

## Freedom of Information request 2012-4720

Received 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Published 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### Information request

Number of people in claiming incapacity benefit or employment support allowance for Drug or Alcohol misuse problems, split by local authority area as at November 2012

### DWP response

To qualify for Incapacity Benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a Personal Capability Assessment. New claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) have to undergo the Work Capability assessment. Since April 2011 IB recipients also began to undertake this assessment.

**The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to IB or ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of drug or alcohol abuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems.**

In response to your question the available information for February 2012, which is the latest data available, is shown in the tables below.

### Number of people claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) / Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) by Main Disabling Condition, Country, Region and Local Authority: February 2012

Area	Main Disabling Condition			
	Total	Other Condition	Alcoholism	Drug abuse
Great Britain	1,602,670	1,546,260	30,360	26,040
England	1,300,650	1,255,970	23,780	20,890
Yorkshire and The Humber	139,900	135,630	2,310	1,960
Barnsley	9,410	9,280	60	60
Doncaster	9,830	9,660	100	70
Rotherham	8,580	8,360	110	110
Sheffield	14,810	14,280	240	290

**Number of people claiming Employment Support Allowance by Main Disabling Condition, Country, Region and Local Authority: February 2012**

Area	Main Disabling Condition			
	All	Other Condition	Alcoholism	Drug abuse
<b>Great Britain</b>	991,190	950,750	25,260	15,180
<b>England</b>	823,620	791,790	20,080	11,750
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	90,100	86,820	2,170	1,110
<b>Barnsley</b>	5,710	5,540	110	60
<b>Doncaster</b>	6,040	5,860	120	60
<b>Rotherham</b>	5,260	5,060	140	60
<b>Sheffield</b>	9,810	9,420	230	160

**Source:** DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate 100% WPLS

**Notes:**

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. To qualify for Incapacity Benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake an assessment of incapacity for work called a Personal Capability Assessment. Under the Employment Support Allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the Work Capability assessment. From April 2011 Incapacity Benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Incapacity Benefit on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems.
5. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim. This in itself does not confer entitlement to IB/SDA or ESA and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.