

Freedom of Information request 2012-4432

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Information request

Can you please release the data on which month (or other convenient time variable) of a JSA claim people are being referred to Mandatory Work Activity (MWA). For example the number of referrals to MWA from JSA but broken down into categories for which stage (1 month, 6 months, 12 months etc.) of a JSA claim the people referred were at.

DWP response

MWA was launched on 16th May 2011, enabling Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants to move closer to the labour market by helping them re-engage with the system, refocus their job search and gain work-related disciplines, whilst also delivering a contribution to the local community. Such disciplines include attending on time, regularly carrying out specific tasks and working under supervision. MWA is about offering further support to some Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who would benefit from a short period of activity. The vehicle for MWA is work-based placements delivered by external providers under contract to DWP. For those referred to a placement, their participation is mandatory.

The table below shows the number of referrals to Mandatory Work Activity (MWA), by month of JSA claim start for the period May 2011 up to and including June 2012.

Table 1: Mandatory Work Activity referrals, by month of JSA claim start (May 2011 to June 2012)

	Mandatory Work Activity referrals (GB)
Within 1 month of JSA claim start	5,000
More than 1 and up to 3 months of JSA claim start	13,040
More than 3 and up to 6 months of JSA claim start	22,550
More than 6 and up to 12 months of JSA claim start	26,660
More than 12 months after JSA claim start	4,600
Unknown	3,740
Total	75,590

Notes:

1. *Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.*
2. *Mandatory Work Activity started in May 2011. Between 16 January – 31 March 2012 the Department trailblazed an extension of Mandatory Work Activity across five Jobcentre Plus districts in London, Wales and the West Midlands. The trailblazer tested how the scheme works for claimants who have received more than one labour-market sanction or disallowance within the last year. Numbers in those regions therefore include referrals and starts to the ‘MWA Trailblazer’.*
3. *Data Sources - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2012, National Benefits Database June 2012*
4. *Information on JSA claim start dates is obtained by merging data across these separate administrative systems which sometimes results in unknown values. This is because either we are unable to find a match or the information has not been recorded for the particular claimant.*
5. *The results in table 1 cover the period May 2011 up to and including June 2012. This is because JSA claim information is only available up to the end of June 2012. The results here should not be compared to the Official Statistics on Mandatory Work programmes which covers the period May 2011 up to and including August 2012.*

Published Official Statistics on Mandatory Work programmes can be found here: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/mwa_aug12.pdf