

Our address

Room BP5201
Benton Park View
Longbenton
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE98 1ZZ

To: **name redacted**
(by e-mail)

22 June 2010

Dear **name redacted**

**Freedom of Information Request 752 (2008)
Freedom of Information Request 1223 (2009)**

I am writing to confirm that following discussion with the Information Commissioner in relation to your requests for statistical analysis, the Department is now in a position to provide you with the information you requested.

You asked:

For the 07/08 financial year could you provide me with a breakdown of total payments made for the incapacity benefit / severe disablement allowance broken down by the various categories under which people can claim this benefit? I would be grateful if you could break this down as far as possible to show all the categories/sub categories.

and:

For the 08/09 financial year could you provide me with a breakdown of total payments made for the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance broken down by the various categories under which people can claim this benefit? I would be grateful if you could break this down as far as possible to show all the categories/sub categories.

Please note that Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for new claims from October 2008.

To qualify for Incapacity Benefit, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a Personal Capability Assessment.



Under the ESA 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 ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Incapacity Benefit on the basis of a particular medical condition 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. It is also important to note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded on the Departmental databases which are used for statistical analyses.

The information you requested is attached, and will be published on the Department's website at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/freedom-of-information/information-released-under/> .

Yours sincerely

name redacted

PQ Analysis Team
Information Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions

contact details redacted