

Freedom of Information request 4073/2013

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Information request

"There may be circumstances where the claimant is reluctant to accept the Claimant Commitment. If the claimant refuses to accept, the adviser must offer a cooling off period of a maximum of 7 calendar days. If the claimant still refuses to accept their Claimant Commitment then he or she will no longer be entitled to claim Universal Credit"

This appears to be a change from the current JSAg in that with the JSAg a jobseeker has 21 days to agree to a variation after it has been referred to a Decision Maker and does not lose their JSA in the 21 day period.

Does this new 7 day period only apply for the first Claimant Commitment or is it for all variations thereafter as well?

Is it referred to a DM at some point?

What is the reason for the reduction from 21 to 7 days?

DWP response

You have indicated that you want your request received on 27 August to be treated as a Freedom of Information request.

Anyone can request copies of information which a public authority already holds in a recorded form, but the Freedom of Information Act does not require the Department to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

Your request asks a series of questions which would require answers to be generated and also, in your third request, invites the Department to enter into a discussion with you about a policy matter which would require new information to be generated.

However, you may find the following information helpful.

Where a claimant is required to look for and be available for work or prepare for work, these requirements will be drawn up by an adviser as part of a dialogue with the claimant. This will include a consideration of any circumstances that a claimant may have that may impact on the claimant's

ability to fulfil these expectations (such as health conditions or caring commitment).

We expect tailored requirements to be set as part of a full discussion between the adviser and the claimant. Where a claimant does not agree with the work search and availability requirements that have been set out, the claimant will be able to ask for another adviser to review them. There is no referral to a Decision Maker.

This right to review applies to the initial Claimant Commitment and subsequent variations thereafter. Accepting a Claimant Commitment is a condition of entitlement for Universal Credit. There is no right of appeal against the contents of the Claimant Commitment, nor against the imposition of requirements as recorded in the Claimant Commitment.