

Can you provide links to the source documents you mentioned?

Eligibility Rules for the 2014 to 2020 European Social Fund:

Relevance : Participant Eligibility rules – section on participant eligibility including age, right to work, etc. Note that asylum seekers are not permitted to take part in BBO.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510300/european_social_fund_national_eligibility_rules.pdf

Output and Result Indicator Definitions Guidance for the European Social Fund:

Relevance: Further detail on definitions of unemployed and economically inactive, as well as other potential target groups.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506534/MI_definitions_Final_V1_20160210.pdf

ESF Data Evidence Requirements – Eligibility and Results:

Relevance: Sets out DWP requirements on evidence of eligibility, including a hierarchy of evidence from “preferred” to “risk-based exception” – RECOMMENDED TO READ IN ENTIRETY

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525239/ESF_Data_Evidence_Requirements_v2.pdf

Guidance on Document Retention for 2014-20 ESF Projects:

Relevance: Retention of copies of documents, including electronic copies

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/516400/ESF_Guidance_on_document_retention.pdf

Q: Award of benefit such as JSA or ESA does not confirm that an individual is not doing part-time or permitted work. How does this tie in with the definitions of unemployed and inactive?

A: To be eligible for BBO, potential participants must not be doing any work. This means that even individuals who are in receipt of JSA or ESA may be ineligible for BBO if they are doing part-time or permitted work.

Q: Is someone employed if they are doing therapeutic work?

A: If they are paid, or have a contract, it is likely that they will be ineligible for BBO.

Q: The evidence requirements on the participant entry form do not support these [DWP requirements]. Letters from your GP, or the Careers service which doesn't even exist?

A: The participant entry form is being reviewed by the Big Lottery Fund to ensure it fits with the latest DWP guidance. Acceptable evidence of worklessness according to the ESF Data Evidence Requirements would include third party letters such as from a GP or careers service.

Q: Mention was made previously of not retaining or copying documents providing identity theft risk. Though it is the preferred approach to keep actual copies of documentation evidence, the guidance [ESF Data Evidence Requirements] (page 8) says that it is ok for the provider to countersign the participant's application to confirm they have seen the necessary evidence documents. This is the approach we have taken on an ESF funded project (Open Call) we are currently delivering. Will the Big Lottery fund accept this approach too?

A: DWP have stated that this is an acceptable approach for ESF. However, it is for each programme to determine, and BLF are advising that actual copies must be kept at least until initial checks have taken place.