

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FoI 753

13 March 2017

Dear Mr Heron,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 24 February 2017. You asked:

Can you please advise on the current state of affairs in relation to the following.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Dupuytren's Contracture: Written question - 34284 Q Asked by Grahame Morris (Easington) Asked on: 18 April 2016 Department for Work and Pensions Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit: Dupuytren's Contracture 34284 To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what criteria his Department is using to determine whether Dupuytren's Contracture should be included on the list of prescribed diseases covered by Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

A Answered by: Justin Tomlinson Answered on: 26 April 2016 The report of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (May 2014) included recommended criteria for including Dupuytren's Contracture in the list of prescribed diseases. The Government is continuing to consider the recommended criteria and any other relevant factors.

I confirm that the information you seek is held by the Department. However it engages an exemption from disclosure because it relates to the formulation or development of government policy – section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption protects the private space within which Ministers and their policy advisers can develop policies without the risk of premature disclosure.

As required by the Act, I have also assessed the public interest for and against disclosure. There is a public interest in greater transparency which makes government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust. There is also a public interest in being able to assess the quality of advice being given to ministers and subsequent decision making.

However, good government depends on good decision-making and this needs to be based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure. If this public interest cannot be protected there is a risk that decision-making will become poorer and will be recorded inadequately.

On balance, DWP is satisfied that in this instance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Therefore, the information you seek will not be released.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, 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