

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR 16

16 February 2012

Dear xxxxxxxxx

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 12 January 2012 in which you say:

"I have heard that in a significant number of cases medical information sent to the DWP by the patient is not used in the assessment / decision-making process. It can be "stored" ("lost"?) instead. I have heard that information sent to the DWP is not shared with ATOS.

How can a GP be sure that if a patient sends in medical information, or their GP send in medical information - it will be actually used?

Does the DWP / ATOS tell GPs how the patient was actually assessed and can a GP trust the DWOP / ATOS with what EXACT information?

Also regarding:

"We have sent your patient a summary of the Limited Capability for Work Assessment. ESA65B 04/10"

Is the GP sent a copy of this summary?"

HCPs are expected to consider any additional medical evidence presented to them at the assessment by the claimant. However, benefit entitlement is determined by DWP Decision Makers (DM), not Atos Healthcare. In order to make a decision on benefit entitlement the DM considers all the available evidence not just the reports received from Atos Healthcare. Further evidence may include the claimant's 'self assessment', reports from GPs, hospital doctors and other clinicians. Atos Healthcare do not inform a GP how a claimant was assessed.

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 FoI 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