

To Mr Newman  
C/o request-93607-a5711260@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: 2699-VTR IR324

DATE 18 January 2012

Dear Mr Newman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 16 December 2011 that was received by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded for response by DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) Freedom of Information Officer. In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

*My question is not about means of identification, but the WCA itself. DWP's own literature emphasises the importance of claimants presenting all available evidence relevant to their condition and the WCA manual instructs HCPs as to what they must do with it. Why then does Atos not prompt/remind claimants when there are arranging the appointment?*

As Reviewing Officer, I have read your letter and accepted this as a request for an Internal Review in order that I can check that the information sent to you clearly and accurately answered your request. I have therefore conducted a full investigation into your original request and the information supplied to you. I have also reviewed any decisions to withhold information and in doing so I have fully considered the public interest in disclosure.

The Limited Capability for Work questionnaire (the ESA 50) is the claimants' opportunity to tell us how they are affected by their illness or disabling condition and allows the Department to determine the level of illness or disability. The ESA 50 states that the claimant should submit any further medical evidence along with the questionnaire. The further medical evidence submitted with the ESA 50 will be provided to the HCP, therefore there is no requirement for the claimant to bring it to the assessment.

The form WCA AL1C that is sent out with the appointment letter states what a claimant needs to bring to the assessment

At the assessment stage the HCP will consider all medical evidence including any medical certification, factual reports, previous papers and other documents, including the evidence that a claimant has supplied with the ESA 50. A claimant may also bring additional evidence to the assessment; it is the responsibility of the individual to decide whether there is any further medical evidence in addition to that already provided with the ESA 50. Any evidence brought by the claimant must be read by the HCP and the report should make reference to the evidence that has been considered, the evidence will also be copied for the DWP Decision Maker.

I therefore find that the original response dated 15 December 2011 was correct and that all the information that DWP are able to supply to you has been supplied.

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 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)