

Freedom of Information request 2013-3751

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Information request

Can you please tell me:-

1. What is the average length of time between a claimant making a new claim for ESA and the date on which an ESA50 form is issued to them?
2. What is the average length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form and the date of these claimant's face to face assessment?
3. What is the average length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form to existing Incapacity Benefit claimants and the date of their face to face assessments?

DWP response

In response to your questions the available information is shown in the table below.

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Median number of days¹ between (a) a new claim to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the issue of the ESA50 form² and the issue of the ESA50 form and the assessment date³ for (b) new ESA claimants and (c) existing Incapacity Benefit (IB) claimants: November 2012⁴

Length of time between:	Median number of days¹
a) The claimant making a new claim for ESA and the issue of ESA50 form ²	24
b) The issue of ESA50 form ² to new ESA claimants and the assessment date ³	64
c) The issue of ESA50 form ² to existing Incapacity Benefit claimants and the assessment date ³	63

Source: Department for Work and Pensions and ATOS Healthcare.

Notes:

1. Average number of days is the median number of calendar days.
2. The claim date is the date when the claim is received and following referral to ATOS Healthcare the ESA50 form is usually issued.
3. The assessment date is the date on which ATOS make their recommendation, which is usually the date of the face-to-face assessment, if there is one, or the date on which they make their paper-based recommendation if there is no face-to-face assessment.
4. Data is for claims that started up to and including November 2012.