Freedom of Information request 2013-728

Received 13th February 2013
Published 13th March 2013

Information request

We would like to know the total number of JSA claimants sanctioned in 2011-12, 2012-13. We would like this information split by County.

DWP response

In response to your questions;

The information you have requested broken by county is not held by the Department. The geographical information we do hold is based on the administrative areas of local government within Great Britain. For England these areas are seperated into 27 Non-Metropolitan Counties, 6 Metropolitan Counties, 56 Unitary Authorities and Greater London. For Scotland there are 32 Council Areas and in Wales 22 Unitary Authorities.

More information on Administrative Geography can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/administrative/index.html

The information we can provide on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants with a sanction applied in 2011/2012 broken down by the areas mentioned above and the number in Great Britain for 2012/2013, from the 1st of April up to and including the 21st of October which is the latest data available, can be found in the attached spreadsheet (FOI 2013-728 WDTK Response).

I can confirm that the Department does hold some information on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants with a sanction applied in 2012/2013 broken down by area. However, due to a problem with the underlying data source 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.