

13 August 2018

Dear G Ward,

Freedom of Information ref: 2018-2684

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 5 June 2018.

You originally asked:

“Can you please supply me with up to date Mortality Statistics for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) claimants from 2015-2016/7.”

You clarified:

“Just to finally clarify again I want stats 2014-2017 it does need to state which groups claimant was in IE :Wrag /Support this should be possible in small table. Sorry for confusion”

The available information from March 2014 to February 2017 is shown in the table below. The figures provided are derived from administrative data held by the Department and the analysis only applies to working age recipients.

These figures provide limited scope for analysis however it should be noted that the largest group is from the Support Group which will include those with the most severe conditions and those who are terminally ill.

Total number of working age individuals who flowed off Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and whose date of death was at the same time, by ESA phase of claim (for ESA only). Great Britain: March 2014 to February 2017

Benefit / Phase (where applicable)	Total
Total: IB/SDA and ESA	119,590
Total: IB/SDA	8,140
Total: ESA	111,450
Phase of ESA claim (for ESA only)	
<i>Unknown</i>	7,940
<i>Assessment phase</i>	9,880
<i>Work Related Activity Group</i>	10,950
<i>Support Group</i>	82,680

Source: DWP Administrative data from the National Benefits Database (NBD) and the Customer Information System (CIS).

Notes:

1. The Department does not hold information on the reason for death, therefore no causal effect between the benefit and the number of people who died should be assumed from these figures.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding
3. Deaths are up to 28 February 2017 which is the latest data available.
4. All figures relate to working-age claimants of these benefits (aged 16-64). We estimate that there were around 4 million unique working-age claimants of these benefits between March 2014 and February 2017.
5. **Date of death:** The NBD records all claimants and uses information from a series of regular scans from the benefit payment systems, fortnightly for ESA and six-weekly for IB/SDA. The claim end date is sometimes missing and has to be estimated as a date between the scans and to account for this we have identified those whose date of death is up to 14 days after the estimated claim end date for ESA, and up to 42 days for IB/SDA.
6. **Phase of ESA claim:** The phase is derived from payment details held on the source system. The Support Group includes those with a terminal illness and the most severely ill and disabled. Where the claimant is not in receipt of any benefit payment, such as ESA (Credits only), then the phase is shown as unknown.

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Statistical Services
Department for Work and Pensions

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 <https://ico.org.uk/>