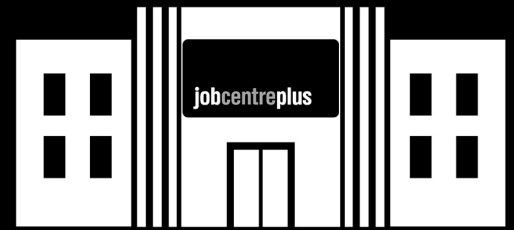


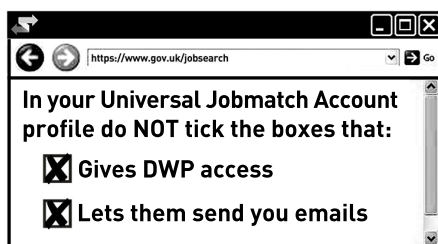
HOW TO AVOID WORKFARE



Workfare: It means people forced to work without pay

1 BEWARE UNIVERSAL JOBMATCH

If the Job Centre give you a Job Seeker Direction forcing you to get a Universal Jobmatch account then stop them sanctioning and snooping on you



2 KEEP YOUR CV SAFE



Your CV is your personal data.

- Never give a copy to
- The Jobcentre,
 - The DWP
 - Any training provider
 - Any Work Programme Provider.

Only show it when asked, by holding it in front of them. Do NOT let them copy it.



If they demand a copy ask them to put the request in writing, stating what benefit or sanctions may apply if you refuse.

5 WORK WITH US TO END WORKFARE

- Tell people about workfare
- Join in with actions to stop workfare – direct and online
- Look out for workfare when you're shopping
- Have a look at the full list of workfare providers at www.boycottworkfare.org. Use the Name & Shame form to keep us updated and report exploiters we don't know about!
- Don't donate to charities that use workfare: they're making us poorer
- Tell companies what you think about them using workfare – they have Facebook and Twitter
- Find your local welfare action group and get involved – there's a list on our website. Can't find a group near you? Get in touch and set one up: info@boycottworkfare.org

3 DO NOT SIGN

Referred onto the Work Programme, e.g. with Reed, A4E Maximus or another welfare to work company?



By not signing any document, you are preventing the provider from being paid to harass you and you prevent your personal information being shared. Remember, keep your CV safe.

4 ABOUT TO BE FORCED ONTO A WORKFARE SCHEME, E.G. MANDATORY WORK ACTIVITY OR 'WORK EXPERIENCE'?



Research! Check out the guidelines to see how to avoid being sent on these schemes. (see the summary overleaf) www.boycottworkfare.org/?page_id=1820



Conscientiously object! Find an ethical problem with those you are referred to. E.G the Salvation Army are a Christian organization. Are you a Christian?



Sent to a Charity? Find out if they have pulled out of the scheme. If they have, and you are sent to do workfare for them let Boycott Workfare know, they will get them to cancel it.



Speak up. Tweet, Facebook, Blog, write to newspapers, email.



Seek legal advice or a judicial review.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Work Programme

You don't have to sign any Work Programme provider documents

Not all 'work experience' on the Work Programme is mandatory

- The only personal data you need to share with a Work Programme provider (like A4e) is your referral letter and signing on book. Your CV is your personal data and you don't have to give them a copy to keep.
- They must give you a written Mandatory Activity Notification if they want to make anything sanctionable, or if they want to see or keep hold of information they don't already have.
- The Job Centre can postpone starting the Work Programme for 90 days if you have a job interview, or are expecting to start work soon, or are a survivor of domestic violence (this can be extended for survivors).
- If you are on another Job Centre scheme, or are more than 6 months pregnant, you don't have to do the Work Programme.

See refuted.org for more info on the Work Programme

Don't volunteer for Work Experience or the Sector Based Work Academy

- Don't volunteer for SBWA: you will be sanctioned if you try to leave the scheme later.
- Many people are given the impression they will be sanctioned if they don't do the Work Experience scheme. This isn't the case: you don't have to do it and you can leave without facing direct sanctions.
- But, leaving Work Experience can be used as an excuse to force you to do Mandatory Work Activity. This is more likely to happen if you don't have other recent work experience.

Traineeships: you don't have to do the work placement

Traineeships involve training and a work placement. You have to do the training if you are referred to it, but you don't have to do the work placement. You can't be sanctioned for refusing to do the work placement.

Mandatory Work Activity: check and challenge your eligibility

We've seen people referred to this just because they challenged their advisor. But there are strict DWP guidelines on who should be sent on MWA, which you can use to challenge your referral.

You **do not** have to go on this scheme if the only reason given is that your advisor thinks you haven't been meeting your jobseeker's agreement.

You might still be referred, but it's worth challenging your referral, if:

- you are currently working (paid or voluntary)
- you are undertaking employment related study or training
- you are taking part in, or recently completed, some other work experience or training

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