

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: Fol 2921

Date: 25 July 2017

Dear John Slater

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 11/07/2017.

You asked:

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In Working Paper No 26

“Corporate Document Services Incapacity Benefit reforms – Pathways to Work Pilots performance and analysis” on page 4 it states:

“At the initial WFI, the Screening Tool is applied to everyone except those who have been exempted as a result of their PCA. Those who are screened out by the Screening Tool have no further mandatory involvement with the Pathways process as they are deemed least likely to need additional help, but they may participate on a voluntary basis. Those who are not screened out must go on to attend a further five WFIs at roughly four-week intervals (if they remain on IB).”

The screening tool is described at the bottom of the page as:

“Screening Tool: Web-base questionnaire into which Personal Advisers (PAs) input claimants’ answers. These answers are then converted into a score that estimates the probability of the customer still being out of work in 12 months time without further mandatory activity.”

RFI1 – Does the DWP use something similar to the screening tool for ESA claimants? If so please disclose information held that describes its purpose and how it works.

Our Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by this department.

There is no tool used by Work Coaches to determine mandatory activity of individuals claiming ESA. Activity is mandated based upon the group in which the customer is placed.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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@dpw.gsi.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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745