

# Freedom of Information request 3124/2013

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## Information request

*What was the thinking behind let's sanction people take away benefits for four weeks then when they sign back on make them wait another four weeks to get paid .I thought idea was to save money not in long run it costing country more .as first what dose dwp think a sanctioned person is doing when sanctioned sat end sofa waiting to be paid no they turning to crime till they next get paid so in long run when caught doing crime it will cost lot more so saving no money at all who ever dreamt up this plan wants brain transplant .why after a four week illegall sanction dose a claimant then have to indure another four week to be paid so infect ain't four week sanction its a eight week sanction . Also when sanctioned what help is there for a claimant who is allowed food vouchers or any other type help also when sanctioned do you still get paid rent poll tax and do you still get prescriptions*

## DWP response

It is right to expect claimants who are able to look for or prepare for work to do so. These principles underpin the requirements we place on a claimant as a condition of receiving benefit. The sanctions system is not designed to punish but is designed to provide clear consequences for any failure to comply. This helps ensure claimants take the necessary steps to find work. It's in their interest to continue participating with the support on offer as evidence shows that it can lead to positive employment outcomes.

We have clear safeguards in place and claimants will only ever be required to do something that is reasonable in their individual circumstances. If claimants can show good reason for failing to meet requirements they will not receive a sanction. In reaching a decision to impose a sanction, impartial decision makers will consider all relevant information from both the adviser and the claimant.

Those claimants who have little or no other resources available to them are able to claim hardship payments to ensure they are supported throughout the duration of a sanction. Claimants subject to a sanction need to demonstrate that they cannot buy essential items, including food, clothing, heating and accommodation, and so are at risk of severe suffering or privation.

If claimants are eligible for hardship payments they will normally receive 60 per cent of their Jobseeker's Allowance personal entitlement allowance for the

period of the sanction. The level of 60 percent is set in legislation and is considered to be the minimum amount of benefit claimants in hardship need in order to meet essential needs, whilst still subjecting them to a financial impact for non-compliance. Those receiving housing or council tax benefit will continue to do so throughout a sanction period provided they continue to meet the Jobseeker's Allowance conditions.