

Freedom of Information request 3055/2012

Received 6 August 2012

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Information request

I'd be grateful if you could confirm that it is the case that as at March of 2012, there had been no Enterprise Clubs set up in the North London district as a result of grant funding from JCP.

The reason why this clarification is important is because you did not reply to the FoI question as to whether any Enterprise Clubs had been set up in North London District. You simply omitted any mention of North London District.

Please could you clarify if my inference is correct and that the reason why you omitted to mention North London is because there has, in fact, been *no* Enterprise Clubs set up with JCP Grant Funding in North London District as at March of 2012.

I hope you will not mind me resubmitting as a Freedom of Information request, my original question concerning Enterprise Clubs in London set up with grant funding from JCP, since March 2012.

The questions are as follows.

1. How many Enterprise Clubs, together with their names and contact details, have been set up, since March 2012, in the four London Districts of East London (NEA target =1,690), North London (NEA target = 1,270), South London (NEA target = 1,740), West London = NEA target = 1,190) as a result of accessing up to £10K of grant funding from JCP? Please note that this specifically excludes Enterprise Clubs set up by other means and via alternative funding sources, e.g. ESF.
2. Given the aforementioned NEA targets for the four London districts, what is the actual take-up of New Enterprise Allowance in these districts, in terms of:
 - a) applications received
 - b) approval and acceptance onto the scheme
 - c) actual startups having completed the 6 month programme and which are still trading.

I'd be grateful if you could acknowledge this FoI request and I look forward to the information in due course.

DWP response

Thank you for your further Freedom of Information request of 5th August 2012. You asked us to confirm that there have:

“been no Enterprise Clubs set up with JCP Grant Funding in North London District as at March of 2012.”

You also requested answers to the following questions:

1. *How many Enterprise Clubs, together with their names and contact details, have been set up, since March 2012, in the four London Districts of East London (NEA target =1,690), North London (NEA target = 1,270), South London (NEA target = 1,740), West London = NEA target = 1,190) as a result of accessing up to £10K of grant funding from JCP? Please note that this specifically excludes Enterprise Clubs set up by other means and via alternative funding sources, e.g. ESF.*
2. *Given the aforementioned NEA targets for the four London districts, what is the actual take-up of New Enterprise Allowance in these districts, in terms of:*
 - a) *applications received*
 - b) *approval and acceptance onto the scheme*
 - c) *actual startups having completed the 6 month programme and which are still trading.”*

There are currently four Enterprise Clubs operating in the North London district, however none have received funding from Jobcentre Plus

East London currently have given approval to one organisation to establish an Enterprise Club in the district with Jobcentre Plus funding, however that organisation has not taken any further steps to progress this and I cannot therefore give any further details at this stage. There are two other organisations that currently operate Enterprise Clubs in the East London district, but they have received no funding from Jobcentre Plus.

Information regarding established Enterprise Clubs in the South London and West London districts was included in a previous response to you (reference number Fol 943 – attached for your information). Two further Enterprise Clubs were established using Jobcentre Plus funding in West London district in July:

- Women of Wandsworth - 108 Battersea High street, London, SW11 3HP
- The Real Business Club - 35 Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 3AY

Your request mentions New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) targets alongside the establishment of Enterprise Clubs. However, the number of people taking part in the NEA does not depend in any way on the availability of Enterprise Clubs in any given area. You should also note that whilst the Department is able to provide grants of up to £10k for Enterprise Clubs to help with start-up costs, the expectation is that most Enterprise Clubs will not require this funding.

We do not publish data on NEA numbers in the form that you have requested. We publish performance data on how many claimants are matched to a business mentor, and how many of them have so far gone on to start trading. This latter figure is in the form of weekly allowance claims, as they cannot claim the weekly allowance unless they have signed off Jobseeker's Allowance and commenced trading. [Nationally up to and including May 2012,] there have been 17,880 claimants matched to a business mentor, and 8,180 have so far gone on to start trading (made a claim to the weekly allowance).

We do not collect data on how many participants are still trading at after 26 weeks. However, we will be publishing analysis in the winter of 2012/13 that will show, at a national level, how many people who have made a claim to the NEA allowance have remained off benefits for 26 weeks.

The table below gives data derived from the official statistics, showing how many claimants have been matched to a business mentor and how many commenced trading (weekly allowance starts). Please be aware that there is a time lag between a claimant being matched to a business mentor and starting trading, so the figures for weekly allowance starts will increase over time. You can access the full statistics data by clicking on the following link: [DWP official statistics](#)

Mentor starts and NEA weekly allowance claims by district for the period August 2011 up to and including May 2012

District	Mentor starts	Weekly Allowance starts
North London	690	270
East London	600	270
South London	760	360
West London	510	130
Total	2560	1030

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding. New Enterprise Allowance was introduced in target areas in April 2011, and rolled out nationally from 1st August 2011. Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases June 2012.

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