

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2013-3172

29th July 2013

Dear Gareth Brumby,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 4th July 2013.
You asked:

“Under Employment and Support allowance rules, people on employment and support allowance are allowed to do ‘permitted work’. This involves working ‘less than 16 hours a week, earn up to £99.50 a week for up to 52 weeks’

Can you please tell me how many people on employment and support allowance, carrying out permitted work, have worked up to 52 weeks and have had to give up their permitted work job due to meeting the 52 week cut off point for permitted work.”

We can confirm that the Department does hold some information on **“how many people on employment and support allowance, carrying out permitted work, have worked up to 52 weeks and have had to give up their permitted work job due to meeting the 52 week cut off point for permitted work”**. However, this information is not carried through to datasets available for routine analysis and no robust estimates have been made around the quality of this data. We therefore estimate that the cost of retrieving this information 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 the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we are obliged to assist you in providing options to narrow your request, by reforming or refocusing it, so that it will fall beneath the cost limit. In this case our advice would be to narrow your question so that it only asks for information on the number of ESA claimants who are undertaking permitted work.

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