

Freedom of Information request 2012-4383

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Information request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the Department for Work and Pensions to provide me with the number of individuals who had a Jobseekers Allowance sanction applied in the UK over the last five financial years and what percentage this figure represents of the total number of individuals claiming JSA.

DWP response

In response to your specific question regarding the number of individuals who have had a Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanction applied in the United Kingdom this information is not available as the responsibility for statistics in Northern Ireland lies with the Department for Social Development (DSD).

Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to the DSD can be found via the link below.

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/freedom-of-information/requesting-information.htm>

However, the information we do hold for Great Britain is shown in the table below.

Please note that the proportions are derived from unpublished information which have not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standards. They should therefore be treated with caution.

The number of individuals who had a Jobseekers Allowance sanction applied in Great Britain over the last five financial years and what percentage this figure represents of the total number of individuals claiming JSA; 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2012

Financial Years	Number of individuals with a JSA sanction applied	Percentage of the total number of individuals claiming JSA
2007/2008 to 2011/2012	1,483,760	19%

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of Varied, Fixed Length and Entitlement Decision referrals where there has been an adverse decision.
3. Whilst claiming JSA, a customer can have a Labour Market 'doubt' raised against their claim. LM doubts are normally identified by staff at the Jobcentre Plus office and are referred to the Sector Decision Makers (SDMs). Once the SDM has made a decision on whether to sanction or disallow/allow a referral, they enter their decision on a system called DMAS (Decision Making and Appeals System). The decision is also sent back to the Jobcentre Plus office for entry to LMS (Labour Market System) and JSAPS (JSA Payment System) which then makes the appropriate changes to the actual payment to the customer.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. JSA claimants who have had more than one sanction applied in the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2012 will only be counted once in the figures above.
8. Individuals claiming JSA are those who have had a live claim at any point throughout the period: 01st April 2007 to 31st March 2012.
9. **Please note that the proportions are derived from unpublished information which have not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standards. They should therefore be treated with caution.**