

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 4969

DATE: 13 January 2016

Dear Mr Roberts,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25th November 2015. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

You asked:

- 1. Please provide information on the Work and Health Programme. Include details of the amount of funding allocated to this programme and information on how the programme will operate. If the programme includes payments to any service providers please provide details of the payments available to these providers and precise information on what they must do to get payments.***
- 2. .Please provide a copy of all staff guidance prepared for those who will be involved with the Work and Health Programme.***
- 3. The Chancellor in his Autumn Statement revealed that there would be greater use made of council offices by the DWP in dealing with benefit claimants. Please provide all information held that explains how the DWP intend to use council offices.***

1. The Spending Review announced that a new 'Work and Health Programme' will replace Work Choice and the Work Programme when current contracts end, restructuring our current provision to providing the best possible support for claimants with disabilities or health conditions as well as those who are long term unemployed. The Department will work with stakeholders on the design, including the structure and how people will be referred to the programme.

2. The Government will publish a White Paper this year that will set out reforms to improve support for people with health conditions and disabilities and further reduce the disability employment gap.

3. In looking to co-locate with local authorities, we are building on the co-location strategy in Jobcentre Plus which, since 2013, has been to consider hosting and co-locating with public, voluntary sector and contracted partners to deliver targeted, cost-effective services, where it is

sensible to do so. Through stronger, local partnerships, we are better able to assist people to find work, acquire skills and serve their communities.

At present, DWP has 30 fully co-located sites, mostly where a full Jobcentre service is co-located within a partner's premises. The majority of full co-locations are with Local Authorities; others include housing associations and colleges.

Through our local Jobcentre Plus Managers, we are engaged in discussions with partner organisations about specific opportunities in many locations across the country. Where co-locations have been completed, the experience has proved positive in relation to claimant outcomes, business delivery and financial benefits.

To facilitate co-location, we are developing a Co-location Guide for Local Authorities that brings together details of good practice and a high level process that can support the identification and delivery of future co-location arrangements. This is being developed together with the Local Authority Associations and will support councils as we work jointly to review and deliver an efficient and cost-effective national network of Jobcentres.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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@dwp.gsi.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.gov.uk