

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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Our Ref: 2013-1372

12<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Dear Paul Elliott,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.  
You asked:

**Could you please tell me how many people used malnutrition as a reason (primary or secondary) for claiming ESA over the past 5 years. And also had any of these people been sanctioned in the 12 months prior to using the above reason.**

The Department does collect some information on the Medical Conditions of benefit claimants however malnutrition is not one of the conditions recorded. The information requested is therefore not held by the Department.

For information the data we do hold on (i) the Medical Conditions of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants and (ii) sanctions is detailed in [Annex 1](#).

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

## **Annex 1**

The Department publishes National Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), including Caseload and Flows information, through its Tabulation Tool, which allows you to design your own tables.

For example, to produce a table on the number of **ESA On Flows** by **IB ICD (disease) code** go to the <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> website and follow the instructions below.

1. Select the **Click here for On Flows data (excludes JSA)** link in the **Benefit Flows Data:** section
2. Now select **Employment and Support Allowance** from the **Benefit/Scheme** option
3. From the **Analysis** drop down menu select **On Flows (thousands)**
4. Now select **IB ICD (disease) code** from the **Row option**
5. From the **Column** drop down menu select from the available options
6. Now select from the options in the **Subset** and **Date** menus and click **Get Table**

The latest available data is to the end of August 2012.

Please note the following information before using and interpreting this data;

ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27th October 2008.

When a new customer applies for ESA they will initially enter an assessment phase lasting 13 weeks. During this phase the customer will have their ability to work assessed to determine their entitlement, this is called the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). During the assessment the customer will be paid based on the Jobseeker's Allowance personal allowance (subject to customers satisfying the relevant contribution condition and/or income tests).

ESA claimants' longer term entitlement to claim the benefit is dependent on the outcome of the WCA. The possible outcomes of the WCA are that claimants can be assessed as: a) suitable for the ESA Work Related Activity Group (Where work is feasible in the short to medium term), b) suitable for the ESA Support Group (for those people with the most severe conditions), or c) fit for work and therefore not entitled to continue claiming, although there is a right of appeal.

The **Medical Conditions** recorded on the claim form **does not itself grant entitlement to benefit**. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Employment and Support Allowance on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that where someone has more

than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is reported on in these statistics.

Official statistics on Work Capability Assessment outcomes, including functional impairment and appeals statistics are [available here](#).

A similar Tabulation Tool is available for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Sanctions and Disallowances statistics, although this does not provide a breakdown by **Medical Condition**, which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html>

Statistics on ESA and Income Support for Lone Parents (ISLP) sanctions can be accessed via the links below.

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa\\_sanc](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc)

[http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/is/lone\\_parent\\_regime/index.php?page=lone\\_parent\\_regime](http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/is/lone_parent_regime/index.php?page=lone_parent_regime)