

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: 2013-IR798

13 June 2014

Dear Anita Bellows,

Further to our previous reply sent to you on 8 January 2014 to your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request 2013-4426.

You asked:

**“You have not answered my first question about the total number of reconsiderations. The document attached is freely available on the DWP and only shows the number of claimants assigned to the WRAG through reconsiderations and for New claims only, when I was asking the total number of reconsiderations for all groups of ESA claimants.**

**This response by Chris Grayling in January 2012**

**<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#1201116001244> shows what I am asking for. I would like the figures for the missing months. If that exceed £600, I would like to have as much as possible within this limit, and preferably the most recent. I would also like to have like in Chris Grayling's response the corresponding number of overturned decisions through reconsiderations**

**If it does not exceed £600, and I think this information should be straight forward to obtain and at a minimal cost, I would also like to know the total number of appeals received by DWP from 2008 until the most recent figure available, which should mid 2013 at the very least.”**

Thank you for supplying additional relevant information which has now helped us to identify the information you require, which is:

1. the total number of reconsiderations for all groups of ESA claimants;
2. the number of overturned decisions through reconsiderations;
3. the total number of appeals received by DWP from 2008 until the most recent figure available.

We confirmed in our response to you on 8 January 2014 that it was possible to provide this information, which can be found below. Please accept our apologies for the delay in issuing this response.

Table 1 below shows the total monthly number of ESA reconsideration decisions and of those how many were found in favour of the claimant from April 2012 to June 2013. The requested data is only currently available from April 2012 and the latest available information is given to June 2013 in line with published statistics. The total reconsiderations include initial reconsiderations and those made as part of the appeals process.

**Please note that the figures supplied in response to your questions are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

**Table 1: Number of ESA Total reconsideration decisions made and the number overturned in month: Great Britain April 2012 to June 2013**

	ESA Total Reconsiderations	
	Decisions made in month	Decisions Overturned in month
<b>Apr-12</b>	18,290	7,100
<b>May-12</b>	25,190	8,480
<b>Jun-12</b>	21,980	7,990
<b>Jul-12</b>	19,150	4,240
<b>Aug-12</b>	19,480	4,330
<b>Sep-12</b>	18,830	4,190
<b>Oct-12</b>	24,660	5,720
<b>Nov-12</b>	28,410	6,750
<b>Dec-12</b>	24,810	5,290
<b>Jan-13</b>	36,080	7,590
<b>Feb-13</b>	32,600	7,620
<b>Mar-13</b>	31,270	7,800
<b>Apr-13</b>	33,680	10,800
<b>May-13</b>	37,610	12,680
<b>Jun-13</b>	34,030	11,950

#### **Source**

Decision Making & Appeals Case Recorder (DMACR) – ESA Management Information Statistics

#### **Notes**

1. Data has been rounded to ten.
2. Data is only currently available from April 2012 and the latest available information is to June 2013.
3. Total reconsiderations include initial reconsiderations and those made as part of the appeals process.

4. These figures are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.
5. These figures do not include Incapacity Benefits Reassessment (IBR) reconsideration cases.

Table 2 below shows the total number of ESA Appeals submitted monthly to HMCTS Tribunals Service between April 2010 and December 2012. The requested data is only currently available from April 2010 and the latest available information is October 2013.

**Please note that the figures supplied in response to your questions are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

**Total number of ESA Appeals submitted monthly to the Tribunal Service: Great Britain  
April 2010 to October 2013**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Appeals Submitted to Tribunal Service in month</b>
<b>Apr-10</b>	18,750
<b>May-10</b>	9,120
<b>Jun-10</b>	16,060
<b>Jul-10</b>	17,920
<b>Aug-10</b>	17,050
<b>Sep-10</b>	18,010
<b>Oct-10</b>	15,170
<b>Nov-10</b>	13,660
<b>Dec-10</b>	13,290
<b>Jan-11</b>	14,580
<b>Feb-11</b>	16,330
<b>Mar-11</b>	18,760
<b>Apr-11</b>	12,180
<b>May-11</b>	13,630
<b>Jun-11</b>	15,180
<b>Jul-11</b>	14,620
<b>Aug-11</b>	13,870
<b>Sep-11</b>	13,730
<b>Oct-11</b>	12,400
<b>Nov-11</b>	11,080
<b>Dec-11</b>	6,630
<b>Jan-12</b>	8,920
<b>Feb-12</b>	11,040

<b>Mar-12</b>	11,050
<b>Apr-12</b>	8,740
<b>May-12</b>	14,220
<b>Jun-12</b>	12,010
<b>Jul-12</b>	15,130
<b>Aug-12</b>	13,320
<b>Sep-12</b>	16,050
<b>Oct-12</b>	18,190
<b>Nov-12</b>	20,430
<b>Dec-12</b>	17,330
<b>Jan-13</b>	25130
<b>Feb-13</b>	23660
<b>Mar-13</b>	27640
<b>Apr-13</b>	26770
<b>May-13</b>	25560
<b>Jun-13</b>	22320
<b>Jul-13</b>	24190
<b>Aug-13</b>	17250
<b>Sep-13</b>	15310
<b>Oct-13</b>	12620

### Source

Decision Making & Appeals Case Recorder (DMACR) – ESA Management Information Statistics

### Notes

1. Data has been rounded to ten.
2. Data is only currently available from April 2010 and the latest available information is to October 2013.
3. These figures are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.
4. These figures do not include IBR appeals against a disallowance for ESA.
5. These figures include appeals against any ESA decision (e.g. new claims, claims maintenance, Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process).

Information on how appeals and reconsiderations are dealt with can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/appeal-benefit/overview>

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)