

Dear Mr Bennett,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 1st May 2017. You asked:

I wish you to supply some information please, on guidance or instructions given to decision makers for ESA and PIP on wet room equipment, and how they are to be viewed and scored. I am also seeking information on how the same decision makers are guided to score breathing difficulties whilst walking. I am requesting this information as there seems to be inconsistencies with points awarded after assessments and if there is no firm guidance in place, which I am sure there is then that would indicate a possible breach of the "Equalities Act 2010".

So with the above in mind please can you provide the following?

What are seen as either an "Aid" or "Assistance" and what points should be awarded for PIP

Wet Room Equipment / Points Awarded / Seen As "Aid/Assistance"

Wet Room Shower

Washing & Drying Toilet

Wash Basin Taps with Lever Controls

Support Frames for Toilets

Support Handles Wall Mounted

Emergency Call Pulls

Carry Slings or Lifts

Shower Chairs

Walk In Baths

Bath Seats

What are seen as either an "Aid" or "Assistance" and what points should be awarded for ESA

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Further to those please clarify the points awarded for the following Mobility element of PIP

Points Awarded

Walking with Severe Pain on-setting after short distance (please give distances)

*Walking with Severe Pain from the start ** Walking with Severe Pain and Breathing Difficulty on-setting after short distance (please give distances) Walking with Severe Breathing Difficulty on-setting after short distance (please give distances) Walking with Severe Breathing Difficulty from the start*

*** please remember the recent Upper Tribunal ruling on this when commenting on this.*

If you cannot supply this information please supply a statement on why you cannot to include a valid reason based on medical evidence that can be verified by an Independent source. Also please include a copy of the guidance notes that assessors are given on the awarding of points for use in both ESA and PIP awards after either assessment or paper based reviews.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000:

The act gives you a legal right of access to any recorded information held by a public authority. We do not have to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; your interpretation of the information provided is at your perusal.

Our response:

Decision Makers guidance for PIP can be found in the Advice for Decision Makers guide:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/600951/admp2.pdf

Information on applying the assessment criteria, including aids and appliances, for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can be found on pages 79 to 96 of the PIP Assessment Guide. Information on individual PIP activities and descriptors can be found on pages 97 to 134:

[Personal Independence Payment assessment guide for assessment providers - GOV.UK.](#)

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested specifically on Wet Room aids and appliances, is not held by this Department for ESA. This is because unlike the PIP, which provides a contribution towards extra costs faced by people with long term health conditions and disabilities, the ESA assessment is a functional assessment against a set of descriptors to determine how the individual's health condition or disability affects their ability to work.

Information for Health Care Professionals that carry out the Work Capability Assessment can be found in the Work Capability Assessment Handbook from page 67 to 109:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535065/wca-handbook-july-2016.pdf

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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 Fol 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