

Ruth Bartlett
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[freedom-of-information-
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[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2023/31180

31 August 2023

Dear Ruth Bartlett,

Further to the letter from the Information Commissioner dated 3 August 2023 (ref IC-240873-R6C9), the department has reviewed and revised the original decision dated 10 May 2023. In the original request received on 20 April 2023 you wrote:

“I would like to receive all medical protocols used by DWP and IAS when assessing PIP claimants with the following conditions:

ADHD
Autism
OCD
Dyspraxia

I would also like to receive any relevant training materials used by DWP and IAS in relation to the above conditions.”

DWP Response

We confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested and have attached the Independent Assessment Services (IAS) training material for Autism. IAS does not hold specific training material for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and dyspraxia although these are referenced in wider training material.

Within the Autism training material, there is some information that the department considers commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from release under Section 43(2) of the FoI Act.

Section 43(2) exempts information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. It protects not only the commercial interests of third parties but also the commercial interests of the department. It is intended to protect the ability of a public authority like the Department for Work and Pensions to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of its suppliers. Some information you seek falls into this category.

As required by the FoI Act the use of this exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be assessed. There is a public interest in the disclosure of commercial

information to ensure transparency in the accountability of public funds and to show that public money is being used effectively. Conversely, there is a public interest in ensuring that disclosure does not compromise an existing competitive market environment or the department's ability to secure best value for money for the taxpayer. On balance I am satisfied that, in this instance, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

It may be useful to note that Health Professionals (HPs) employed by IAS do not make decisions on entitlement to benefit. They provide advice to DWP Decision Makers (DMs) who make benefit entitlement decisions. DWP DMs do not have any condition specific training material.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

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-reqxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.