

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE (SCHEMES FOR ASSISTING PERSONS**  
**TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2013**

**2013 No. 2584**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

**2. Purpose of the Instrument**

2.1. This instrument prescribes two further schemes in addition to the ones already prescribed in the Jobseeker's Allowance (Schemes for Assisting Persons to Obtain Employment) Regulations 2013, namely Traineeships and Community Work Placements, providing the legal framework for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants participating in those schemes.

**3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

3.1. None.

**4. Legislative Context**

4.1. These Regulations are made under section 17A of the Jobseekers Act 1995, which was inserted by the Welfare Reform Act 2009. Sanctions for failing to take part in the schemes covered by the Regulations are dealt with by the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations 1996, as amended by Jobseeker's Regulations (Sanctions) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

**5. Territorial Extent and Application**

5.1. This instrument applies to Great Britain.

**6. European Convention on Human Rights**

6.1. As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required

**7. Policy background**

Traineeships

7.1. Traineeships are an initiative, jointly led by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and by the Department for Education and are an important part of the Government's drive to tackle youth unemployment - they will address those skills employers say that young people lack, enabling them to compete in the labour market.

- 7.2. Traineeships are for young people receiving JSA, who, on the first day of the scheme are aged 16 to 23, or, for young people with Learning Difficulty Assessments, are aged 16 to 24, who want to work, but who need extra help to secure an apprenticeship or other job.
- 7.3. Traineeships comprise of 3 core elements – a work experience placement, work preparation training and qualifications in English and Maths (where no GCSE grade C or above has been achieved) and can last up to 6 months. The exact design, content and time spent on each element will be driven by the provider, employer and trainee.
- 7.4. Jobcentre advisers will seek agreement from claimants to attend, and thereafter will be mandated to attend the work preparation and English and Maths elements as per DWP skills conditionality policy. DWP policy is not to mandate claimants to attend and participate in work experience.

### Community Work Placements

- 7.5. Community Work Placements (CWP) is a scheme delivered by contracted providers whereby JSA claimants attend work placements of community benefit, as well as undertaking work-related activity supported by providers (particularly jobsearch).
- 7.6. Work placements will last for up to 30 hours a week, for up to 26 weeks. Providers have 30 weeks overall from the point of referral to work with claimants, aiming to achieve 26 weeks spent in work placement and moving claimants into sustained employment.
- 7.7. CWP is aimed at long-term unemployed claimants whose key barrier to work is a lack of work experience or motivation, and is designed to enhance their CV, employability skills, and motivation.
- 7.8. CWP was evaluated in a trial which found that it had a significant effect on soft outcomes including motivation and work-related ambition<sup>1</sup> and also on reducing days spent on benefit when compared to a control group.<sup>2</sup>

### *Consolidation*

- 7.9. These Regulations will be published in due course in the ‘Law Relating to Social Security’ (referred to as “The Blue Books”) which are regularly updated and are available to the public at no cost via the internet at:  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/law-volumes/the-lawrelatingto-social-security/>
- 7.10. To support implementation of these Regulations, changes will be made to volume 6 of the Decision Makers Guide (DMG) which is also available free on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-support-for-the-very-long-term-unemployed-trailblazer-rr824>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/very-long-term-unemployed-trailblazer>

the DWP website at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/decision-makers-guide/>

## **8. Consultation outcome**

- 8.1. The Social Security Advisory Committee agreed that the regulations should not be referred to it for formal consultation.
- 8.2. An evaluation of the CWP trailblazer involved conversations with staff, providers and participants on their experience. The learning from this was used to inform the design of CWP as a national programme.
- 8.3. BIS and DfE invited contributions to a discussion on Traineeships from employers, education and training providers and young people and hosted a series of roundtable discussions with representative organisations in order to gather wider views from the sectors.

## **9. Guidance**

- 9.1. Guidance will be developed for Jobcentre Plus staff, including decision makers, containing information relevant to all of the processes involved in each of the schemes covered by this legislation.

## **10. Impact**

- 10.1. This instrument has no impact on business or civil society organisations.
- 10.2. The impact on the public sector is negligible.
- 10.3. A full impact assessment has been carried out, but will not be published for this instrument.

## **11. Regulating small businesses**

- 11.1. The legislation does not apply to small businesses.

## **12. Monitoring**

- 12.1. The Department routinely monitors and evaluates its policies through a combination of: statistics on performance and delivery volumes; qualitative research with participants and people responsible for delivering our services in order to examine the quality of customer experience and opportunities to improve delivery; and quantitative research and analysis to understand the impacts of individual policy interventions

## **13. Contact**

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