

To: Lori Porter
request-451177-38e3827c@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI 5107

21 December 2017

Dear Ms Porter

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 7 December 2017.

You asked:

'As part of the Personal Independence Payment face to face assessment, Health Professionals carry out a Musculoskeletal Examination (MSK).

Please provide the guidance (perhaps known as EBM) given to Health Professionals as to how they should conduct the Musculoskeletal Examination (MSK) at a face to face assessment for Personal Independence Payment.'

In response, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

In response to your question, please find below a link to the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Guide which is used by Health Professionals (HPs) undertaking Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-assessment-guide-for-assessment-providers>

This document has been produced by DWP to provide guidance for providers carrying out assessments for PIP. It is intended to supplement the contract documents agreed with providers as part of the commercial process, providing guidance for HPs carrying out assessment activity and for those responsible for putting in place and delivering processes to ensure the quality of assessments.

All HPs undertaking assessments on behalf of DWP must be registered practitioners who have also met requirements around training, experience and competence. This document must be read with the understanding that as experienced practitioners and trained disability analysts, HPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of relevant diagnostic techniques and therefore such information is not contained in this guidance.

In addition, the guidance is not a stand-alone document, and should form only a part of the training and written documentation that HPs receive from providers. It must be remembered that some of the information may not be readily understood by those who are not trained and experienced HPs. It also focuses specifically on the role of HPs in the assessment and the quality of their work. It is not intended to cover all the requirements placed on providers as part of the PIP assessment contracts; their full business processes; or work carried out by DWP to monitor and manage provider performance.

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

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