

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 3191

10/8/15

Dear Mr Fraser,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 31 July 2015. You asked:

I'm trying to find the latest guideline of Universal Credit Eligibility.

The most detailed one I could find on-line is:

[http://about.universalcredit.service.gov.uk/kms/Pages/Eligibility for Universal Credit.htm](http://about.universalcredit.service.gov.uk/kms/Pages/Eligibility%20for%20Universal%20Credit.htm)

If it is valid, can you answer to the following 2 points?

1) When can you expect to include Self-Employment?

2) You defined;

"are receiving Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, DLA or PIP"

&

"are awaiting a decision on a claim to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Housing Benefit"

are not eligible, then

Are those who are currently receiving Housing Benefit or Working Tax Credit eligible to claim?

If it is not the latest one, please share the link to it, and also clarify the above 2 points in case it does not specify those 2 points.

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

However, to be helpful you may find the following explanation useful which has been provided outside our obligations under the Freedom of Information regime.

In answer to Question 1 re: Self Employed. The current service that is in 50 % of Jobcentres across Great Britain allows a limited number of claimant types to claim UC. This gives us the opportunity to test the fundamental elements of the system. We are building on this to develop a digital service that will allow everyone eligible for UC to claim, including the self employed.

However, this digital service is only available in a couple of jobcentres in parts of Sutton and Croydon, whilst we test and improve the system. We will start expanding this service in the Autumn of this year. See the link below for actual postcodes.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit>

If you are currently claiming Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit you cannot claim Universal Credit on top of this. If your claims to these two benefits ceased for any reason and you later became eligible for Universal Credit, and live in an area where it is available for you to claim, you may be entitled to the housing and work allowance element of Universal Credit. Please see the link for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

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