

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk

Our Ref: IR2020/40148

05 August 2020

Dear Dan Manville,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) internal review request received on 27 July.
You asked:

*The outcomes have been provided but I asked another question which is yet to be addressed;
can a WCA outcome be processed without a referral through MSRS?*

DWP Response:

In response to your request, I can confirm that the handling of your original request and response has now been appropriately reviewed and that I was unconnected with the handling of your original request.

As a result of this review I can advise that I find the original decision to be partly correct. Your complaint is therefore partially upheld. The reasoning behind this decision is as follows:

The initial information provided to you was correct with the additional information you requested being a question. The Freedom of Information Act provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP, subject to certain exemptions that may apply. The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information we do not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

However, to be helpful; where DWP is seeking a WCA assessment to be undertaken by CHDA, the majority of referrals are made on MSRS. DWP can also reach a LCW, LCWRA or no LCW outcome without a referral to CHDA via MSRS. We have provided this information outside of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745