

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref FOI 3532

6 December 2011

Dear Ms May

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 24 November 2011.

You requested the following information:

A copy of the guidance given to Jobcentre staff on how they should exercise discretion with regard to sending JSA claimants on to a period of Mandatory Work Activity and Mandatory Work Experience, and any information held that discusses the criteria used to inform decisions to place people on a Mandatory Work Activity or Mandatory Work Experience, and those reasons when people should not be placed on such mandatory employment schemes.

With regard to Mandatory Work Activity, the guidance published for Jobcentre Plus advisory teams is attached.

Department for Work and Pensions does not operate a Mandatory Work Experience programme. Our Work Experience programme is entirely voluntary. However, except for 16/17 year olds, participation becomes mandatory once the claimant has made a decision to participate. Those participating serve a one week probationary period during which they can leave voluntarily without fear of sanction.

The relevant sections of the guidance, published for Jobcentre Plus advisory teams is also attached.

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, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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