

# Workfare, and You.

Bankers are still receiving millions in bonuses. The government is full of millionaires. Yet you may soon be forced to work for no wages ...



**Workfare:** It means people like you forced to do unpaid work, for up to six months, for multi-million pound companies, charities or in the public sector. Politicians wouldn't work for six months for no pay, so why should you?

**Forced unpaid work** means taxpayers subsidizing rich companies, and threatens to lower wage rates. But It will not provide you with a job. Why?

By forcing people to work for no wages, multi-million pound companies such as Asda, Superdrug and Argos use workfare to *replace paid* positions. They can now get staff for free, so why pay for them?

But people across the country are finding ways to challenge workfare. Look after yourself and stay in touch with us! Tell people you know who might be affected that we exist, that we are working on ways to help. Share information with us. The more we know, the stronger we *all* are.

[www.boycottworkfare.org](http://www.boycottworkfare.org)

## Know your rights!

**Work Programme:** You do not not have to sign any provider documents! Find out if your "work experience" is mandatory or not.

**Fact:** Not all 'work experience' on the Work Programme is mandatory.

**Fact:** The *only* personal data you need to share with a Work Programme provider (such as A4e) is your referral letter and signing on book. (See donotsign.com)

**Fact:** You don't have to sign **any** Work Programme provider documents or forms.

**Fact:** Your CV is personal data and you don't have to give them a copy to keep.

**Fact:** A written Mandatory Activity Notification must be given if they want to make anything sanctionable or to keep or see personal info they do not already hold.

**Fact:** The Job Centre can postpone starting the Work Programme for 90 days if you have a job interview, or are expecting to work soon.

**Fact:** If you are on another Job Centre scheme, pregnant or a survivor of domestic violence you do not have to do the Work Programme.

**See [consent.me.uk](http://consent.me.uk) and [donotsign.com](http://donotsign.com) for more info on the Work Programme.**

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

- Do not agree to volunteer for the Sector Based Work Academy: You will be sanctioned if you try to leave the scheme.
- Many people are given the impression that they must do the Work Experience scheme or face sanctions. This is not the case: you do not have to agree to do it and you can leave without facing direct sanctions.
- However, leaving the Work Experience scheme can be used as an excuse to force you to do Mandatory Work Activity (MWA).
- Beware that if you don't have recent work experience, and do not consider volunteering or the Work Experience scheme, you may be referred to MWA.

### Mandatory Work Activity: check and challenge your eligibility

We have seen people referred for this just because they have challenged their advisor. But there are strict DWP guidelines on who should be sent on MWA, which you can use to challenge referral. You do not have to go on this scheme if:

- you are currently working (paid or voluntary)
- you are undertaking employment related study or training
- you are taking part in, or recently completed, another "employment measure"
- the only reason given is your advisor thinks you haven't been meeting your jobseeker's agreement.

**Even if you are already on workfare check out the website and get informed.**

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