

Dear Mr Atrill,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 26 October 2011. In that request, you asked:

- 1. Please supply a list of the Work Programme Providers for the Isle of Wight since the Work programme began to date.*
- 2. Also the number of people on the Isle of Wight that have been required to take part in Mandatory Work Activity and the number that have had benefits sanctioned for subsequently refusing to take part or for failing to comply with the requirements of the Work Programme.*
- 3. Also please supply a complete list of the businesses, organisations, charities etc taking part in the Work Programme on the Isle of Wight, by requesting to have people work for them without pay.*

For ease of reference I will answer each of your questions in the order in which you raised them.

#### **Question 1**

The Work Programme will be delivered by contracted partners (prime providers) from the public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as social enterprises. These prime providers will form networks with sub-contractors to deliver the Work Programme at a local level.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you. This first link below is to a document on the Department's website which lists the prime providers of the Work Programme, the second link details the subcontractors for each Work Programme provider;

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/cpa-preferred-bidders.pdf>

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-supply-chains.pdf>

#### **Question 2**

The information you have requested is intended for future publication; and therefore is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption is qualified, and is therefore subject to a

public interest test. The public interest test is where the Department considers whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding or disclosing the information requested.

Arguments in favour of disclosure: There are public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this information at the present time. Disclosure would for example improve transparency in the operations of the Department.

Arguments against disclosure: There are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified.

It is also in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process, to ensure that the data is accurate once placed into the public domain. It is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

On this occasion, the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information. As I have explained above, statistics on this issue will be published in due course.

### **Question 3**

There are no businesses, organisations or charities taking part in the Work Programme requesting people to work for them without pay and so no information is held to answer your request.

I can however tell you that in order to continue receiving benefit payments people receiving JSA are required to undertake some mandatory activity to continue receiving that same level of state support. Part of this involves work placements, which allow people who have been without a job for 2 years or more to gain some recent work experience.

On the Isle of Wight the following companies have volunteered to work with A4e to provide work experience opportunities to Work Programme customers;

- All Aspects Cleaning
- Stonehaven Residential Home
- AB News
- Poundland
- BetaPak

Maximus do not operate a list of organisations signed up to provide work placements; instead they set up placements as required on an individual basis.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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**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)