

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: VTR 1493

Date: 22 April 2015

Dear R Davis

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 8 April 2015.
You asked:

Please detail in full, the complete range of possible UNPAID vacancies, opportunities, work experience or other employer offered opportunities that a JSA claimant can accept, without it impacting on their entitlement to continue to receive the JSA benefit to assist that JSA claimant to be offered work from that employer?

Please specify whether there are any restrictions on the type of roles that a claimant can accept, or if there are any restrictions on the hours that they can commit to the opportunity being offered to them?

I can confirm that we do not hold any detailed recorded information about the complete range of possible unpaid vacancies, opportunities, work experience or other employer offered opportunities that a JSA claimant may choose to do to help them gain employment from a particular employer.

However, we do hold recorded information in the form of operational guidance about volunteering and the impact this may have on a JSA claimant's benefit. This is attached for information in Annex A and Annex B. I have also provided a link to the Decision Makers Guide, Volume 4, Chapter 21. In particular, may I draw your attention to clauses 21168 – 21169, 21273 – 21275 and 21295, all of which reference voluntary work.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419793/dmgch21.pdf

In addition to the above, Jobcentre Plus also offer unpaid work opportunities either directly or indirectly through the following schemes:

- Work Experience
- Sector based work academies
- Work Trial
- Traineeships
- Mandatory Work Experience
- Community Work Placements
- Work Programme (at provider discretion)
- Movement to Work

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@dpw.gsi.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