

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 750

16 March 2015

Dear Frank Zola,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 23 February 2015. You asked:

For Contract Reference: UI_DWP_101562 on Work Experience (WE) Section 3.8 & 3.9, is WE a mandatory part of the scheme? If so, what is the precise regulatory and legal basis for the WE? What specific legislation and regulations apply to this WE? Please provide exact details of which Decision Making and Sanctions guidance and parts thereof would be applicable for anyone refusing this WE outright.

Ref: East London & Essex Lone Parent Programme

Reference number: UI_DWP_101562

Estimated duration 05/05/2015 - 30/05/2016

Estimated value £226,370 - £226,370

Location where the contract is to be carried out: South East East London and Essex

Is this suitable for smaller suppliers? Yes

*Is this contract suitable for a voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations?
Yes*

*Name of the buying organisation: Department for Work and Pensions Employment
Category Commercial Team*

<https://online.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/Common/View%20Notice.aspx?NoticeId=1750329>

Reply

is WE a mandatory part of the scheme?

The contract Reference number: UI_DWP_101562 is the East London & Essex Lone Parent Programme. The District has confirmed this is a voluntary Programme, aimed at supporting lone parent customers into employment. Customers are made aware of the content of the

programme before they start and will be aware of the two week period of work experience, the work experience placements will support child friendly hours.

The Youth Contract (and formerly Get Britain Working) Work Experience placements are not mandatory, participation is entirely voluntary. Work Experience is one of a series of measures which form part of the Jobcentre Plus flexible menu of support to help claimants seek and obtain employment prior to their eligibility for referral to the Work Programme.

Should a claimant leave a Work Experience placement, a sanction will not apply except where the claimant has been asked to leave due to gross misconduct (i.e. theft).

If so, what is the precise regulatory and legal basis for the WE?

The Youth Contract (and formerly Get Britain Working) Work Experience placements are established under section 2 of the Employment and Training Act 1973 (the 1973 Act), which confers powers on the Secretary of State to establish schemes for the purpose of assisting people find and retain employment.

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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745