

Freedom of Information request 444/445/446/2013

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Information request

On the 3rd of December this year the DWP introduced regulations allowing those claiming Employment Support Allowance benefit and categorised within the Work Related Activity group to be mandated into work experience. This power could be used by Work Programme providers and by Job Centre Plus claim managers.

I enclose a link for reference:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/work-programme-memo-082.pdf>

1. Could you kindly provide me with all and any risk assessments and or equality assessments and or impact assessments undertaken by the DWP in regards to this change of regulation.
2. Could you kindly provide me with a copy of any and/or all EMAILS between ministers and senior civil servants (with personal details redacted if needs be) in regards to this specific rule change during January 1 - June 30 2012.
3. Could you kindly provide me with a copy of any and/or all EMAILS between ministers and senior civil servants (with personal details redacted if needs be) in regards to this specific rule change during July 1 - December 03 2012.

DWP response

In response to your FoI request of 19 December 2012, you were advised that if you were to make a new request for a more narrow category of information, we might be able to comply within the appropriate cost limit, although this could not be guaranteed.

As you have split your previous request into smaller parts we have aggregated these for the purpose of estimating the cost of complying with your request. Aggregation allows us to group any requests received within a 60 working day rolling period from the same person, pertaining to the same or similar area when considering disproportionate costs. As the cost of complying with your three requests would exceed the appropriate limit of

£600, under Section 12 of the FoI Act, the Department is not obliged to comply with your requests and we will not be processing them any further.