

To: Barbara Donegan
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DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI 103

06 February 2017

Dear Barbara Donegan,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 10 January 2017.

You asked:

'Please provide details (and copies, if such documents exist) of any current guidance provided to medical staff carrying out medical examinations for the purposes of assessing entitlement to industrial injuries benefits.'

Please provide details (and copies, if such documents exist) of any current guidance provided to medical staff for the purposes of providing advice to decision makers, when assessing entitlement to industrial injuries benefits. (I understand that decision makers can request such medical advice.)

Please note that I am not requesting information about guidance issued directly to decision makers, such as the decision makers guide. I would like to find out, instead, whether there is the equivalent of the Work Capability Assessment Handbook, for industrial injuries benefits.'

As requested, please find attached the requested documents; Industrial Injuries Benefit Handbook 1 for Healthcare Professionals – The Principles of Assessment and Industrial Injuries Benefit Handbook 2 for Healthcare Professionals – The Prescribed Diseases. This is guidance that is issued to Healthcare Professionals that undertake Industrial Injuries assessments.

Some information contained within handbook 1 falls within the exemptions allowed by Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act and has therefore been redacted.

The Section 40 exemption is applied on the basis that it is personal data about a third party, and the disclosure may breach data protection principles.

Additionally, some information contained in the document falls within the exemptions allowed by Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act and has therefore been redacted.

Where information is exempt under Section 43 this is due to it being commercially sensitive and release of the information would prejudice the interests of our Healthcare providers and the Department's future dealings with them or other service providers.

In applying this exemption the Department has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information and consider there is no overarching public interest argument in favour of releasing this information as the Department is unable to prejudice its commercial interests.

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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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745