

# Freedom of Information request 2012-4537

Received 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Published 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013

## Information request

Figures on the use of benefits sanctions by Job Centres in Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Chesterfield and the Yorkshire & Humber region.

Please could you provide me with the following information:

- A total amount of sanctions imposed on benefit claimants for each of the last five years (2007-2012) for each of town/city/region mentioned above.
- A breakdown for each of those 5 years, and in each of those geographical areas, of the total number of sanctions imposed in terms of length (i.e. 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 26 weeks)

## DWP response

In response to your questions on the number of benefit sanctions for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and by Jobcentre and duration for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions, I can confirm that the Department holds some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with 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 your request and we will not be processing your request further.

As a result of an error found in the methodology used to derive the number of ESA claimants who have been sanctioned these figures are no longer available within the appropriate limit.

More information can be found at:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa\\_sanc](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc)

However the information we do have available within the appropriate limit can be found in the attached table (FOI 2012-4537 Response.xls) which provides statistics for Yorkshire and the Humber Region and Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Chesterfield Local Authorities for JSA and Income Support Lone Parents (ISLP).