

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FoI 2603 and 2604

DATE: 25 August 2016

Dear Mr James Edward,

Thank you for your two Freedom of Information requests of 11<sup>th</sup> July. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

You also made a number of similar requests dated 30<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> July, which were responded to in a previous letter. Therefore, this response focuses on any further questions you've raised.

You asked about the need to sign a JSA Claimant Commitment rather than keep your existing Jobseeker's Agreement.

This was answered in our previous letter to you, so in summary, retaining a Jobseeker's Agreement when the details in it are to be amended is not possible.

The Jobseeker's Act 1995 requires JSA claimants and employment advisers to enter into a jobseeker's agreement. Historically, the details of this agreement were recorded on a document known as a Jobseeker's Agreement. Although the legal requirement to enter into such an agreement remains, a policy decision was made to move from a Jobseeker's Agreement to a JSA Claimant Commitment, as a means of recording claimant requirements. Therefore, JSA claimants need to agree and sign a JSA Claimant Commitment, which sets out the actions they need undertake to satisfy the entitlement conditions for JSA; to be actively seeking and available for employment. It is a legal requirement for claimants to have signed a JSA Claimant Commitment (which is a Jobseeker's Agreement for the purposes of the Jobseeker's Act, 1995).

You specified a list of postcode districts for when JSA claimants need to accept a Claimant Commitment.

The postcode districts specified in SI 2013/987 are not relevant to claimants making a claim for JSA under the 1995 Act. Those postcode districts are for claimants making a claim to new-style (contributions-based) JSA under the Welfare Reform Act, 2012. Therefore, the introduction of Universal Credit in a particular geographical area is not linked to the need for someone to have a JSA Claimant Commitment rather than a Jobseeker's Agreement.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy FoI 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)