a benefit sanction.

4. Please confirm that provided the jobseeker can demonstrate he has an adequate electronic CV that it will not be necessary to provide the Jobcentre/DWP with an electronic copy of that CV for any purpose, but specifically for the purpose of Universal Jobmatch.

JSA claimants are expected to do all that is reasonable of them to find work. An Adviser may issue a Jobseeker's Direction requiring a claimant to develop a CV. In these circumstances the claimant will be expected to provide a copy of their CV as evidence. This does not have to be electronically.

5. Please confirm, or otherwise, that the last statement, "I give DWP permission to access my Universal Jobmatch account" may be crossed out (i.e. the job seeker may decline this permission without it affecting his benefit entitlement).

At present, access to your Universal Jobmatch account is only available to DWP staff once you have given your consent; this is on a voluntary basis.

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.gov.uk