

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 5 July 2019. You asked:

Revised request

Please disclose the "Linking rules" information you hold that refer to JSA or UC. I am not asking for information on just linking JSA and UC claims, but the information you hold that covers "Linking rules" that concerns/refers to/mentions JSA or UC.

*"Linking rules are decided at a strategic level and therefore does not have associated legislation."
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/571296/response/1386353/attach/html/2/WDTK%20Review%20Template%20IR18602.pdf.html>*

As linking-rules do "not have associated legislation" and no "Linking rules" information is in the public domain and the DWP decide them on a "strategic level", I expect the DWP to be able to disclose the linking-rules information it holds that concerns/refers to/mentions JSA or UC.

I do not consider there is any need to mention the "context", as I am only asking for your "Linking rules" that:

concerns/refers to/mentions

UC

or

JSA

Please also disclose who has access to all of your linking-rules information and please disclose, if such exists, a summary or index of the linking-rules information held covering any social security benefit.

DWP Response

I confirm that we hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

Linking rules allow customers to continue to be eligible for the Work and Health Programme, they have small breaks during their benefit claim or move between these benefits as follows:

- JSA claimants who have a previous benefit claim of more than 26 weeks, and a break of 28 days or less will have their previous WHP eligibility point extended by the number of days of the break

- Linking rules do not apply for periods of Universal Credit claims.
- JSA claimants who migrate to Universal Credit Full Service will reach their WHP eligibility point when both benefit periods total 24 months.'

Access to linking rules information is available in the public domain and work coaches have access to it in respect of Work and Health Programme via our guidance team. – see attached Spotlight on Work and Health Programme.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you. Linking rules for JSA is in the public domain which can be accessed here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1996/207/part/III/made>

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