

To Mr Barry Almond

C/o request-89871-eb06ce83@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx)

Our Ref: VTR 2498-3086

DATE 14 November 2011

Dear Mr Almond,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16 October 2011 that was received by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded on 17 October for response by the Commercial Management of Medical Services Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-  
Dear Department for Work and Pensions

Could you please supply a copy of the following protocols given to all atos doctors.

1. Cardiorespiratory—14 protocols;
2. Mental Health—12 protocols
3. Musculoskeletal—10 protocols, and
4. Neurological & Infections—6 protocols

In answer to your request please find attached copies of the Evidence Based Protocols for the Disability Analyst.

These requested documents have been produced as part of a programme for approved Healthcare 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, it must be remembered that 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 Central Fol Team

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#### **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](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)