

To: Mr L Jefferson  
[request-462361-e9456694@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-462361-e9456694@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 470

01 March 2018

Dear Mr Jefferson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 2 February 2018.

You asked:

*Please kindly provide either a sample of a letter or a letter template which would be given to an individual such as a healthcare professional who has requested you provide the prognosis date of his/her patient.*

*This may be requested by the healthcare professional, for instance, if they need to intensify care during a potentially stressful or even life threatening period for their patient*

In response:

Unfortunately, I am unable to proceed with your request without clarification of the information you wish to receive.

The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) that is carried out is different to the more usual type of medical examination in which the medical clinician's aim is to make a diagnosis and decide on appropriate treatment. The role of the Healthcare Professional (HCP) within the WCA process is to assess the disabling effects of medical conditions and the way in which a claimant's illness or disability affects them in carrying out of a range of everyday work-related activities.

The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment requires the assessor to look at the impact of conditions and impairments on individual's everyday lives. Health Professionals (HPs) provide advice to DWP Decision Makers who make benefit entitlement decisions.

Please can you clarify your request in more detail as HCPs/HPs do not provide advice on claimant care in the circumstances which you describe.

Please note that if I do not receive appropriate clarification of your information requirements within three months from the date of this letter, then I will consider your request closed.

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