

Freedom of Information request 2013-1410

Received 25th March 2013

Published 23rd April 2013

Information request

- 1) Number of people who have been sanctioned on the grounds that they have not been job searching effectively.
- 2) Number/proportion of these claimants, who have learning difficulties.

Specifically, problems such as dyslexia/illiteracy

DWP response

The information we have readily available on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who have had a disallowance applied for failing to Actively Seek Employment (ASE) by Disability Status is given in the table below.

Please note the following points;

The Jobseeker's Act provides that a person claiming JSA must ASE in each week of their claim. This means that they must take those steps each week which are reasonable in their case, and which offer the best prospects of securing employment.

Disability is self-assessed as having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Figures will include individuals who have had more than one disallowance applied for more than one Disability Status e.g. if an individual has a disallowance applied in 2007 when they were recorded as Not Disabled and then again in 2012 when they were recorded as Disabled then they will appear twice.

Number¹ of JSA claimants with a disallowance applied² for failing to ASE³ by Disability Status⁴: 1st April 2000 to 21st October 2012⁵

Disability Status	Total
Disabled	110,890
Not Disabled	362,010
Unknown	580

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. The number of disallowances applied is the number of referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. ASE is an entitlement decision. These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's Agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether actively looking for work or being available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.
4. Disability is self-assessed as having a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
5. The 21st of October 2012 is the latest date for which figures are available.
6. Figures will include individuals who have had more than one disallowance applied for more than one Disability Status e.g. if an individual has a disallowance applied in 2007 when they were recorded as Not Disabled and then again in 2012 when they were recorded as Disabled then they will appear twice.

I can confirm that the Department may hold some information on the number of people who have been sanctioned on the grounds that they have not been job searching effectively, specifically for those with learning difficulties such as dyslexia/illiteracy. Information on disability is captured as part of the claim process but is not routinely recorded at the level of detail requested. We therefore 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.