

# Freedom of Information request 2013-301

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## Information request

1. The population percentage of Congolese from the democratic republic of Congo Claimants of benefits (both UK-Born and non UK-born, including British Congolese) in age groups of the following benefits:
2. Jobseekers allowance in age groups and gender
3. Lone parents claims in age group and gender
4. Pension claims (with kids under 116 years of age)
5. Housing benefits claim in age group and gender
6. How the above data compares with the total ethnic minority group
7. How the above data compares in the different regions of the UK e.g. North West, East midlands...
8. 1 to 5 specifically for borough of Camden, in London

Would it be possible access data that provides us with some indication of the progression over the last 5 to 10 years? If you cannot provide us with these data could you please direct us to where we can access it? If you have any more data on the (Dem. Rep) Congolese, UK-born Congolese or British Congolese that you feel might benefits us, we will really appreciate it if you could forward it to us.

## DWP response

Data on nationality is not routinely published, as the source systems used to capture and process benefit claims typically do not include a nationality marker. For *contributory benefits*, nationality is not a qualifying factor, as eligibility is determined by the National Insurance contributions that the claimant has made.

For *other income related benefits* where residency conditions apply and the claimant must be lawfully resident in the UK, nationality is a factor. Once residency has been determined, nationality is not required for further processing and is therefore not routinely held on DWP computer systems. Therefore the full information that you have requested is not available, however we have endeavoured to supply suitable information that is available.

In response to questions 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8, please see the attached Excel spreadsheet 'FOI 2013-301 final.xls'. Please note that these statistics do not provide a measure of non-UK nationals currently claiming benefits based on their current nationality. The statistics do provide an estimate of the number of

people currently claiming benefit who, when they first registered for a NINo (that is, first entered the labour market), were non-UK nationals.

In response to questions 4 & 5, and also data for 5 to 10 years:

The information in the form you request is not readily available and 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.

However, you may be interested to know that the Department recently published an ad-hoc analysis on the number of Non-UK nationals at National Insurance number (NINo) registration claiming DWP working age benefits as at February 2011 which can be accessed via the following link:

[http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc\\_analysis/2012/nat\\_nino\\_regs.pdf](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/nat_nino_regs.pdf)

One table that may be of particular interest can be found by accessing the following link at:

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino\\_allocation](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation),

If you scroll down to the bottom of the page and select Summary Tables and then select the Benefit tab this gives a time series, beginning in 2002/03, for NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK and claiming an out-of-work benefit within 6 months of registration.

In response to question 6 regarding how the above data compares with the total ethnic minority group, Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes benefit Statistics through its Tabulation Tool, which allows you to design your own tables.

For example to produce a table of Jobseeker's Allowance Caseload by ethnicity of claimant and Region go to the <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> website and follow the instructions below.

1. From the **Benefit Caseload** section select the link **Click here for Benefit Caseload National Statistics (WPLS) data**
2. In the **Benefit/Scheme** drop down menu select **Jobseeker's Allowance**
3. Now select **Caseload (Thousands)** from the **Analysis** option
4. From the **Row** drop down menu select **Ethnicity of claimant**
5. Now choose **Region**, in the **Column** option.

6. Now select from the options in the **Subset** and **Date** menus and click **Get Table**

To produce a table of Lone Parent claimants by Age and Gender go to the <http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html> website and follow the instructions below.

1. From the **Benefit/Scheme** drop down menu select **Tabulation Tool: Client Group - All ages**
2. Now select **Caseload (Thousands)** from the **Analysis** option
3. From the **Row** drop down menu select **Age of claimant**
4. Now choose **Gender of claimant**, in the **Column** option.
5. Now select **Statistical Group** in the **Subset** menu.
6. Then select **Lone Parent** in the next **Subset** menu.
6. Then select required date in the **Date** menu and click **Get Table**.

Further information on Lone Parents receiving JSA by ethnicity can be found by going to the [http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/lone\\_parents/index.php?page=jsalp](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/lone_parents/index.php?page=jsalp) website and selecting the **latest release in full click here** link.

We hope you find this information useful. If you have not already tried, it may be worth contacting the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Information on how to make a Freedom of Information request can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/what-we-do/FOI/index.html>