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[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2023/31180

5 October 2023

Dear Ruth Bartlett,

Further to our response to you dated 30 August 2023, the Information Commissioner has asked to provide you with further information. In the original request received on 20 April 2023 you wrote:

“I would like to receive all medical protocols used by DWP and IAS when assessing PIP claimants with the following conditions:

ADHD  
Autism  
OCD  
Dyspraxia

I would also like to receive any relevant training materials used by DWP and IAS in relation to the above conditions.”

## **DWP Response**

In our response dated 30 August 2023 we stated;

*‘IAS does not hold specific training material for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and dyspraxia although these are referenced in wider training material.’*

The Information Commissioner has requested that DWP provides you with the relevant excerpts contained within wider training material. We have attached the following training material and indicated where the references to ADHD, OCD and dyspraxia can be found:

### Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

- A Basic Guide to Medication for Health Professionals – page 26
- Activity 6 E-learning Module – page 16, section 6, paragraph 2
- Common Mental Health Disorders with focus on Anxiety and Depression and PIP – slides 10 and 13
- MSE Desk Aid and Glossary – page 6

### Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

- Bipolar Disorder Module – page 7

## ADHD and Dyspraxia

- Learning Disabilities vs Learning Difficulties – slides 6 and 8

Some of the attached documents also contain some commercially sensitive information and this is exempt from release under Section 43(2) of the FoI Act.

Section 43(2) exempts information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. It protects not only the commercial interests of third parties but also the commercial interests of the department. It is intended to protect the ability of a public authority like the DWP to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of its suppliers.

We are unable to provide you with the name of a document drafter as it constitutes personal data of someone other than yourself and as such, it is being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that "Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...".

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FoI Act. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data are subject to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

The Information Commissioner has also asked us to clarify DWP's position around the term 'medical protocols' which was interpreted as referring to training materials. DWP recognises that we should have clarified this with you at an earlier stage, for which we apologise.

DWP can confirm that the only protocols available to Health Professionals (HPs) working for Independent Assessment Services (IAS) relate to their training and supporting guidance used in the PIP assessment journey. We have previously provided you with the CIR and Workbook on Autism Spectrum Disorder, which includes references to OCD.

As explained in our response dated 30 August 2023, IAS does not hold specific training material for ADHD, OCD and dyspraxia, although these are referenced in wider training material, and are mentioned above.

The Information Commissioner has asked DWP to clarify what we hold for any predetermined criteria against which the assessments are scored for each condition, however, the information is exempt under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Please see below link to part 2 of the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Guide, which explains the descriptor criteria.

[PIP assessment guide part 2: the assessment criteria - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/PIP-assessment-guide-part-2-the-assessment-criteria)

If the information we have provided in our previous responses does not adequately answer your request, we would be grateful if you could please provide further clarification around your interpretation of the term 'medical protocols'.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

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### **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-reqxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:freedom-of-information-reqxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

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.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.