

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Our Ref IR 620

8 October 2012

Dear Mr Kelly,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information review request received on 25 September 2012 in which you asked :

I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Cheshire dwp esa decisions'.

you have totally ignored my request and try to palm me off with some unexplained figures..read my question again if you need to..

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/cheshire_dwp_es_decisions

In your original Fol request you asked:

Dear Department for Work and Pensions, can you tell me when the conversion to ESA will be complete in the Cheshire area? And the figures (amount) of people who where on Incapacity Benefit for more than two years and are now found fit for work following a review or medical up to the 18th aug 2012 since the inception of the changeover.

The review was conducted by an independent official of the Department, of the relevant grade and authority to carry out such requests. The case has been examined afresh, and guidance has been sought from domain experts to ensure all factors were taken fully into account.

Having reviewed your request we can confirm that the content of the original response is upheld. As stated in our original response, according to current plans the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is expected to be completed in spring 2014 everywhere in Great Britain, including the Cheshire area.

As per our original response, the benefit duration of incapacity benefits claimants undergoing reassessment can be expected to be more than two years for all claimants undergoing reassessment, as no new claims for incapacity benefits have been accepted following the introduction of ESA in October 2008.

Please note that it is not possible to provide you with information up to 18 August 2012. The publication mentioned the last time is the latest information available and includes

reassessments starting between October 2010 and July 2011. Decisions made on these claims up until February 2012 are included in these statistics.

You might also be interested in reassessment outcomes broken down by local authority area (including the Cheshire area) for the reassessments starting between October 2010 and July 2011 (the latest information available). Please see links below:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/esa_ibr_outcomes_of_wca_geog_breakdown.pdf

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/esa_ibr_outcomes_of_wca_geog_breakdown.xls

As for all publications on incapacity benefits reassessments, the benefit duration can be expected to be more than two years for all claimants, as no new claims for incapacity benefits have been accepted following the introduction of ESA in October 2008.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FoI Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

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