

Terms of reference for the Fourth Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment

Dr Paul Litchfield has been appointed to undertake the fourth Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment and to provide the report before the end of 2013.

Dr Litchfield's terms of reference are to:

- Provide the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with an independent report evaluating the operation of the assessments of limited capability for work and limited capability for work-related activity;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the limited capability for work assessment in correctly identifying those claimants who are currently unfit for work as a result of disease or disability;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the limited capability for work-related activity assessment in correctly identifying those claimants whose disability is such that they are currently unfit to undertake any form of work-related activity;
- Evaluate perceptions of objectivity surrounding the assessments;
- Take forward any outstanding areas of work identified in the years one, two and three reports during year four;
- Monitor and report on the implementation of the recommendations in the years one, two and three reports that are adopted by Ministers; and
- Provide independent advice to Ministers and the Department on any specific issues or concerns with the WCA that arise during the term of appointment, on which the Government may seek his independent view.