

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: 2015-5230

22 January 2016

Dear Linda Burnip,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 20 December 2015.

You asked:

**“Following up on this FOI response,**

**<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/303706/response/746743/attach/3/FOI%202015%204905%20Response.pdf>**

- 1) I would like to know how many of the 2,600 claimants with a Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis placed in the Work Related Activity Group, were found fit for work at repeat assessment.**
- 2) I would like to know how many of the 2,600 claimants with a Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis placed in the Work Related Activity Group were placed in the Support Group at repeat assessment after reconsiderations and appeals**
- 3) How many of the 2,600 claimants with a multiple Sclerosis diagnosis were referred to the Work Programme and how many had 1 or more job outcomes?**

**Could you please answer these questions in sequential order (1-2-3) and stop when it exceeds the cost limit?”**

In response to your request we 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 entire 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 (FOIA) the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

As you have requested that the questions are answered in order until the cost limit is reached, the answer to question 1 is given below.

**Number of people with a main condition of Multiple Sclerosis who were placed in the Work Related Activity Group at the initial ESA assessment between October 2008 - March 2015 and of those the number found Fit for Work at the first ESA reassessment where a reassessment has been completed between October 2008 – June 2015**

	Main condition: Multiple Sclerosis
<b>Employment and Support Allowance Work Capability Assessment initial assessment outcome (Oct 2008 to Mar 15): Work Related Activity Group</b>	2,600
<b>Of those: First ESA WCA reassessment outcome (Oct 08 to Jun 15): Fit for Work</b>	100

**Source:** Data in the above table is derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by the Healthcare provider.

**Notes:**

1. Data is rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures include outcomes of initial functional assessments that were completed up to 31 March 2015 for initial assessments for ESA new claims and for related repeat functional assessments that were completed up to 30 June 2015 and exclude clerical cases and Incapacity Benefits Reassessment cases.
3. The repeat assessment outcome shows assessments adjusted to account for the outcome of an appeal where relevant. The volume of appeals heard and inferred to be on Fit for Work decisions are likely to alter over time and change is likely to be most marked in more recent time periods. This is because of the length of time it takes to submit an appeal and have it heard by the Tribunal Service.
4. There is a reporting lag owing to the time needed to process data e.g. June 2015 completed assessment data is reported in December 2015.
5. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
6. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of Multiple Sclerosis would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment.
7. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI 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@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central FoI 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 <https://ico.org.uk/>