

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR524

DATE: 1 March 2016

Dear Ms Harriman

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 11 February 2016. You asked:

I have tried to find out if the New Enterprise Allowance is open to Universal Credit claimants.

Googling "New Enterprise Allowance" I came across these two pages:

1) www.gov.uk/new-enterprise-allowance (dated 15th May 2015)
*which states "You must be aged 18 or over, have a business idea and get one of the following benefits:
Jobseeker's Allowance (or your partner does)
Employment and Support Allowance (or your partner does)
Income Support, if you're a lone parent or you're sick
You may also be eligible if you get Universal Credit. "*

2) www.gov.uk/moving-from-benefits.../start...
(dated 30th October 2015)
*which states "You may be able to get New Enterprise Allowance if you're over 18 and you can show that you have a business idea that could work. You need to be getting one of the following benefits:
Jobseeker's Allowance (or your partner does)
Employment and Support Allowance (or your partner does), if you're in the work-related activity group
Income Support, if you're a lone parent, or you're sick or disabled
"*
but doesn't state Universal Credit.

I'm particularly confused as it is the later page which doesn't mention it. Which is correct?

DWP Response

The guidance dated 15 May 2015 is correct.

The New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) is open to claimants of JSA, and ESA (and their dependent partners), Income Support claimants who are lone parents or who are sick, and some Universal Credit claimants. If you are on UC, your work coach will be able to advise you on your eligibility.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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.gov.uk