

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: Fol IR514

Date: 13 November 2017

Dear Mr Jefferson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) review request, which we received on 11/10/2017.

You have asked us:

This matter is now live with the Information Commissioner ref FS50687258.

We refer to the date as a 'review date'. It is a database field which the DWP have on every claimant record which tells them when the claimant is due to be assessed by a Work Capability assessor such as Maximus. A 'healthcare professional' at a place such as Maximus would write a report and send it onto a DWP 'decision maker' who would state whether the claimant is fit for work (or not).

We asked for a document containing this date referred to above which would provide proof to a pharmacist that the claimant is in current receipt of a benefit such as Employment and Support Allowance thus entitled to free prescriptions. What DWP provided was not what we asked for.

It is not the case that the DWP don't have this information because we know they hold it on the record of each claimant. They have thus far failed to provide us with any document containing that specific field.

DWP Response:

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request, I was not involved previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I am now in a position to respond to you.

I am content that your original request was dealt with in accordance with DWP guidelines for Fol requests.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central 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 FoI 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745