Freedom of Information request 2012-5023

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Information request

"Please provide the following information about notices of suspension of benefit payments under the FOI Act and acknowledge receipt of this request:

1. The total number of such notices issued by month or quarter January 2009-December 2012 (or latest available date).

2. The number of such notices issued by type of benefit, each month or quarter January 2009 – December 2012 (or latest available date)."

DWP response

In response to your questions;

For Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Sanctions Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes a wide range of statistics via the Tabulation Tool at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool.

National Statistics on JSA sanctions can be accessed via the above link, which allows you to design your own tables.

For example, to produce statistics on the number of varied length sanctions by month of decision and whether a decision was adverse, go to the Tabulation Tool link above and then follow the instructions below.

1. Scroll down and select the **Click here for JSA Sanction & Disallowance Decision Stats** link.
2. In the **Benefit/Scheme** drop down menu select **Referrals where a decision has been made for varied length sanctions (by number of referrals)**
3. Now select **(Thousands)** from the **Analysis** option.
4. From the **Row** drop down menu select **Time Series**.
5. Now select **Whether a decision was Adverse** in the Column option.
6. From the Subset drop down menu select **NONE**.

7. From the Date drop down menu select **April 2012** (which is the latest data available) and then click **Get Table**.

For fixed length and entitlement decision sanctions repeat the steps above replacing '**Referrals where a decision has been made for fixed length sanctions (by number of referrals)**' and '**Referrals where a decision has been made for an entitlement decision (by number of referrals)**' at step 2.

The number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanctions can be found in the table below;

Number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Sanctions:
Monthly Time Series: January 2009 - May 2012

Month	Number of ESA Sanctions
Jan-09	-
Feb-09	-
Mar-09	10
Apr-09	20
May-09	80
Jun-09	80
Jul-09	120
Aug-09	210
Sep-09	320
Oct-09	400
Nov-09	560
Dec-09	700
Jan-10	760
Feb-10	880
Mar-10	1,200
Apr-10	670
May-10	1,370
Jun-10	1,430
Jul-10	1,150
Aug-10	920
Sep-10	830
Oct-10	950
Nov-10	930
Dec-10	820
Jan-11	960
Feb-11	950
Mar-11	1,240
Apr-11	610
May-11	710

Jun-11	770
Jul-11	810
Aug-11	880
Sep-11	670
Oct-11	840
Nov-11	860
Dec-11	900
Jan-12	1,030
Feb-12	1,160
Mar-12	1,390
Apr-12	490
May-12	1,330

Source: ESA sanctions database

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
2. Figures include all sanctions applied to claimants in the ESA work related activity group (WRAG).
3. Data to May 2012 is the latest available published information: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc
4. During the period covered, claimants who failed to meet requirements were subject to an open ended sanction which was lifted when they re-complied. The sanction amount was 50% of the work related activity component (£28.15 in 2012-13) rising to 100% of the component after four weeks.

The number of Lone Parents claiming Income Support (IS) who have been sanctioned can be found in the table below;

Number of IS Lone Parent sanctions: Monthly Time Series: January 2009 - June 2012

Month	Number of ISLP Sanctions
Jan-09	8,100
Feb-09	7,340
Mar-09	8,310
Apr-09	6,230
May-09	7,390
Jun-09	7,590
Jul-09	7,350
Aug-09	7,450
Sep-09	7,200
Oct-09	7,640

Nov-09	7,150
Dec-09	6,460
Jan-10	7,310
Feb-10	6,750
Mar-10	6,580
Apr-10	6,220
May-10	7,300
Jun-10	7,390
Jul-10	6,860
Aug-10	6,940
Sep-10	6,080
Oct-10	6,550
Nov-10	5,890
Dec-10	4,940
Jan-11	6,730
Feb-11	5,540
Mar-11	5,960
Apr-11	4,430
May-11	5,890
Jun-11	5,320
Jul-11	4,810
Aug-11	5,240
Sep-11	5,230
Oct-11	6,170
Nov-11	5,220
Dec-11	4,920
Jan-12	5,040
Feb-12	4,560
Mar-12	5,210
Apr-12	4,250
May-12	4,640
Jun-12	4,110

Source: Income Support Computer System (ISCS) data

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
2. A Lone Parent claiming Income Support can be sanctioned for failure to attend or participate in mandatory work focused interviews (WFIs) without good cause. The benefit sanction remains in place until the lone parent attends and participates in a WFI.
3. These dates cover a time period when lone parents whose youngest child was 12 - 5 years old were being removed from the Income

Support caseload. As a result, fewer Lone Parents were required to attend WFIs.

4. Data to June 2012 is the latest available published information - see: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/is/lone_parent_regime/index.php?page=lone_parent_regime