

To: Mx Slack  
[request-518611-6fc7bbcd@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-518611-6fc7bbcd@whatdotheyknow.com)

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI 3632

5 October 2018

Dear Mx Slack,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 8 September 2018.

You asked:

*'1. The NICE guidance for CFS/ME is currently under review.*

*Please provide all documents held by the DWP related to this, including email correspondence, letters, minutes of meetings or phone calls, and any with any third party assessors / assessment contractors such as ATOS or Capita that refer to the NICE guidelines review in any way.*

*These documents may or may not refer to:*

- prognosis,*
- symptoms such as Post-exertional malaise / Post-exertional neuroimmune exhaustion (PEM / PENE),*
- treatments such as Graded Exercise Therapy (GET) or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT),*
- the controversial PACE study (which is referred to in the NICE guidelines)*
- the re-analysis of the PACE study*

*2. Please provide a list of future planned meetings, tasks, or activities related to:*

- the review / update of NICE guidelines for M.E./CFS which has been announced*
- analysis of claims and their outcomes from people with M.E./CFS*
- reviews or updates to guidance related to M.E./CFS*

*3. Please provide information about any updates or reviews to medical information or policies - whether current or planned - resulting from the recently released International Classification of Diseases manual (version 11 is available on the World Health Organisation website).*

*This is for all health conditions.*

*4. Please provide contact details for the person or department responsible for overseeing that the International Classification of Diseases or other new and significant medical information is included in the medical information used by assessors and / or decision makers employed by the DWP or third parties carrying out tasks on behalf of the DWP e.g. ATOS or Capita staff.'*

The Freedom of Information Act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. In response to questions 1 and 2, we do not hold the information you have requested therefore the information is not available.

As explained in our response to you dated 5 October (reference FOI 3631), the provider learning modules are usually subject to an annual cycle of changes incorporating revised guidance as appropriate at that time. This guidance is next due for review in January 2019. I note that the

Freedom of Information Officer attached the guides, 'Chronic fatigue syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) Guidelines for the Disability Analyst', 'EBM Mental Health Protocols: Key points and analytical guidance' and 'Fibromyalgia'.

You were also provided with links to the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Guide and the which is used by Health Professionals (HPs) undertaking Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments and the Revised Work Capability Assessment (WCA) Handbook that is issued to approved Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) employed by Centre for Health and Disability Assessments (CHDA).

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) framework is only used by DWP for statistical reporting purposes. It is not used in diagnosis of medical conditions, nor in the administration of benefits. ICD-11 will not come in to effect before 2022 and DWP statisticians will review in due course how we can update our statistical reporting methodology to reflect the updated ICD-11 framework. When we are satisfied that we have a robust and accurate methodology we will preannounce the publication of medical condition codes which reflect the ICD-11 framework via the following gov.uk collection page <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>

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

DWP Central Fol 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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) 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. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745