Department for Work & Pensions

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John Pring
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10 May 2017

Dear Mr Pring

Freedom of Information Act - Request for Internal Review
Our Reference: IR 163

Thank you for your email dated 31 March 2017 requesting a review of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decision dated 31 March 2017 (reference FOI 669).

You asked:

"Can you at least send me the current version of the relevant guidance (pointing out the relevant section), as requested in the FoI request? That way I will have it to hand to compare with the new version when it is finally published."

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

In reviewing your request I uphold your complaint as the Department did not provide you with the requested information.

I am now in the position to provide you with the redacted version of the new training guidance that you have requested (please see attached).

This document has been produced as part of a programme for Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) to carry out assessments as approved healthcare professionals. All HCPs undertaking these assessments must be registered medical or nursing practitioners who in addition, have undergone training in disability assessment medicine and more specific training. The training includes theory training in a classroom setting, supervised practical training, and a demonstration of understanding as assessed by quality audit. This document must be read with the understanding that, as experienced medical or nursing practitioners, the HCPs will have detailed knowledge of the principles and practice of diagnostic techniques and therefore such information is not contained in this document. In addition, this is not a stand-alone document, and forms only a part of the training and written documentation that a HCP receives. As disability assessment is a practical occupation, much of the guidance also involves verbal information and coaching. Thus, although the documents may be of interest to non-medical

readers, some of the information may not be readily understood without background medical knowledge and an awareness of the other training and guidance given to HCPs.

Some information contained in the document falls within the exemptions allowed by Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act and has therefore been redacted. Where information is exempt under Section 43 this is due to it being commercially sensitive and release of the information would prejudice the interests of our service providers and the Department's future dealings with them or other service providers. The material, if seen by candidates may lead to unfair advantage and inappropriate successful completion of the course. To release the information would render it useless for the purpose that it is intended and would result in the training material and questionnaires being continuously updated which would have a commercial impact upon the Department and CHDA.

In applying this exemption the Department has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information and consider there is no overarching public interest argument in favour of releasing this information as the Department is unable to prejudice its commercial interests.

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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.

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

Yours sincerely

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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