

To: Katrina Rodgers
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DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI941

Dear Katrina Rodgers,

24 March 2015

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 9 March 2015.

You asked:

"Please provide ALL the Guidelines for the Disability Analyst (Physical & Mental), produced as part of a programme for HCPs to carry out medical assessments as approved HCPs. These are referred to as "Evidence Based Protocols" for medical conditions and are referred to in the Training & Development Revised WCA Handbook, MEDESAAR2011/2012HB-001, Version: 7 Final 09 February 2015, paragraph 3.4"

In response, please find attached the Evidence Based Protocols requested. It is important to highlight that DWP learning modules are currently being updated and these updates are expected to be completed by July 2015 as part of the usual annual cycle of changes. Until then, you may find that some learning and development information still uses existing terminology such as 'Atos Healthcare' and 'Medical Services'.

These requested documents have been produced as part of a training programme for approved Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) to carry out WCA's. All HCPs undertaking these assessments must be registered medical or nursing practitioners who in addition, have undergone training in disability assessment medicine and more specific training. The training includes theory training in a classroom setting, supervised practical training, and a demonstration of understanding as assessed by quality audit. These documents must be read with the understanding that, as experienced medical or nursing practitioners, the HCPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques and therefore such information is not contained in these documents. In addition, these are not stand-alone documents, and form only a part of the training and written documentation that a HCP receives. As disability assessment is a practical occupation, much of the guidance also involves verbal information and coaching. Thus, although the documents may be of interest to non-medical readers, some of the information may not be readily understood without background medical knowledge and an awareness of the other training and guidance given to HCPs.

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I believe some of the information contained in the document falls within the exemptions allowed by Section 40 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, in this case

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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

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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