

## Freedom of Information request 2012-4552

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### Information request

The number of appeals, both successful and unsuccessful, against a Jobseekers Allowance sanction broken by 12 months periods for Bolton Local Authority from April 2000 to April 2012.

### DWP response

In response to your request, the information on the number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanction referrals that have been appealed and the decision of the appeal in Bolton Local Authority is available in the following table;

**Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanction referrals that have been appealed by appeal decision, for Bolton Local Authority: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

Year of decision	Total	Appeal decision		
		Reserved/ Cancelled	Non adverse	Adverse
2000/2001	40	-	10	30
2001/2002	50	-	10	40
2002/2003	60	-	10	50
2003/2004	50	-	10	40
2004/2005	60	-	10	50
2005/2006	40	-	-	30
2006/2007	30	-	-	30
2007/2008	40	-	10	30
2008/2009	50	-	10	40
2009/2010	70	-	10	60
2010/2011	220	-	30	190
2011/2012	180	-	20	170

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database May 2012.

Notes:

1. Totals may not sum due to rounding. '-' denotes nil or negligible

2. The number of adverse decisions is the number of Varied, Fixed Length and Entitlement Decision sanction referrals where the decision to apply a sanction has been upheld.
3. The data is for financial years, for example 2011/2012 data is from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.