

C/O: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx @ xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

e-mail: DWP.MEDICALSERVICESCORRESPONDENCE@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

Dear S Kirtley,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 14 December 2012.

You asked:

Please provide a current setoff all protocol documents in use by ATOS HCPs.

Please find enclosed copies of the current Evidence Based Protocols for the Disability Analyst. These requested documents have been produced as part of a programme for approved health care professionals (HCPs) to carry out medical assessments. All HCPs undertaking these medical 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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If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Business Management Team
Health & Disability Assessments (Operations)

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.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London 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