

Freedom of Information request 2013-1306

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Information request

This Freedom of Information Request is limited to people resident within the Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency

Please provide the information that you hold on the number of people in receipt of working age benefits, broken down by

- * the type of benefit received
- * by age group:
 - within the 'youth' age group (16 to 24)
 - the rest (24 +)
- * For those on Jobseekers Allowance, the number Sanctioned
 - within the 'youth' age group (16 to 24)
 - the rest (24 +)
- * The number in Receipt of Crisis Loans
- * within the 'youth' age group (16 to 24)
- * the rest (24 +)

Please provide these figures for the following time periods

- * 2010 or the nearest available figures previous to that
- * 2012 or the nearest available figures previous to that

DWP response

In response to your first two questions the available information is shown in the tables below.

Please note the latest available data on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions by Parliamentary Constituency is at May 2012. Therefore the figures provided for both questions have been given for May 2010 and May 2012 for consistency.

Number¹ of working age benefit claimants by benefit(s) claimed² and age group³ in Tonbridge and Malling Parliamentary Constituency⁴: May 2010 and May 2012⁵

Benefit(s) claimed	Caseload Month					
	May 2010			May 2012		
	Age group			Age group		
	Total	16-24	25 and over	Total	16-24	25 and over
Total	5,180	770	4,410	5,360	840	4,520
BB	90	-	90	100	-	100
CA	350	10	340	400	10	390
CA DLA	10	-	10	20	-	20
CA PC	-	-	-	10	-	10
DLA	550	180	370	590	170	420
DLA PC	10	-	10	20	-	20
ESA	360	60	300	530	50	480
ESA CA			10	-	10	
ESA DLA	130	40	100	400	60	340
IB/SDA	340	10	330	220	10	210
IB/SDA DLA	480	40	440	370	20	350
IB/SDA DLA PC	70	-	70	50	-	50
IB/SDA IS	240	20	220	130	10	120
IB/SDA IS CA DLA	10	-	10	20	-	20
IB/SDA IS DLA	510	20	490	410	10	400
IB/SDA PC	30	-	30	20	-	20
IS	630	170	460	490	170	320
IS CA	140	-	130	190	10	180
IS CA DLA	10	-	10	20	-	20
IS DLA	30	10	20	30	10	10
JSA	960	210	750	1,130	270	860
JSA DLA	20	10	10	50	30	20
PC	120	-	120	100	-	100
WB	50	-	50	40	-	40

For all other benefit combinations the values are nil or negligible, which is denoted by "-".

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; Totals may not sum due to rounding. “-“ denotes nil or negligible.
2. Working age benefits are classified as the following; Bereavement Benefit (BB), Carer’s Allowance (CA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) / Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), Income Support (IS), Pension Credit (PC) and Widow’s Benefit (WB).
3. Age group is calculated at the reference date. It is derived from the reference date and the client’s date of birth.
4. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory. Boundaries are as at the reference date. More information and a map is via the following link: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/maps/index.html>
5. May 2012 is the latest date for which information is available for JSA sanctions data by Parliamentary Constituency.
6. ESA replaced IB and IS paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.
7. From 6 April 2001, no new claims to SDA were accepted. In addition from 27 October 2008, no new claims to IB were also accepted.
8. Pension Credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee transferred to Pension Credit in October 2003.
9. The age at which women reach State Pension age is gradually increasing from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2016 to November 2018. Under current legislation, State Pension age for men and women is planned to increase to: 66 between November 2018 and October 2020; 67 between 2034 and 2036; 68 between 2044 and 2046. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change. For more information see <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf>.

Number¹ of individuals with a Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied² by Month of Decision³ and age group⁴ in Tonbridge and Malling Parliamentary Constituency⁵: May 2010 and May 2012

	Month of Decision			
	May 2010		May 2012	
	Age group		Age group	
	16-24	25 and over	16-24	25 and over
Total	10	10	30	20

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. **Sanctions applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of Varied⁶, Fixed Length⁷ and Entitlement Decision⁸ referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Month of decision:** The month in which the decision to apply a sanction was made. May 2012 is the latest date for which information is available for JSA sanctions data by Parliamentary Constituency.
4. Age group of the claimant is calculated at the date the referral for a decision was made.
5. Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory. Boundaries are as at the reference date. More information and a map is via the following link: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/maps/index.html>
6. **Varied Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the Adjudication Officer who makes the decision.
7. **Fixed Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's Direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question.
8. **Entitlement Decisions:** These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.

In response to your final question regarding Crisis Loans the available information for Tonbridge and Malling Parliamentary Constituency can be found via the following link:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/social-fund-reform/localisation-data/>

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information on the number of people in receipt of Crisis Loans in Tonbridge and Malling parliamentary constituency broken down by age group. However, we estimate that the cost of fully complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. The data referenced above is the closest information available within this limit.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one

person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.