
Director General, Monitoring and Assessment

David Frazer
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6 August 2014

Dear David

**ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON OUTCOMES OF WORK CAPABILITY
ASSESSMENTS**

Thank you for the correspondence and ongoing engagement with the statistical team at DWP regarding the actions that have been taken to address the requirements in Assessment Report number 242 on Statistics on Work Capability Assessments.

We recognise that there have been many improvements made to the production, management and dissemination of the statistics since our assessment in 2012. As a result all but one of the Requirements from that Assessment Report have been fully met. The remaining requirement – Requirement 5, relating to the commentary and documentation about strengths and limitations (principle 8 of the Code) – has not yet been fully met.

Given DWP's needs to conclude the procurement of a new contractor to conduct the WCAs and the ongoing user needs for published statistics on mandatory reconsiderations, which I understand that you intend to publish before end of 2014, we will temporarily suspend our follow-up to this assessment. We have agreed with your colleagues that we will aim to resume our work in 2015. The reasons for selecting this date are:

1. by June 2015, the new contractor conducting the WCAs will have been appointed which will involve a large scale change involving many areas of DWP in a considerable amount of additional work.
2. there should have been at least two releases of the statistical bulletin that includes the mandatory reconsideration statistics.

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this with us at any time. I am copying this letter to the National Statistician – John Pullinger, Robert Devereaux and Neil McIvor.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson