

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: VTR 2593

DATE 12 October 2010

Dear Mr Cook

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that was received by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi Freedom of Information on 23 September 2010 and forwarded for response by the DWP Commercial Management of Medical Services Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with the following information: the Atos Healthcare Evidence Based Protocols for the Disability Analyst, which you clarified in your email dated 24 September as specifically those mentioned in the 'ESA Handbook', at paragraphs 3.5 and 3.7 copied below :

- 3.5 Guidance on Specific Conditions (Physical)
- 3.7 Guidance on Specific Conditions – Mental Health

Please find attached copies of the Evidence Based Protocols for the Disability Analyst in relation to

1. Mental Health conditions: - Substance use Disorders, Schizophrenia, Personality Disorders, Organic Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Learning Disabilities, Eating Disorders, Depression, Bipolar Disorders, Anxiety, Alcohol related Disorders, Adjustment Disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
2. Specific physical conditions:- Parkinson's Diseases, Multiple Sclerosis, and HIV/AIDS.

These requested documents are listed on the 'DWP Information Finder' and 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, 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 FoI 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 FoI Team, 5th 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