

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: Fol 2271

Date: 13 July 2016

Dear Mr Allan,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 27 June 2016. You asked:

“To put my request in context, I have been told by a JCP work coach that the Jobcentre are now legally empowered to retain or photocopy claimant's work search activities without the claimant's consent.

Is there any legal requirement now in place for claimants in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance or the Jobseeker's Allowance element of Universal Credit that allows the Jobcentre to retain or photocopy a claimant's work search activities without the claimant's consent”?

To put the format of this response into context, it may be helpful if we explain about the Freedom of Information Act. The Act concerns the provision of recorded information held by public authorities such as DWP; the Act does not require that we create new information or generate answers to questions. Therefore, if a request is made in the form of a question, we provide the recorded information already held that answers the question.

In this instance, we can confirm there is no law that allows the jobcentre to retain or photocopy a Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit claimant's work search activities without their consent. Therefore, there is no recorded information that answers your question.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us 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@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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745