

Freedom of Information request 5122/2014

Received 24/11/14

Published

Information request

1 - How much does it cost the relevant local/ national department &/or the Brighton and Hove Council &/or East Sussex County Council to send one single individual to attend the 13 week Pilot Supervised Jobsearch for the following provider- Skills Training UK.

In summary, the unit cost per customer during the pilot.

2 - How much will (or if relevant, does) it cost the relevant local/ national department &/or the Brighton and Hove Council &/or East Sussex County Council to send one single individual to attend the 13 week Supervised Jobsearch for the following provider- Skills Training UK.

In summary, the unit cost per customer once the scheme comes off the pilot.

3 - Are there bonus payments made to the provider if customers complete all 13 weeks? How much is it on a unit basis?

4 - Are there bonus payments made to the provider if customers do not complete all 13 weeks but find a full-time, part-time or short-term role which requires. How much is it on a unit basis?

DWP response

In response to your queries:

1. and 2.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you are seeking. However, the information you have requested is commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from release under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43 exempts information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. It protects not only the commercial interests of third parties but also the commercial interests of the Department. It is intended to protect the ability of a public authority like DWP to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of its suppliers. The information you seek falls into this category.

As required by the FoI Act the use of this exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be assessed. Generally speaking there is a public interest in the disclosure of commercial information to ensure transparency in the accountability of public funds and to show that public money is being used effectively. Conversely, there is a public interest in ensuring that disclosure does not compromise an existing competitive market environment or the Department's ability to secure best value for money for the taxpayer. On balance I am satisfied that, in this instance, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

3. and 4.

There are no bonus payments made to the provider. The contract is based on the payment model which is detailed in Section 5 of the Provider Guidance which is available at this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supervised-jobsearch-pilot-dwp-provider-guidance>.