

# **Freedom of Information request 1061/2014**

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## **Information request**

As the Help To Work Scheme is starting in April 2014, could I please have all internal guidance for this scheme given to job centre advisers and job centre managers (including the guidance for all the schemes within this scheme eg. Community Work Placements).

## **DWP response**

I am unable to provide you with this information as I believe that it falls within exemption 35 of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption relates to the formulation of government policy. I consider that the exemption applies because it is intended to protect the space within which government can think and develop its policies without prejudice. I maintain that the information you seek falls into this category, because the Help to Work guidance has yet to be finalised.

As required by the Act, I have also considered whether the balance of the public interest comes down in favour of not complying with your request. I consider that there is no overarching public interest argument in favour of releasing this information for the following reason(s):

The Act acknowledges that good government depends on good decision making and therefore needs space in which to formulate policies based on the best advice available with full consideration of all the options. Ministers also need to be able to conduct rigorous and candid risk assessments of their policies and programmes including considerations of the pros and cons without there being premature disclosure which might close off other, better options.

More information about Help to Work can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-to-work-scheme-announced-by-the-government>