



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
Information Team  
Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Ruth Bartlett  
request-974747-e211fca5@whatdotheyknow.com

[freedom-of-information-  
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](https://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: FOI2023/31180

10 May 2023

Dear Ruth Bartlett,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) requests received on 20 April,  
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**

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested, but some of this information is commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from release under Section 43 of the FoI Act. Section 43(2) exempts information which, if disclosed would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of our assessment providers, and the department’s future dealings with them or other service providers.

We are unable to provide copies of medical protocols and detailed training material because if publicly released, the material contained and the general guidance that is provided to trainers, 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. It would also result in the training material having to be rewritten on a regular basis which would have a commercial impact upon both the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Independent Assessment Services (IAS).

In applying this exemption, DWP 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 DWP is unable to prejudice its commercial interests.

As required by the FoI Act, the use of Section 43(2) requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be assessed. There is a public interest in the disclosure of commercial information to ensure transparency in the accountability of public funds, and to show that public money is being used effectively. Conversely, there is a public interest in ensuring that disclosure does not compromise an existing competitive market environment, or the department's ability to secure best value for money for the taxpayer. On balance I am satisfied that, in this instance, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

However, we can supply you with a set of Condition Insight Reports (CIR) produced by IAS. These are issued to all their health professionals (HPs) and updated regularly. They are written by charities and representative groups to give HPs insight into the lived experience of disabled people. IAS is not able to provide a CIR for every possible condition or diagnosis.

Please see the attached CIR which has sections for Autism and OCD. IAS do not hold a CIR for Dyspraxia or ADHD.

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-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) 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.