

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 1876, IR 273 and IR 284

DATE: 29 June 2017

Dear Mr Powell,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests of 29 April, 31 May and 5 June 2017. Please accept our apologies for the delay and note that we uphold your review requests. You asked:

On 29th April you asked:

For The Department for Work and Pensions guarantee of youth work experience, what financial incentives will you be giving to employers or providers who find or support the experience with employers? What does your guarantee entail and if refused when made compulsory after being unemployed for six months what happens to the UC claimants standard allowance, housing costs or other elements of UC? What EU funding supports this intervention?

On 31st May you asked:

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Youth Obligation and the guarantee of work experience'. No information given

On 5th June you asked:

I am requesting an internal review

As planned in April 2017 we introduced the Youth Obligation for 18-21 year olds who make a new claim to Universal Credit full service and are in the All Work Related Requirements Conditionality group. They will receive intensive work focused support from day one of their claim through the Youth Obligation.

They have a range of opportunities to gain work experience whilst on the Youth Obligation, including 2-8 weeks work experience in the first six months of their claim with a variety of organisations, including businesses and not for profit organisations.

If they are still unemployed and claiming Universal Credit after 6 months they will be referred to work-related training (such as Traineeships and sector based work academies which offer work experience as part of the course) or guaranteed work experience.

A range of guaranteed work experience roles will be sourced by Jobcentre Plus locally with registered charities and public sector organisations to give young people the skills and

experience they need to gain an Apprenticeship place or other job and progress their future career. Guaranteed work experience opportunities last up to 3 months. A claimant may do a number of roles with the same or with different organisations during the 3 month guaranteed work experience.

DWP does not provide a financial incentive to employers who offer young people work experience opportunities.

All claimants are expected to take responsibility for meeting the actions they have agreed with their Work Coach in their commitment. If a claimant does not do so, for example if they do not attend the guaranteed work experience, they are given every opportunity to explain their reasons for not doing so. Imposing a sanction is not something we do lightly.

Information on the sanctions that may apply to Youth Obligation claimants is provided on Gov.uk. at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596901/universal-credit-and-you-march-2017.pdf

There is no EU funding for the Youth Obligation.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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.gov.uk