

Dear Robert Thomas,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 15 January 2017. You asked:

Please may I request the following information? Does DWP have data concerning non-ESA and non-PIP mandatory reconsiderations? If so, then please could the DWP supply the following data for each month since 2013:

(1) the monthly number of mandatory reconsideration receipts for non-ESA and non-PIP decisions - as broken down the by the type of benefit involved; and

(2) the monthly number of mandatory reconsideration decisions including reconsideration outcomes (initial DWP decision overturned or confirmed) - again as broken down by the type of benefit involved.

Please see the table at **Annex A** showing Mandatory Reconsiderations from April 2014 to January 2017.

Key

Attendance Allowance – AA
Bereavement Benefit – BB
Carers Allowance – CA
Child Maintenance Group – CMG
Compensation Recovery Unit – CRU
Disability Living Allowance – DLA/DLA over 65
Incapacity Benefit – IB
Incapacity Benefit Reassessments – IBR
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit – IIDB
Income Support – IS
Jobseekers Allowance – JSA
Jobseekers Allowance (Labour Market) – JSA(LM)
Maternity Allowance – MA
Social Fund - SF
State Pension Credit - SPC
Universal Credit - UC
Widow's Benefit - WB

Notes:

We are unable to provide figures until April 2014. The Appeals Reform Act was not introduced, for the majority of benefits, until October 2013 and this resulted in significant changes to the way Reconsiderations were handled. Therefore, data prior to October 2013 is not comparable due to these changes and because a different data source was used. In addition the gradual flow of Mandatory Reconsiderations being received by the Department meant that meaningful data did not show until April 2014

Received - number of Mandatory Reconsiderations received by each benefit

Upheld - percentage of Mandatory Reconsiderations where the decisions have either been unfavourable to the claimant or where the previous decision has been maintained. For UC the figures also include volumes of cases where the outcome has been changed in favour of the Department.

n/a – figures not available, either because the benefit did not exist at the time, no figures present in the data sources or no data was available due to technical issues

DLA – includes DLA Child and DLA Adult.

Pension Age – includes Pension Credit, State Pension, Winter Fuels and International Pension Centre (Working Age Group).

SPC - relate to decisions made for Recovery From Estates (RFE)

Sources:

RDA/RAA 60209 & 60205 reports for DLA/AA,
Pensions computer system for Pension Age,
SAS Business Analytics software for CMG,
Decision Making and Appeals Case Recorder (DMACR) for Working Age benefits

The above data sources are Departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tools. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy 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@dpw.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