

Freedom of Information request 275/2014

Received 17 January 2014

Published

Information request

WHEN A PERSON HAS BEEN THROUGH THE WORK PROGRAM AND THEN SIGNS BACK ON WHY IS DWP INSISTING THAT EACH AND EVERY PERSON TAKE A MATHS AND ENGLISH COURSE WHEN NO WHERE IN JOBSEEKERS ACT DOES IT STATE IT'S LEGAL FOR DWP TO DO SO COULD YOU PLEASE DETAIL WHAT LAW WAS PASSED FOR YOU TO MANDATE US TO DO THIS

DWP response

There are schemes made under section 17A of the Jobseekers Act 1995, either under the Jobseeker's Allowance (Mandatory Work Activity Scheme) Regulations 2011 or the Jobseeker's Allowance (Schemes for Assisting Persons to Obtain Employment) Regulations 2013, whereby claimants may be mandated to participate in employment schemes.

JSA and ESA claimants returning from the Work Programme will have a thorough assessment interview with Jobcentre Plus to understand how best to build on their time on the Work Programme, and continue to move them closer to the labour market and towards long term sustainable employment. At their first appointment they will have to agree a back-to-work plan laying out what they are required to do.

All claimants will receive flexible support tailored to their individual needs. This is underpinned by a core regime of face to face meetings and a tough sanctions regime for those who don't take necessary steps to prepare for work.

Claimants who are not required to work or look for work in order to claim Universal Credit, for example because they have been assessed as having Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity, have 0 expected hours and therefore no minimum income floor.

The minimum income floor level therefore reflects the monthly earnings we could reasonably expect any other claimant with similar circumstances to achieve.