

Freedom of Information request 2227/2013

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Information request

Please can you advise, under the current review of disability benefits being undertaken by ATOS, the following points:

- 1. How many people registered disabled from birth or early childhood have been denied Employment and Support Allowance*
- 2. How many people formerly awarded Incapacity Benefit for life on the grounds that their disabilities will never improve have been denied Employment and Support Allowance?*
- 3. How many people being living in local authority funded care homes because they need 24 hour care provision are being required to attend fitness for work assessments?*
- 4. What percentage of applicants who have been denied Employment and Support Allowance have appealed against the decision?*
- 5. What percentage of these appeals has been successful?*

DWP response

In response to question 1, the information requested is not available.

In response to questions 2 and 3, 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.

In response to questions 4 and 5, the Department regularly publishes official statistics on the outcomes of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Work Capability Assessments (WCAs) for new claims made to ESA and for incapacity benefits claimants being reassessed for ESA. The latest publication was released in April 2013 and can be found at the link below.

Employment and Support Allowance: Outcomes of Work Capability Assessments, Great Britain:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Information on appeals against Fit for Work decisions at initial WCAs for new ESA claims is available in table 3 in the publication referred to above.