

Freedom of Information request 2032/2013

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Information request and DWP response

I would like to ask whether job seekers may protest against new changes made in crisis loan rules? Is there any legislation made about this?

And we asked;

Q: What exactly do you mean by protest?

To which you responded;

I wanted to ask whether job seekers can change the recent rules made on crisis loan, as I understand crisis loan is not available, can you provide reasons and whether any other loans are available for the job seekers?

Jobseekers are unable to change the rules pertaining to the abolition of Crisis Loans.

From 1 April 2013, Crisis Loans, along with Community Care Grants were abolished, and the funding transferred to English local authorities and the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales. This new form of provision allows local authorities to deliver tailored, flexible support to those in greatest need based on detailed knowledge of the issues they are facing in their communities and is better targeted than the previous, more remote, centralised system.

The move towards the abolition of elements of the discretionary Social Fund formed part of the Welfare Reform Act 2012; details of which can be found at the link below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/contents>

Jobseekers in receipt of a qualifying benefit (i.e. Income Support, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, or income related Employment and Support Allowance) for 26 weeks or more, may be eligible to apply for a Budgeting Loan. Budgeting Loans are part of a cash-limited scheme which helps people on the lowest incomes with the costs of large items of necessary expenditure that they would otherwise find difficult to meet.