

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx)

Our Ref: VTR422

15 March 2012

Dear Paula Tuitt,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received 31 January 2012. You asked:

Please provide the names of those organisations known to have agreed to provide work placements under your "Work Experience" scheme for youth age 24 and under.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2011/nov-2011/dwp132-11.shtml>

Yours faithfully,

Paula Tuitt

The information you have requested is not held centrally and we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Furthermore, the information you request would also be withheld under Section 43 of the FOI Act which relates to the commercial interests of both the Department and those delivering services on our behalf. I consider that the exemption applies because it is intended to protect the ability of the Department to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of our suppliers and delivery partners. I maintain that the information you seek falls into this category.

In line with the Department's transparency commitments, we have previously provided information about companies who participate in a number of our programmes that offer work experience. However, we are now invoking the exemption because it has become clear in recent weeks that there are a minority of people who appear to be seeking to undermine the goodwill of employers who are prepared to offer opportunities to unemployed people by attempting to harm those companies' commercial interests.

These actions are not only intended to harm those companies, but could also have an adverse impact on jobseekers who want to get experience in a real working environment to improve their chances of getting employment. They could also deter employers from committing their time and resources to providing such opportunities to people who are keen to make a positive step towards finding a job. Because of this we have had to reconsider our position on releasing information on the employers we work with.

As required by the Act in respect of the Section 43 exemption, I have also considered whether the balance of the public interest comes down in favour of not complying with your request. I consider that there is no overarching public interest argument in favour of releasing this information for the following reasons:

- the release of the information as requested could potentially damage the commercial interests of organisations providing work experience placements; and
- the release of the information could inhibit or limit the ability of the Department to obtain the best services to improve people's chances of securing employment.
- The release could limit the opportunity for Jobseekers to gain real experience which would assist them to gain employment.

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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)