

# **Freedom of Information request 1078/2014**

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## **Information request**

I have just had my second medical examination by ATOS my first was over turned by the Appeal tribunal. My benefits were, not stopped, while I went to appeal the first time. My concern is great!

A second ATOS medical examination and seen me fit for work. Which I am not fit for work. But my benefits were stopped and now I have to go and sign on while waiting for my Appeal.

My urgent problems are now (1) I am on £25 per week less and I was only just surviving before I lost that huge amount (2)The new rules are now, even though I am appealing their decision. My benefits are NOT paid to me, in fact I now have to go and sign on. In order to do this I have to declare that I am actively seeking work for a minimum of 30 hours per week. Or that benefit will cease. I am not well enough to actively look for work 30 hours a week.

I take 15mgs of Diazepam just to get out of the house. The side effects are high. How can I be fit for work?

(3) The medical examiner brushed over my illness and even compared herself to my illness. Without even knowing in depth what my illness was. Never in all of my time have I ever visited a medical person who compared their issues to mine.

(4) If I am not able to actively look for work 30 hours a week then I am not entitled to Job seekers, so that will soon be stopped too. So what do I do then? Without money for food or rent or heating. Do I just loose my home, starve? No one at the job centre is interested in helping me.

Where do people like me go? What do we do next?

## **DWP response**

You have indicated that you want your email of 7/3/14 to be treated as a Freedom of Information request.

It may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

Anyone can request copies of information which a public authority already holds in a recorded form, but the Freedom of Information Act does not require the Department to generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

If you want a bespoke response to your correspondence outside of the Freedom of Information regime please send it to [ministers@dpw.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ministers@dpw.gsi.gov.uk)