

DWP Policy Group Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI2018/07382

13 November 2018

Dear Ian White,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 29 October. You asked:

Please provide me with the number of Mandatory Reconsiderations [MR's] you were asked to make in the following years, 2015, 2016,2017?

Of these figures how many were left with an unchanged award? broken down per year?

How many of this number had an increase in their awards? broken down per year?

How many of this number had a decrease in their awards? broken down per year?

Of those who asked for a MR and went onto lodge an appeal how many were successful at appeal and thus, in getting an increase in their awards?

DWP Response:

I cannot deal with your request without clarification of the information you seek. To help me do so, I would like to know which benefits you would like this information for.

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist you in helping you focus your request. There is already some related information in the public domain - the information you requested on the number of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) MRs requested and the number where the decision was not revised are available on DWP's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics> (Tables 7a and 7b)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment> (Tables 12 and 14)

DWP also publish data about MRs and appeals in relation to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Group (ESA WRAG), and Universal Credit (UC) benefit sanctions, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions#latest-release> (Tables 1.8, 2.6 and 3.6)

The Child Maintenance Service publish data on the number and outcome of MRs and appeals relating to decisions by the Child Maintenance Service available on line at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-the-2012-statutory-child-maintenance-scheme#latest-release>

Information on the number of MRs which resulted in an increase or decrease in award, and the number increased following appeal is not available for PIP and for some other benefits. For ESA this information is available for MRs and published in Table 14 at the relevant link above.

There is also some related information in the public domain on the number of MRs revised which can be found at the links above.

Information on the number of decisions overturned at appeal is available on the Ministry of Justice web-site.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics> (Table SSCS.3)

It should be noted that not all MR and Tribunal appeals will relate to the outcome of a benefit assessment, but other aspects of the process.

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Policy Group 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

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745