

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: VTR 497

DATE: 1 March 2016

Dear elwyn,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 10 February 2016. You asked:

- (1) Can you tell me if the Power of Attorney consent is attached to any social security account, and if so*
- (2) can you confirm, or deny that the Power of Attorney aspect is not and never was necessary to the performance of the contract between the parties to the social security account and*
- (3) what affect the withdrawing of said Power of Attorney would have on any claim*

Benefit can be paid to a person holding a Power of Attorney made in respect of a benefit claimant, provided that the Power has been properly made (with the Office of the Public Guardian) and allows the holder to manage the claimant's benefits.

If the authority to so act lapses or the authority is withdrawn, then benefit would be paid direct to the claimant unless he is incapable of managing his own affairs and needs another third party to act for him. In which case another person holding a Power of Attorney or a Secretary of State appointee would need fill that gap.

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@dwpgsi.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