

# Freedom of Information request 2013-1151

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## Information request

**“How many people have had their Job Seekers Allowance removed/suspended since June 2011 after failing to attend a mandatory work placement under the Work Programme?”**

## DWP response

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. If a claimant fails to undertake any activity required as a condition of their participation on the Work Programme without good cause, then a doubt may be raised against their claim.

These doubts are recorded on the departments IT systems under the generic reason of 'Failed to Participate in Work Programme'. Information on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who have been sanctioned for failing to attend a mandatory work placement is therefore not readily available and we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

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.

Guidance given to Work Programme providers on how to raise compliance doubts can be found in Chapter 6 via the link below.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/provider-guidance/work-programme-provider.shtml>

The information that we do have available within the appropriate limit is given in the table below.

**Number of JSA claimants with a sanction<sup>2</sup> applied for Failing to Participate (FTP)<sup>3</sup> in the Work Programme (WP): 1st June 2011 - 21st October 2012<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Total</b>
Number of claimants with a sanction applied	<b>92,110</b>

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of sanction referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. FTP in the WP is a fixed length sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks.
4. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012 is the latest date for which figures are available.