

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 5666

4 December 2013

Dear George Hepplestein,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 2 December 2013. You asked for:-

1. Section 44(2) of the Welfare Reform act 2012 states:

"In section 1 (the jobseeker's allowance), in subsection (2)(b) for "entered into a jobseeker's agreement which remains in force" there is substituted "accepted a claimant commitment"."

a) If this Act is in force now how are those claimants who are currently claiming JSA and still have a JSAg legally entitled to claim JSA as they have not yet "accepted a claimant commitment"?

b) Doesn't the fact that there are still claimants receiving JSA without having "accepted a claimant commitment" (and will be up to April 2014) mean that a JSA claimant with a JSAg does not mandatorily have to accept a JS CC to be eligible for JSA? If, as you state in my previous FOI (5422), it is mandatory to accept a JSA CC please provide more detail to explain specifically what makes it mandatory for a claimant with a current JSAg to accept a JS CC.

2. In the section "My Claimant Statement" in the JSA CC there is this statement: "I understand this Claimant Commitment is my Jobseeker's Agreement for the purpose of section 1(2)(b) of the Jobseekers act 1995"

What written or verbal explanation will be offered to the claimant at the point of signing the JSA CC to ensure that the claimant literally understands the full legal ramifications of the statement he is being asked to accept?

You can expect a reply by 2 January 2013 unless I need to come back to you to clarify your request or the balance of the public interest test needs to be considered.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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