

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

request-576524-a9089cce@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: FOI2019/18600
FOI2019/18604
FOI2019/18609

06 June 2019

Dear Michael Newton,

Thank you for your three Freedom of Information (Fol) requests received on 15 May. Each request is identical therefore I am providing one response to all three of the requests.

You asked:

When will the department for work and pensions employ medical professionals not paramedics,nurses but surgeons ,consultants to carry out the ability of a claimant to work ? Or receive PIP ?

Considering the number of claimants who have been wrongly told that they are fit for work had their benefits stop or reduce only for the claimant to suffer .

DWP Response:

The Fol Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

On this occasion you have asked a question, and as such we are responding to you outside of the Fol Act. The assessment for PIP looks at an individual's ability to carry out a series of key everyday activities and the PIP assessor, who is a health professional (HP) with specialist training in assessing the impact of disability, recommends which of the assessment criteria (set out in legislation) they believe apply to the individual. The role of the HP differs from the therapeutic role of the General Practitioner (GP) or consultant in reaching a diagnosis and/or planning treatment. The assessment considers impact of a condition, and not diagnosis.

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@dpw.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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745