

To J Newman
C/o request-90268-2f456466@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: VTR 2799-IR31

DATE 15 February 2012

Dear J Newman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that was received by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi on 18 January 2012 and forwarded on 19 January for response by DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'HCP expertise - contradiction'.

I am afraid you have done it again, so I am confused.

In my original question dated 19/10/11, I pointed out that in FOI request http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/phrase_on_esa85_report#incoming-218494 you have said "the HCPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques".

In VTR 3129, you have confirmed this by saying "An HCP does require detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques"

You have now said in VTR 3578 that "there is no need for HCPs to be a diagnostic specialist ."

There is a direct contradiction here. Please explain.

As Reviewing Officer, I have read your letter and accepted this as a request for an Internal Review in order that I can check that the information sent to you clearly and accurately answered your request. I have therefore conducted a full investigation into your original request and the information supplied to you.

I therefore find that the original response of the MSCCT Freedom of Information Officer dated 21 December 2011 and the information supplied by the DWP in FOI 2629-3578 was correct, in

that there is no requirement for HCPs conducting medical assessments for the DWP under the Medical Services Contract, to be a Diagnostic Specialist or Consultant in a specific medical condition.

There has not been a contradiction in the information provided to you, as you were provided with the stated training requirements of Healthcare Professionals employed by Atos Healthcare as opposed to the required qualifications etc that clinicians (who are employed as Specialists or Consultants in hospitals) have.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk