

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref: 2305-2238

DATE 30 August 2011

Dear Mr Whitt,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 30 July 2011 that was received by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded for response by the Commercial Management of Medical Services Freedom of Information Officer.

In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

Under the freedom of information please could you confirm the following; (I have the answers on good authority)

1. 1.3 million tests over 2 years by ATOS?
2. 11,000 sick claims seen a week?
3. ATOS is a french company?
4. ATOS paid 100 million pounds per year for contract?
5. 39% of the above 1.3 million deemed fit for work?
6. 17% able to do some sort of work?
7. 7% genuine incapable of any kind of work?
8. 36% dropped out of the system so in essence the scroungers?
9. To sum up in rounding up 25% had good cause to claim.
10. 75% did not according to ATOS.
11. And of those 75% half of them are APPEALING and the estimate for the appeals tribunal to clear them 5 years. lol

And to also confirm please.

12. The members of parliament are not very happy with ATOS's performance and thus the government is blaming ATOS for the very many wrong diagnose's?

13. And subsequently the members of parliament after summer recess are have a very big review at ATOS's role in the future of medical examinations?

14. Why? because the government didn't expect the kind of money pay out to the Independent Appeals Tribunal.

In answer to **Q1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & 9**, all statistics relating to the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) are published on the DWP website and can accessed via the following link
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

In reply to **Q3**, Atos Healthcare is a business unit within Atos IT Services UK Limited. Their full postal address is:

Atos IT Services UK Limited
4 Triton Square
Regent's Place
London
NW1 3HG
Company registration number: 1245534

In response to **Q4**, in accordance with Section 14(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, the Department is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request it has previously responded to. The letter of the Freedom of Information Officer dated 24 August 2011 (FOI 2189) refers.

In answer to **Q8**, there are a number of reasons why Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants might legitimately come off ESA before they undergo the WCA if their illness or incapacity is not a long term condition. The whole purpose of ESA is to provide help and support to people who cannot work because of illness or disability and this approach is equally valid for those with both long and short-term medical conditions. For the published statistics relating to your query please use the link above.

In reply to **Q10**, decisions on entitlement to ESA rest solely with the Department's decision makers taking into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information. For the published statistics relating to your query please use the link above.

In response to **Q11**, 37% of those people found fit for work have lodged an appeal (to date) and 61% of these appeals have been found in favour of the Department.

In answer to **Q12, 13 & 14**, Professor Malcolm Harrington's 'An Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment' is available online at www.dwp.gov.uk/wca-review. The Governments response to the review including 'What we will do now' can also be accessed using the same link.

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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. 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