14 June 2013

Dear Mr G Jones

## Freedom of Information Act – Request for Information Our Reference: Fol 2328

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 20 May 2013.

You asked: Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

This FOIA request is in reference to the DWP response refs FoI1224, IR 0357 and IR 0421.

- 1. Please tell me why I was lied to about all HCP having access to the BNF in the DWP initial response? This is not something that can easily be mistaken, HCP either do or do not have access. Had I not requested a review I would not have been told.
- 2. Please provide me with further information about the BNF pilot. This should cover as a minimum:
  - a. The reason that HCP require access to the BNF as obviously they have not had this to date?
  - b. What is the size and location of the pilot (i.e. how many HCP and which MEC are involved)
  - c. Timescales When did the pilot start and when will it end.
  - d. When will the results of the pilot be published?
  - e. Is the pilot being run using the online version of the BNF or the hard copy version?
  - f. Does the pilot group consist of HCP from all backgrounds or is it limited to Doctors or Nurses?
  - g. Which organisation is responsible for the costs associated with the pilot, the DWP or Atos?
- 3. The DWP referred me to the LiMA repository as a source of pharmaceutical related information. If the LiMA repository already provides access to the necessary information why do HCP require access to the BNF and hence subject the public purse to additional costs?
- 4. The DWP has previously stated that LiMA contains comprehensive information about all drugs that can be legally prescribed in the UK. Please tell me if this includes 'Off Licence'/'Off Label' uses for all drugs that can be legally prescribed in the UK?

In reply to **Q 1** please accept our apologies it was an error, and not an attempt to mislead anyone who read the original response.

In response to **Qs 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g & 3** the pilot is looking to ascertain the benefits of using the online version of the BNF to extend the range of resources available to the Healthcare Professionals (HCP) when offering advice, which will involve all HCP's working on the DWP contract nationally, including doctors, nurses and physiotherapists, and will be conducted for a period of 2 months during June and July 2013. It is not intended to publicly publish the findings

of the Pilot as this is an internal pilot, with the associated costs being funded solely by Atos Healthcare.

In answer to **Q 4** it is not possible to provide a response to this question without specific indications and the request specifying specific drugs

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

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team
Health & Disability Assessments (Operations)
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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 <a href="mailto:freedom-of-information-requexx@xxx.xxx.xxx.uk">freedom-of-information-requexx@xxx.xxx.xxx.uk</a> or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London 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 <a href="https://www.ico.gov.uk">www.ico.gov.uk</a>