

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: 2014-79

18 March 2014

Dear Anita Bellows,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 8 January 2014. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

You asked:

“For each month from October 2008 to June 2013 inclusive, please give the number of adverse ESA sanctions decisions broken down by the Summary International Classification of Diseases (i.e. ESA Total; Other; Mental and Behavioural Disorders; Diseases of the Nervous System; Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System; Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue; and Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes) so that the total in each month matches the adverse decisions figures given in Table 2.1 in the DWP sanctions statistics release of 6 November 2013.

Should any part of this request be undeliverable due to cost or practical considerations, please give top priority to providing figures for June 2013 and then work backwards month by month as far as possible.”

In response to your query as a whole, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your whole 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 FOIA the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your full request further.

However we are able to provide you with the following information within the cost limit which will give an estimate of the information you require. Table 1 shows the number of adverse Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction decisions, broken down by the Summary International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Please note that as medical condition was not recorded until February 2010 the most recent ICD value held is shown so this may not be the condition the claimant had at the time of the sanction.

Please note that ESA sanctions are only applied to those in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG), and not the Support Group, therefore comparisons should only be made with the ESA WRAG caseload and off-flows statistics published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-caseload-statistics>. For example, the percentage of the total ESA WRAG caseload who received an adverse sanction decision for the quarter ending May 13 was 0.9%.

For further information on ESA sanctions please see the Benefits Sanctions section here:
<https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance/what-youll-get>

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. Please read the table notes.

Table 1: The number of adverse Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction decisions, by ICD (disease) Summary Code, Great Britain: October 2008 to June 2013

	All	Other	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	Diseases of the Nervous System	Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System	Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes
Total	64,890	19,810	27,680	1,800	2,540	7,120	5,930
Oct-08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nov-08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dec-08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan-09	20	10	-	-	-	-	-
Feb-09	180	90	50	10	10	10	20
Mar-09	490	240	150	10	10	40	40
Apr-09	750	370	210	10	30	70	60
May-09	1,030	490	320	20	40	90	70
Jun-09	1,480	670	500	40	40	120	110
Jul-09	2,230	970	740	50	90	200	180
Aug-09	2,240	960	790	40	80	210	160
Sep-09	2,450	1,000	830	50	100	270	220
Oct-09	2,620	980	920	60	100	300	270
Nov-09	2,830	960	1,040	70	120	330	310
Dec-09	2,630	770	1,080	60	90	320	320
2009	18,960	7,520	6,640	420	680	1,960	1,740
Jan-10	2,800	840	1,080	70	140	330	340
Feb-10	3,330	980	1,320	100	140	420	380
Mar-10	3,690	1,030	1,580	90	140	450	400
Apr-10	3,070	890	1,250	90	140	350	350
May-10	3,020	810	1,350	70	140	330	320
Jun-10	3,040	860	1,250	80	130	370	340
Jul-10	2,390	640	1,020	70	110	300	260
Aug-10	2,250	630	940	50	80	290	270
Sep-10	2,060	560	870	60	90	240	260
Oct-10	1,750	500	720	60	60	220	190
Nov-10	1,150	310	530	40	40	120	110
Dec-10	780	210	350	30	30	100	70
2010	29,320	8,240	12,250	810	1,240	3,500	3,280
Jan-11	710	210	330	20	30	80	50
Feb-11	650	170	300	20	30	80	60
Mar-11	600	160	290	20	30	70	40

Apr-11	330	90	150	10	10	40	30
May-11	190	40	100	10	10	20	20
Jun-11	140	40	70	-	-	20	10
Jul-11	160	50	70	10	-	20	20
Aug-11	190	60	80	-	10	30	10
Sep-11	260	60	120	10	20	40	20
Oct-11	270	70	150	10	10	30	10
Nov-11	510	140	270	20	20	40	20
Dec-11	480	120	250	20	20	50	30
2011	4,490	1,190	2,160	150	180	490	310
Jan-12	600	150	310	20	20	50	40
Feb-12	750	210	380	20	20	80	40
Mar-12	880	200	490	40	30	70	50
Apr-12	910	210	480	30	40	90	50
May-12	1,110	280	590	40	40	120	50
Jun-12	1,020	230	580	40	40	80	50
Jul-12	1,260	280	710	40	50	130	50
Aug-12	1,120	250	610	50	50	100	70
Sep-12	1,210	290	670	40	50	120	50
Oct-12	1,640	410	900	50	40	160	90
Nov-12	1,640	360	910	70	70	160	80
Dec-12	1,190	220	670	40	50	140	70
2012	13,320	3,090	7,300	470	490	1,300	670
Jan-13	1,510	300	860	60	50	160	90
Feb-13	1,270	240	730	50	40	150	70
Mar-13	1,300	210	740	70	50	170	70
Apr-13	1,800	300	1,080	90	60	180	90
May-13	2,170	390	1,250	100	80	230	130
Jun-13	2,160	390	1,290	80	70	240	100
2013	10,210	1,820	5,940	430	350	1,130	540

Source: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (DWP)

Notes:

1. Data rounded to the nearest 10. '-' denotes nil or negligible. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used. Figures are to 30 June 2013, which is the latest data available at the time of the request.
2. ICD (disease) summary code: ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and so may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. The "Other" category includes claimants with an unknown medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
3. A medical condition does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and the decision on entitlement is based on the claimant's ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment.
4. For ESA claimants, data on medical condition is only available from February 2010 onwards so the medical condition shown above prior to this date may not have been the condition at the time the sanction decision was made.
5. The low numbers in 2011 are a result of previous employment programmes ending.
6. 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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 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