



Black Triangle Campaign  
*In Defence of Disability Rights*  
blacktrianglecampaign.org

**Work Capability Assessment (WCA) decision - draft appeal letter**

Dear Doctor,

As a GP you may be at times inundated with requests for letters to support appeals.

This is a draft letter which you could amend in order to promptly assist your patient who is requesting supportive information for the purposes of a tribunal appeal for Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

At the recent National BMA Conference a motion was passed calling for the WCA to be scrapped with immediate effect

The WCA involves the administration of a battery of questions contained in the LIMA computer programme that comprehensively fails to adequately and accurately assess a patient's 'fitness for work'.

The operation of the assessment system has been universally condemned for failing to take into account the disproportionate medical, social and other barriers that sick and disabled people face in the job market as a direct result of their disabilities.

The recent GMC publication of Good Medical Practice 2012 states clearly that a Doctor must (overriding duty or principle) "take prompt action if you think that patient safety is or may be seriously compromised by inadequate premises, equipment or other resources, *policies or systems.*"

This draft letter seek to address some of the failings in the WCA by, when appropriate, invoking exceptional circumstances ESA regulations 29 and 35, whereby an adverse decision may pose a substantial risk to the claimant

I hope you find this helpful.

Dr Stephen M Carty MBChB DRCOG MRCP

General Practitioner and Medical Adviser, Black Triangle Campaign