

Ms Glenys Harriman

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

request-269953-f77d51f3@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: **Fol 2139**

Date: 5 June 2015

Dear Glenys Harriman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 27 May 2015. You asked:

Universal Credit at Work Spring 2015 (dated Feb 2015) states “Central to the in-work strategy is the use of Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs), testing with several thousand claimants, to quantify the impacts of different approaches and learn how people respond to different offers of support. RCTs are the best way to define the effectiveness of various types of approaches. DWP has recently laid regulations to conduct trials in Universal Credit in order to generate robust evidence to further refine the provision of in-work support .The Department will engage around 15,000 low-paid claimants through 2015 and 2016 to test the impact of a core in-work service. The first formal trial, launching in April 2015, will be led by Jobcentre Plus and aims to inform the core design of an in-work service that supports people to earn more and reduce poverty.”

I have been unable to find where these trials have started or the details of how the trials work.

Please could you tell me where these have started / will start and point me to publications detailing the support being tested.

The In Work Progression Randomised Control Trial commenced on 20th April 2015. The following 10 jobcentres are taking part in the initial phase:

Ashton Jobcentre Plus, 101 Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne, OL6 6BJ;

Bath Jobcentre Plus, Somerset Hall, Somerset Street, Bath BA1 1TS;

Hammersmith Jobcentre Plus, 22 Glenthorne Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0PP

Harrogate Jobcentre Plus, Berkeley House, 35 Victoria Avenue Harrogate, HG1 5PZ;

Inverness Jobcentre Plus, River House, Young Street, Inverness, IV3 5BP;

Oldham Jobcentre Plus, Tweedale House, 75 Union Street, OL1 1LH;

Rugby Jobcentre Plus, Kingsforth House, Albert Street, Rugby CV21 2TD;

Shotton Jobcentre Plus, Civic Centre, Wepre Drive, Connahs Quay, CH5 4HA;

Wigan Jobcentre Plus, Brocol House, 71 King Street, Wigan WN1 1EA; and

Warrington Jobcentre Plus, Nolan House, 10 Mersey Street, Warrington WA1 2BL.

On 29 September 2014, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced his commitment to test in-work support in Universal Credit in 2015 – copies of his speech can be found in

<http://press.conservatives.com/post/98728606860/iain-duncan-smith-speech-to-conservative-party>

In January 2015 the Universal Credit Regulations 2013 were amended to cover In Work Progression – these changes can be found at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmgeneral/deleg2/150114/150114s01.htm>

The trial which commenced on the 20th April incorporates these changes and is designed to gather evidence to identify the best and most effective ways to help people on Universal Credit earn more. We have produced a number of products to help support our staff in managing this change. Copies of these products have been included but please note that these are not final products and will be updated and amended as the trial progresses.

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