

To: Ms A Bellows

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

DWP Business Management Team
Health & Disability Assessments (Operations)
DWP.MEDICALSERVICESCORRESPxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

15 February 2013

Dear Ms Bellows

Freedom of Information Act – Request for Information

Our Reference: FOI 407

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 25 January 2013.

You asked:

With reference to ESA Work Capability Assessments

What does 'Declined' mean when used in an ESA medical report form?

Is there an option in LiMA other than free text which allows giving reasons for a client to decline to attempt to do something or to decline examination? Because of pain for example?

What do DM interpret 'Declined' to mean when seen in a medical report and when there are no explanations?

How can 'Declined' be shown in a medical report when the available LiMA documentation doesn't list 'Declined' as an option for the HCP to select?

The explanation does not appear in guidance, but in order to provide an explanation “decline” is a word used by our computer system (“LiMA”). It does not differentiate between ‘*will not*’ and ‘*cannot*’ perform a movement, but highlights the fact that it is not a movement a customer followed through on the day of the examination. It is intended as a descriptor to highlight to the Decision Maker at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) the customer's ability on the day of the assessment.

Yours sincerely

DWP Business Management Team
Health & Disability Assessments (Operations)

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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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 www.ico.gov.uk