

To: Peter Mcdade
request-320582-1d063c14@whatdotheyknow.com

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI 891

23 March 2016

Dear Mr Mcdade,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which we received on 7 March 2016.

You asked:

I have been informed by Atos that the contractual agreement between DWP and Work Capability Assessment Health Care Professionals did not allow for Nurses from Mental Health or Learning Disability registered nurses to be employed on DWP contracts as Work Capability Assessors. I understand that Maximus now carry out these assessments. Can DWP confirm that only Nurses from "Adult part of register NMC" may provide Work Capability Assessments. I understand that there may be Nurses on several parts of the register, however I am only concerned with primary/sole registration being on Mental health and Learning disability parts of register.

I also understand that they may, however be employed as Disability Analysts for Personal Independence Payments. Could you confirm that this is the case.

In response, all Healthcare Professionals employed by Centre for Health and Disability Assessments have passed strict recruitment and experience criteria and are registered with a relevant regulatory body such as the General Medical Council (GMC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or EEA equivalent. Centre for Health and Disability Assessments ensure that any Healthcare Professionals has the following qualifications and experience:

- they are an occupational therapist, nurse, physiotherapist or doctor,
- they are fully registered with the relevant regulatory body (doctors must have a licence to practice);
- they have no sanctions attached to registration (unless they relate to disability)
- in individual cases this may be waived subject to agreement with the authority;
- they have at least 2 years post full registration experience (GMC, NMC, HCPC or EEA equivalent) or for non EU graduates 2 post full registration experience unless Otherwise agreed on an individual basis by the Authority.

With regard to Personal Independence Payment assessments, all Health Professionals employed by Atos or Capita have passed strict recruitment and experience criteria and are registered with an appropriate professional body such as the GMC, HCPC or the NMC and:

- they are an occupational therapist, nurse (level 1), physiotherapist, paramedic or doctor,
- they are fully registered with the relevant licensing body (doctors must have a licence to practice);
- they have no sanctions attached to registration unless they relate to disability

- they have at least 2 years post full registration experience or less than 2 years post full registration experience unless by individual agreement with the Authority.

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, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745