

Freedom of Information request 2013-513

Received 6th February 2012

Published 7th March 2013

Information request

1. The percentage of individuals allocated to the Work Programme who where received no benefits from the state in any form?
2. The percentage of individuals who have volunteered, without collusion, to apply to go onto the work programme as volunteers?
3. The percentage of individuals who have been unemployed for 5 years or more who still no not receive any form of benefits.
4. The percentage of individuals who contribute more in indirect taxation than (Pension Stamp Duty) than the Work Provider guides into paid employment .i.e. contributes a greater amount of revenue to the Exchequer that they earn.
5. The percentage of requests for an Independent Tribunal Hearing that are not responded to after a period of six months have lapsed as per the individuals statutory rights as stated by the DWP?

DWP response

In response to question 1, we have interpreted the term 'received no benefits' as referring to people in receipt of 'Credits Only' forms of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).

For the percentage of referrals and attachments to the Work Programme for ESA Credits Only claimants Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department released a document, on the 17th December 2012, titled: **Work Programme referrals and attachments and Work Choice referrals and starts by Customer Group (Updated 27/02/2013)** under the Freedom of Information Act which can be found via the link below.

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/PQ_FOI/foi

Table 1 in the document gives the number and percentage of Work Programme referrals and attachments by Customer Group, including ESA Credits Only claimants.

Information on the percentage of referrals and attachments to the Work Programme for JSA Credits Only claimants is not readily available. We estimate that the cost of complying with this part of 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 this part of your request.

A more detailed explanation of why these Work Programme figures are available for ESA claimants but unavailable for JSA claimants is given in [Annex 1](#) below.

In response to question 2, the information on the number of, and proportion of the total, Work Programme referrals in Great Britain by Referral Type i.e. Mandatory or Voluntary from 1st June 2011 – 31st July 2012 is given in the table below;

Number and percentage of Work Programme referrals in Great Britain by Referral Type: 1st June 2011 – 31st July 2012

Referral Type	Number of referrals²	Percentage of referrals²
Mandatory ³	833,270	95%
Voluntary	44,610	5%

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

1. Figures are cumulative and rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent.
2. Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.
3. Mandatory referrals are classified as referrals to the following Customer Groups; JSA 18-24, JSA 25+, JSA NEET, JSA Claiming 22 of 24 Mths, JSA ExIB, ESA (IR) WRAG 3/6 Mth Mandatory, ESA (IR) WRAG 3/6 Mth Mandatory ExIB and JSA Ex-offender Day 1 Mandation. For a definition of these groups please refer to <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/provider-guidance/work-programme-provider.shtml>. These Customer Groups may include some JSA Credits Only customers who have accessed the Work Programme on an entirely voluntary basis.

They do not have a separate Customer Group and therefore cannot be easily identified.

4. Customer groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. A small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group caused by the way information is recorded on the administrative system.

In response to question 3, Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Statistics on the number of JSA claimants by duration of claim and type of JSA, identifying those who receive no benefit in payment, are published on the Departments Tabulation Tool at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>, which allows you to construct your own tables.

Please note that the data you have requested is only available by using the 5% sample data. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources however the 5% sample data still provides some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources.

The Department recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, the proportions derived should be applied to the overall 100% total for the benefit. For more information on 5% sample data, please refer to the "Guidance for Users" at the following link: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/guidance.pdf>.

To produce a table of the number of JSA claimants by duration of claim and type of JSA, go to <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>. Scroll down and select **Click here if the WPLS data does not hold the detail you need: Sample data** in the **Benefit Caseloads** section, and then select the **Jobseeker's Allowance Claimants (5% sample)** from the drop down menu and make the following table selections;

1. In the **Analysis** section, select **Caseload (Thousands)**,
2. Next, in the **Row** option, select **Duration**,
3. In the **Column** option, select **Type of JSA**,
4. Next, in the **Subset** option, select any of the available options, whichever is most compatible with your request, however if you're happy with your table, select **NONE**,
5. In the **Date** option, select the latest available data which, for 5% sample data, is **May 12** and click **Get Table**.

In response to question 4, the Department does not hold this information. The responsibility for taxation lies with Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom

(HMRC). Information on how to submit a freedom of information request to HMRC can be found via the following link:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/freedom/foi-index.htm>

In response to question 5, the information that you have requested on the percentage of Work Programme appeals that have not been referred to the Tribunal service within 6 months is not readily available. We estimate that the cost of complying with this part of 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 this part of your request.

However, information that can be derived within the limits shows that; as at the 31st of January 2013, the percentage of outstanding Labour Market appeals that were yet to be submitted to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service that exceeded 180 calendar days from lodgement date was 0.06%.

Please note that the appeals figure supplied is derived from unpublished information and has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. It should therefore be treated with caution.

Annex 1

All JSA participants on the Work Programme will be required to participate, and can be mandated to apply for or take up work, the only exception is for JSA participants in receipt of Credits Only. These participants will be given the option of accessing the Work Programme and taking part on an entirely voluntary basis from their eligible entry point.

However JSA participants in receipt of Credits only do not have a separate Customer Group on the Provider Referral and Payment system (PRaP), which is the system used by providers to administer the Work Programme.

This means we cannot easily identify which participants are in receipt of JSA Credits Only as they are referred according to their own Customer Group. For example, a JSA Credits only participant aged between 18-24 will be placed into the JSA 18-24 Customer Group with an annotation on the Action Plan

with 'JSA Credits only – Voluntary Referral' to help identify that mandated activity is not appropriate.

This is in contrast to ESA Credits Only claimants who do have their own Customer Group which means they can be easily identified.

More information can be found at:

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

In particular Chapters 1, 2, 3a and 15 may of particular interest.