

Freedom of Information request 2013-473

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Information request

How many people under the jurisdiction of Stockport Jobcentre Plus are currently involved in the Welfare to Work Programme?

Since the introduction of the Welfare to Work Programme in 2011, how many people under the jurisdiction of Stockport Jobcentre Plus have found work within six months?

What percentage of the total figure is this?

Since the introduction of the programme, how many people under the jurisdiction of Stockport Jobcentre Plus have found full-time, permanent work?

DWP response

In response to your first question please see the table below which gives the number Referrals, Attachments and Job Outcomes to the Work Programme for claimants who were registered at Stockport Jobcentre Plus at the time they were referred.

Number of Work Programme Referrals, Attachments and Job Outcomes for Stockport Jobcentre Plus Office: 1st June 2011 to 31st July 2012

Jobcentre Plus Office ²	Referrals ³	Attachments ⁴	Job Outcomes ⁵
Stockport	3,680	3,530	170

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Figures are refreshed each time they are published and are subject to change.
2. **Jobcentre Plus Office:** The claimant's Jobcentre Plus Office at the time of referral.

3. **Referrals:** Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions. Jobcentre Plus Office is the claimant's Jobcentre Plus Office at the time of referral.
4. **Attachments:** The date of the first engagement activity between the provider and the participant as recorded on the payment administrative system.
5. **Job Outcomes:** The Work Programme IT payment system update went live in April 2012. All outcomes prior to this were recorded clerically and uploaded to the system during April and May 2012. The outcome date for these is based on the date the information was uploaded to the system. For job outcomes recorded after this, outcome dates are based on the date that payments were made to providers following pre-payment validation processes to confirm job outcomes. The manual pre-payment validation checks may take time to conduct resulting in a delay between the job outcome being claimed and the date the payment is made to providers, and hence recorded in the statistics. Validation procedures continue to improve to streamline the process as issues are identified. For further details around issues and delays to job outcome payments please see the information note available on the WP landing page:
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

In response to your other questions; the information you have requested on the number of people who have found work within six months and how many people have found full time work is not held by the Department.

The table above does however give the number of Job Outcomes paid to providers for claimants registered at Stockport Jobcentre Plus at the time they were referred.

Job Outcomes are paid to providers when there has been a either continuous or cumulative period of employment of either 13 or 26 weeks. This is dependent on a number of factors including: benefit claimed; length of unemployment; and personal circumstances at the time of referral.

Work Programme providers are not required to submit job start information until they claim a job outcome; only then are they requested to input a job start date, which helps secure the validity of the job outcome payment. Specific information on how long it took to find work and the type of employment gained are not conditions for a job outcome payment, although the claimant must be off benefit.

For information guidance for providers on how to deliver the Work Programme can be accessed via the link below.

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

In particular Chapter 15 gives some of the standard definitions for the Work Programme, including the criteria for the payment of a Job Outcome payment.