Freedom of Information request 3027/2014

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Information request

I have two further questions about JSA, part-time work and personal pension contributions.

For a personal pension contribution to be taken in to account when calculating part-time earnings and JSA,

1, does the personal pension contribution need to appear on the employees pay slip?

Or is satisfactory proof of personal pension contribution for example to have a statement from the pension company?

2, Also if the decision by the JSA complaint to make the personal pension contribution is voluntary (eg the JSA claimant could cancel the personal pension contributions) does this effect JSA part-time work calculation?

DWP response

Claimants declaring part time work are asked to provide wage slips which detail payments received and deductions made. Contributions made towards a personal pension may not be shown on the wage slip and further proof may be asked for.

The Jobseeker's Allowance regulations state that one half of any contribution paid by a claimant towards an occupational or personal pension in respect of a pay period can be deducted from the gross earnings, whether voluntary of otherwise. If a claimant chooses not to make personal pension contributions, there is no amount to be deducted from the gross earnings. This means the amount of earnings taken in to account will be greater than if pension contributions were being made.