

## **Freedom of Information request 2650/2012**

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### **Information request**

Can you please provide me with the number of ESA or IB (whichever benefit was current for that particular year) claimants who have died in 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006, breaking this number down year on year?

Can you please further provide me with what percentage of IB/ESA claimants died in the years of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, breaking this number down year on year?

Do you keep any data on what caused these deaths, whether suicide, illness, or deaths unrelated to their illness?

### **DWP response**

Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

In response to your first two questions, the Department has published Ad Hoc Analysis entitled "Incapacity Benefits: Deaths of Recipients" on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Table 1 shows Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance off-flows with a date of death in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11, Great Britain.

Please note that the data supplied, for those with a date of death recorded, are derived from previously unpublished information which has not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

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

The table below provides the information requested for Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) off-flows with a date of death along with the percentage of those with a date of death recorded in 2005/2006, 2006/2007 and 2007/2008, Great Britain

Year <sup>2</sup>	IB/SDA		Percentage
	Total off flows from IB/SDA	Of those, with a date of death recorded <sup>4</sup>	Of those, with a date of death recorded
2005/2006	635,320	44,020	7%
2006/2007	620,170	43,850	7%
2007/2008	643,920	42,910	7%

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Data is sourced from quarterly point in time data at February, May, August and November. For example 2005/06 includes the quarters May 2005, August 2005, November 2005 and February 2006. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for new claims from October 2008.
3. Off Flows – The total number of spells on benefit that ended. A person may flow on and off the same benefit more than once during the year. It does not include flows where people move out of one area and into another while remaining on the benefit. The datasets used in this analysis are quarterly and point in time, hence flows between these quarters (short-term claims) may not be captured and the figures are likely to be an underestimate. For more information on these missing flows see the 'Guidance for Users': [http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows\\_off/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf](http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_off/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf)
4. Please note that the data supplied, for those with a date of death recorded, are derived from previously unpublished information which has not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

In answer to your third question the Department does not record the customer's cause of death.

Finally you may be interested to be aware that statistical surveys have been run to provide more information on the reason for leaving benefit. The last survey was run in 2011, and the research findings are available on the Department's website at:

[RR 791 Destinations of Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance Leavers 2011](#) .

However the research was carried out for a specific operational purpose, in a small subset of areas, and the results are not necessarily applicable to the whole population.