

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: VTR 2742

DATE 18 June 2013

Dear Geoffrey Reynolds,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 15 June. You asked for:-

*It has been established that under the latest PIP descriptors, in order for an individual to attain 12 points and enhanced mobility rate, they have to be incapable of walking 20 metres, whether they need an appliance or not.*

*Furthermore, it must be done safely, to an acceptable standard and in a reasonable time limit.*

*Question ;*

*1/ How will this distance be ascertained by the HCP?*

*2/ Will the distance be marked out on a flat surface, having no obstacles or traffic hazards?*

*3/ Under the descriptors used for ESA EXAMINATIONS, the HCPs took it upon themselves to guess/estimate how far a claimant could walk. This was done within the confines of an examining room which was often small.*

*How do you intend to carry out this exercise to deem it to be fair?*

*4/ You insist that the examination will not be a "snapshot", but will take into consideration a person's ability for up to a year. How will this be possible, if on the day, the injury is causing so much discomfort that the claimant is unable to walk at all? I am asking this question as I am often laid up in bed in severe pain as a result of my injury. Please elucidate.*

*5/ Please specify the safety element, the standard acceptable and the length of time permitted to achieve it?*

*6/ How would a person who had taken strong prescription drugs, be assessed as being safe when undertaking to walk 20 Metres?*

*7/ To be seen to be fair, if the injured person became aware that their injury was causing so much pain that they could not attend the examination, could it be rescheduled to a later date without loss of benefit? It would not be possible to give lots of notice of an unpredictable event. A disabled person can't predict when pain will strike!*

You can expect a reply by 12 July unless I need to come back to you to clarify your request or the balance of the public interest test needs to be considered.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)