

Freedom of Information request 4448/2014

Received 3 October 2014

Published

Information request

I simply write to request any documents that explain how schemes such as Mandatory work activity and Community work placements etc. are handled if a persons beliefs prohibit unpaid work

Or if you can provide me with any information at all on how this or any beliefs are handled on these schemes.

DWP response

In answer to your question, Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) is intended to help claimants move closer to the labour market, enabling them to establish the discipline and habits of working life, such as attending on time regularly, carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision while delivering a contribution to the community.

Community Work Placements (CWP) aims to equip jobseekers with a valuable period of experience in a work-based environment, enabling them to develop the disciplines and skills associated with sustained employment, as well as a move them into employment.

DWP are committed to treating people fairly, regardless of their disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, transgender status, age, religion or beliefs.

The provider guidance states that the placement activities should not put them at risk or be against their personal beliefs. Examples might include:

- Where there are doubts under the Health and Safety Act;
- Where it may involve the claimant breaking the law, e.g. street sales without a licence from the local authority where a licence is required;
- Working in the adult entertainment industry; and
- Where the work requires involvement in religious activities or party politics.

I enclose links to the *Mandatory Work Activity Providers Guidance* -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300734/pg-part-p.pdf and

Community Work Placements: Provider Guidance -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/314475/community-work-placements-provider-guidance.pdf which provide

you with further information.