

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: Fol 1647

DATE: 2 June 2016

Dear Ms Bellows,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 April 2016. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. You asked:

*Dear Department for Work and Pensions,
Dr Paul Litchfield in the last Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment published in November 2014, indicates the recommendations made to DWP in each of the precedent reviews.*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380027/wca-fifth-independent-review.pdf

In Year 2, the following recommendation regarding Descriptors 'As and when changes to the descriptors are made, DWP and other relevant experts should monitor the impact of these changes to ensure both that they are working and that they are not causing any unintended consequences' was accepted in full by the DWP. (Page 90 of the Review).

Under the corresponding 'DWP Action since year four report' for this recommendation, it is written: 'DWP has commissioned analysis of the impact of the changes in January 2013 to the provisions for cancer treatment but the results are not yet available. No other changes to descriptors have been made.

I would like to be sent this analysis

The Work Capability Assessment has been improved dramatically since 2008 following five independent reviews, including Dr Litchfield's. We have worked closely with cancer groups to improve the Work Capability Assessment and ensure people who have been diagnosed with cancer get all the support they need.

Please find attached the analysis requested.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. 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