

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: VTR 600

24/2/15

Dear Glenys Harriman,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 14/2/15. You asked:

The guidance states: "Split Payments should be considered when:

- the claimant notifies DWP of financial mismanagement and/or financial abuse · the claimant notifies DWP that there are domestic violence issues · the claimant cannot or will not budget for their own or their family's basic day to day needs "

Can I assume from this that the DWP will not need to / ask to interview both members of a couple but will act on the information from the abused claimant?

Secondly could you confirm if/what evidence would be required to accept that there is financial mismanagement and/or financial abuse and/or domestic abuse?

If a request for Split Payments is made, the claimant making the request is interviewed and a decision to award Split Payments made based on that discussion. There is no intention to interview / discuss the matter with the other member of the claimant household and there is no evidence required to support the request. However a notification is sent to both claimants informing them of the decision to change their payment arrangements. This letter does not provide specific details of the request or the basis for the decision but does give details of the intention to split the payments and the rights of appeal

Further guidance is available in the public domain, including at section B1026 of the following: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380440/admb1.pdf

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, 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 www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745