

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 458 and 469

11 June 2013

Dear Mr Reynolds,

Thank you for your emails dated 23 and 27 May 2013, both requesting a review of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) handling of your request dated 15 April 2013. Specifically you asked:

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'UNUM Influence'.

As you have not answered my questions, i am requesting an internal review.

The review was conducted by an independent official of the Department, of the relevant grade and authority to carry out such requests. The case has been examined afresh, and guidance has been sought from domain experts to ensure all factors were taken fully into account.

I acknowledge that in this instance, the Department failed to respond within 20 working days, although a reply to your Fol was prepared and ready within 20 days it was not issued to you due to an administration error. The error arose as the Department had two Freedom of Information requests in your name with very similar reference numbers (Fol 1785 and Fol 1758), I apologise for this error. The Department is working to avoid any such errors occurring in the future.

In reviewing your request the reviewing officer upholds your complaint as the Department failed to respond to your request within 20 days.

The response to your original request (Fol 1785) is included at the end of this letter.

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 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

To: Mr G Reynolds

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: VTR 1785

29 April 2013

Dear Mr Reynolds,

Freedom of Information Act – Request for Information
Our Reference: Fol 1785

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 15 April 2013.

You asked:

You recently quoted the following paragraph in a FOI response;

'The assisted text phrases that may be used to construct the medical history were drawn from many sources including the Incapacity Benefit Handbook, medical text books, examples of high quality Personal Capability Assessment report and discussions with experienced approved Healthcare Professionals (HCP). They have been quality assured by panels of experienced HCPs and deemed appropriate for constructing good quality relevant clinical and functional histories and were agreed in consultation with the DWP Health and Benefits Division (formerly Corporate Medical Group).

COULD YOU STATE, CATEGORICALLY, THAN UNUM CORPORATION HAD NO INFLUENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF LIMA BASES BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL SOFTWARE USED IN ESA EXAMINATIONS?

DID MEMBERS OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAVE INPUT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIMA SOFTWARE THAT IS USED DURING AN ESA EXAMINATION?

DID MANSEL AYLWARD HAVE LINKS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOFTWARE. IF SO PLEASE STATE, AND DESCRIBE HIS INPUT'?

In response, I can advise that neither the Department nor Atos Healthcare hold any documentation that links the LiMA software, used for Work Capability Assessments, with Unum, the insurance industry or Mansel Aylward.

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

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team
Health & Disability Assessments (Operations)
dwp.medicalservicescorrespondence@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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 FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, 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