

To Mr Newman
C/o request-96443-36a69cd8@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2768-IR15

DATE 08 February 2012

Dear Mr Newman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 12 January 2012 that was received by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Adelphi and forwarded for response by DWP Medical Services Contracts Correspondence Team (MSCCT) Freedom of Information Officer. In your email you asked to be provided with information answering the following questions:-

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

Sorry, but there is a huge contradiction here that perhaps you can clarify. Are you saying that:

- 1) Although an Atos HCP is not qualified/allowed to recommend use of a wheelchair to a claimant they can to a DM? Surely, either they are qualified to make this judgement or not – please explain the difference.*
- 2) A DM will always make a decision that is in the claimant's best interests? If not, what is their primary concern/objective?*
- 3) If the DM concludes that a wheelchair improves mobility on level ground, what adjustment would they make for the "two-step" test? Clearly with a wheelchair, this is far more of a problem.*
- 4) They can make this decision without discussing it with the person?*
- 5) They can stop ESA payments without giving the claimant any time to arrange a wheelchair? This could result in temporary ineligibility for JSA as without one, the claimant is not available to work and fails the JSA criteria. The end result is no benefit payments at all.*

As Reviewing Officer, I have read your letter and accepted this as a request for an Internal Review in order that I can check that the information sent to you clearly and accurately answered your request. I have therefore conducted a full investigation into your original request and the information supplied to you. I have also reviewed any decisions to withhold information and in doing so I have fully considered the public interest in disclosure.

Having reviewed your case I note that in previous cases you have been provided with the recorded information held as requested. I should note that your internal review is not challenging whether we provided the information requested, but rather, wants us to confirm or deny your opinion on what that information means. As Freedom of Information is not about

creating more information, entering a debate on the meaning of things or providing an explanation to the requestor on what things mean, none of this is Freedom of Information related.

I therefore find that the original response dated 10 January 2011 (FOI2694-3747) was correct and that all the information that DWP are able to supply to you has been supplied.

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