

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

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: VTR 2508-3129

DATE 17 November 2011

Dear Mr Newman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 19 October 2011 that was received by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded for response by the DWP Commercial Management of Medical Services Freedom of Information Officer.

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

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

In Fol request http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/phrase_on_ea85_report#incoming-218494 you have said "the HCPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques"

In Fol request http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/82985/response/208620/attach/html/2/FOI_Response_23442424.pdf.html you have said "the HCP's assessment is not concerned with diagnosis or decisions about treatment and therefore specialist diagnostic qualifications are unnecessary."

Please clarify whether or not HCPs need diagnostic expertise. One of the above statements must be wrong. Will you issue a correction?

In answer to your questions there is no need to issue a correction as both statements are correct.

The extract from the first response you mention is correct in that Healthcare Professional (HCP) does require detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques and the extract from the second response is also correct as there is no requirement for a HCP to have qualified to be a Diagnostic Specialist or a Consultant in a specific medical condition.

There is a requirement for HCPs to be registered with the relevant professional body, have primary qualifications and have at least 3 years post full registration experience, though in individual cases, solely at the discretion of the DWP Chief Medical Adviser, the requirements that no cautions be attached to registration and that the HCP must have a minimum of 3 years post registration experience, may be waived.

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-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk 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