

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

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: IR165

4 May 2016

Dear Mr Mcdade

Thank you for your email requesting a review of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) response dated 14 April 2016, reference IR131.

In your email you asked:

'Dear DWP Health Services Correspondence, Thankyou for your response "I can further explain that for the delivery of Work Capability Assessments under the Health and Disability Assessments Service Contract, the primary qualification of a registered nurse can be any as listed throughout the register. "

For clarification, Does this mean that a nurse from any part of the register may work as a work capability assessor. Including mental health and learning disability registered nurses ? Can you tell me of this has always been the case or from which date that this has been the case ?'

Please be assured that your request has been given our full consideration and that all aspects of your review were taken fully into account.

DWP have already supplied you with full information about these matters in the letter dated 14 April 2016 (reference IR 131) which was an Internal Review. The letter explained that the reviewing officer upheld the original decision (reference FOI 891) in part and provided further information relating to the registration requirements of Nurses that undertake assessments on behalf of the Department. I also note that you subsequently requested similar information on 9 March 2016 (reference FOI 928, our response dated 7 April 2016 refers) and a further Internal Review on 23 March 2016 (reference IR 159).

In undertaking this review I agree with the findings of the reviewing officer dated 14 April 2016. Furthermore, under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain. The information you requested was provided to you in the previous responses as stated above.

I am therefore satisfied now that all the information that DWP are able to supply to you has been supplied and 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.

Regarding your further question, *'Can you tell me of this has always been the case or from which date that this has been the case ?'*, the current recruitment criteria for Healthcare Professionals has been in place from 1 March 2015 for the Health and Disability Assessments (HDAS) contract and from 8 April 2013 for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment service contracts.

You can view the Freedom of Information Act 2000 via the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

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