

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI 3518

DATE: 8 September 2015

Dear S Banks,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 23 August 2015. You asked:

With reference to the In work progression project you have called a randomised control trial please provide the following:

1 A copy of the consent form for participants in this research

2 Your application for ethics approval for this research and to which body you made this application to

3 The documents that show you received ethical approval to carry out this research.

4 What is the 'control' in the study? That is, if the intervention is focused goal setting and sanctions for those is work, what is the control.

5 What is your exclusion criteria for participants in the trial?

6 Prior to the use of the random allocation tool, describe your methodology for deselecting out those to be excluded from the trial, eg individuals experiencing domestic violence.

1 A copy of the consent form for participants in this research



Consent
statement.docx

The consent statement for the research with claimants is attached. This was read out verbatim at the beginning of the interview. We also:

- Wrote to claimants before contacting them by phone explaining the research and asking them to let us know if they preferred not to be contacted again about the research.
- Asked for verbal consent when booking the interview.

2 Your application for ethics approval for this research and to which body you made this application to

We consulted with our ethics group made up of cross-government researchers before commencing the research.

3 The documents that show you received ethical approval to carry out this research.

No application was made to an external ethics body.

4 What is the 'control' in the study? That is, if the intervention is focused goal setting and sanctions for those is work, what is the control.

Claimants within the In-Work Progression (IWP) Group 3 'control' group of the trial are subject to the normal regime which would apply if the claimant were not in the trial. These claimants are required to participate in two Work Search Interviews (by telephone, only re-arranged as face-to-face when phone contact is unsuccessful) at day one and week 8 in the regime. There are no further mandatory requirements. Claimants are not required to attend further Work Search Reviews, and all other work-related activity is agreed as part of a voluntary action plan.

5 What is your exclusion criteria for participants in the trial?

Within the trial, the Work Coach determines if the claimant falls in to any of the following categories which exclude them from the trial:

- Claimants in the No Work Related Requirements group
- Claimants in the Work Preparation group
- Claimants in the Work Focused Interview group
- Work Programme claimants
- Self employed claimants (gainfully self employed)
- Recent victims of domestic violence

- Claimants who provide medical evidence of unfitness for work pending a work capability assessment
- Prisoners
- Recently bereaved
- Undergoing treatment for drug or alcohol addiction
- Claimants absent from GB for medical treatment
- Claimants unable to work or earn more due to caring, health conditions or disabilities

These exclusions reflect those circumstances where conditionality would be disapplied for out of work claimants and provide safeguards to protect the most vulnerable. If there are possible additional categories these can be considered at the Work Coaches' discretion.

If a claimant who starts the trial is later identified as falling into one of these categories, or if their situation changes; they will be excluded from the trial at that time.

6 Prior to the use of the random allocation tool, describe your methodology for deselecting out those to be excluded from the trial, eg individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Work Coaches review the claimant record to make a decision where appropriate. But in most circumstances including recent victim of domestic violence Work Coaches make a decision based on the information received from the claimant.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy FoI Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745