

Introduction

The Jobseekers Act 1995 says that Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is not payable if a claimant has, without good reason:

- refused to apply for a job;
- failed to apply for a job; or
- refused to accept a job which was offered.

This is provided that:

- the job was notified to the claimant by an Employment Officer;
- the job was notified to the claimant personally when attending the Jobcentre Plus office (or elsewhere), or by letter or by telephone; and
- the job was not self-employment.

An Employment Officer is an officer of the Secretary of State or such person as may be designated by an order made by the Secretary of State. All Jobcentre Plus staff are Employment Officers.

The claimant must understand that the job they are being notified is one that **they must apply for**. The adviser must make clear to the claimant, at the time they are notified to apply for the vacancy, that refusal or failure to apply for the job or non-acceptance of the job when offered without good reason will result in a sanction.

The Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 (Section 72) (Relevant Authority) Designation Order 2013 came into effect on 17 July 2013. From this date, where a person in receipt of JSA has been notified about a job by an Employment Officer, that employer is designated as a relevant authority. This means that that employer, or the employees of that organisation, can share with DWP information regarding whether or not a JSA claimant applied for the job in question.