

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

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

**Our reference:** Fol 1866

**Date:** 23 May 2017

Dear Mr Jefferson

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 28/04/17.

You asked:

In the FoIA request below we asked you to provide a sample of the document which Income-Based ESA claimants would show pharmacy staff, dental staff, etc as evidence of ongoing entitlement to free prescriptions and treatment. The evidence needed to contain a review date so they could type this in on their system.

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/proof\\_of\\_payment\\_exemption\\_due\\_t](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/proof_of_payment_exemption_due_t)

You responded above by providing us with a sample of ESA125 which certainly gave the impression that it contained a review date - but we have been contacted with proof that this is in fact not the case. A claimant with on-going entitlement to Income-Based ESA has provided us with a real life copy of an ESA125 and it gives no indication when the entitlement is up for review. Here is the real life copy for the public to see

<http://freepdfhosting.com/db4d3bc147.pdf>

We know you claim you cannot access these links so we shall email you the copy directly.

Ultimately though we ask that you provide a sample of the document which a claimant on Income-based ESA would ask for, complete with review date.

**DWP Response:**

In your original request you asked for:

*“a sample copy of the document you provide to a claimant who is on Income Based Employment and Support Allowance which would serve as proof to pharmacists, dental staff, etc that the claimant is in receipt of this benefit and as such does not pay for prescriptions or dental treatment.”*

The letter we provided in our previous response (the ESA125) is the proof of benefit letter supplied by DWP. This letter provides the required information to

enable the other benefits associated with ESA (such as free prescriptions). No other information would be required.

To clarify: For an individual to have access to an associated benefit they must show that they are in receipt of benefit. In this instance a review date is any date the individual's benefit payments will change. In most instances the first known change would be due at the next uprating period where benefits increase on an annual basis, as a result an award would usually have the uprating date as the review date. Once the expiry date is reached another award notice would be issued or alternatively one can be requested at any time by the individual.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me 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@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto: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.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](http://www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us) or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745