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Jobcentre Referrals

February 2013

## **Outcome of the Department for Work and Pensions Court of Appeal hearing into the Judicial Review – Skills referrals from Jobcentres to continue as normal**

We notified you last August about the outcome of the [Judicial Review](#) case brought against the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) by claimants referred from Jobcentre Plus to training provision, and that the DWP was appealing against one of the four counts. A [DWP press release](#) about the outcome of the Court of Appeal hearing is now available.

We understand that providers may have concerns about how the current situation may affect skills conditionality. DWP and the Agency have therefore compiled the following list of Questions and Answers:

### **What does this mean for claimants already mandated by DWP to training or careers advice?**

Claimants will be expected to continue learning or attend careers appointments if they have been mandated to training or to careers advice. DWP will be sending out a revised letter to all mandated learners shortly. The revised letter will clarify the consequences of them not continuing to participate. If claimants have any queries, providers and National Careers Service deliverers should ask them to contact their local Jobcentre Plus for more details.

### **What happens regarding future mandated learners?**

Emergency regulations, laid before Parliament on 12 February, are now in force. DWP has amended the letters used to refer claimants to the schemes under these regulations (for example, Work Programme, sector-based work academies, skills conditionality) and by Friday 15 February DWP will write to all current participants of these schemes to explain how the new regulations apply to them.

DWP Operations (Jobcentre Plus) did not refer claimants to the schemes affected by the quashed regulations on Tuesday 12 February. Referrals returned to normal on Wednesday 13 February under the new regulations. Any disruption to claimants referred to training is therefore minimal.

The DWP is considering its options regarding those claimants who have been previously sanctioned or have a sanction decision pending under the quashed regulations.

We expect all learners to continue their learning programmes as these will continue to support them in finding suitable jobs. Providers should still complete and return a skills conditionality doubt form (known as skills 11 form) to jobcentre colleagues if learners withdraw from training. Any questions should be discussed with your local relationship team.

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