

Freedom of Information request 3460/2013

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Information request

I want an email of your information, such as forms and guidance or info for Jobcentre employees, on the "new fortnightly job search trial" you talked about in March <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-credit-pathfinder-update> when and where the trials are happening when they start and end and who was involved in devising the trial

DWP response

Commitment Pack

1. To get Jobseeker's Allowance, claimants must be available for work and do all that can be reasonably expected every week to give themselves best prospects of getting work.
2. What constitutes 'all that is reasonable' will vary depending upon individual circumstances, but for most claimants looking for work should be a full-time job in itself. Active, effective and persistent jobsearch gives people the best chance of getting a job quickly.
3. This includes undertaking regular (usually daily) activities to identify and apply for jobs and one-off type activities to improve their chances of getting work, for example, developing/improving a CV, improving other job search skills, tools and techniques, undertaking activity to improve motivation and confidence or gain experience and improving numeracy, literacy or other skills.
4. The role of the adviser is to:
 - discuss, agree and set out in the Claimant Commitment, Work Related Activities that, if undertaken, constitute all that can be reasonably expected every week to give the claimant best prospects of getting a job quickly;
 - provide claimants with the help they need to help maximise their chances of getting work quickly, provide information, advice and guidance on how best to identify and apply for jobs and provide help to overcome things that may make finding and getting work harder, for example, ineffective job search or identifying or overcoming a skills need or gap; and
 - identify and refer any doubts to a Decision Maker, where they cannot be resolved locally.
5. Beyond the new claims stage, entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance is determined, and additional support is provided, through Work Search Reviews conducted on a fortnightly basis and Work Related Interviews tailored to individual need.
6. To help achieve this a Commitment Pack has been introduced, which will:
 - help claimants demonstrate what they have been doing to look for work and improve their chances of finding work and therefore, confirm their ongoing entitlement to Jobseeker's Allowance;
 - help claimants plan, organise and structure their work search and work preparation activity;
 - provide a means by which claimants can record and follow-up activities, for example job applications;
 - provide claimants with a record of what they have achieved and a reminder of which activities in their Claimant Commitment they still need to do; and
 - provide valuable information to help the adviser determine what help, if any, the claimant may need to improve their chances of getting work quickly.
7. The purpose of the Commitment Pack should be explained to the claimant and they should be encouraged to use it. The relevant sections should be completed before it is issued to the claimant.