



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Robert Ellard

By Email

Operations Fol Team
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NA

www.gov.uk

29 August 2018

FOI 2916

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 23 June 2018.

You asked for:-

In October 2016, then DWP Minister Damian Green announced that people with lifelong health conditions would not be subject to repeat ESA Assessments, saying

"Employment support allowance will now continue automatically for those who have lifelong, severe health conditions with no prospect of improvement, Damian Green said"

Please answer as many questions as possible starting from 1 onwards within time and money constraints.

1) Could you give the criteria / guidelines in use to determine which claimants are covered by this exemption

2) Could you please state how many ESA Claimants are now exempt from repeat assessments (to the last available set of figures)

3) Could you please provide a break down by primary health condition of those claimants

DWP Response:

I apologise for the delay in responding.

- 1) DWP Severe Conditions criteria is designed to establish if the condition and its effects on the individual would limit their ability to undertake work related activity and whether this situation is unlikely to improve. Due to the variation in severity

of most health conditions no health condition automatically qualifies and each case is assessed upon its own merits.

Please see attached the Severe Conditions criteria for ESA.

2&3) DWP does not currently hold the information you have requested. DWP does not have a specific identifier for those placed in the Severe Condition criteria.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Operations FOI 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@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 www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745