

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2016-4696

5 January 2017

Dear Lucy Zwolinska,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 8 December 2016.

You asked:

“I am interested in ESA benefit sanctions in Great Britain and I have seen the FOI Ref: 2014-4860. I am interested in the same data updated to the latest available. Therefore:

for each month from April 2014 to the latest available, please give the number of adverse ESA sanctions decisions against claimants in Great Britain broken down by the Summary International Classification of Diseases (i.e. ESA Total; Other; Mental and Behavioural Disorders; Diseases of the Nervous System; Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System; Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue; and injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes) so that the total in each month matches the adverse decisions.

Should any part of this request be undeliverable due to cost or practical considerations, please give top priority to providing the most recent figures and differentiating between Mental and Behavioural Disorders and the ICD classifications.”

Please note that the intention of sanctions is to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefits. Sanctions are a necessary part of the benefits system. The overwhelming majority of benefit claimants take up the jobs support we offer, with a small minority facing a sanction for not doing so.

In response to your request please find the number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) adverse sanction decisions broken down by Summary International Classification of Diseases and month from April 2014 to June 2016, the latest date available at time of request, in the table below.

Please note with respect to the data in more recently published months, care must be taken in using and interpreting this as these are subject to a high degree of revision.

Please ensure you read the notes before using and interpreting this data.

The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Number of ESA Adverse Sanctions broken down by Month and Summary International Classification of Diseases: April 2014 - June 2016

	Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System	Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Nervous System	Injury, Poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	Other	Total
Apr-14	129	339	120	150	2,140	564	3,444
May-14	122	376	127	191	2,063	634	3,508
Jun-14	117	312	153	167	1,828	528	3,108
Jul-14	146	361	128	134	1,720	611	3,092
Aug-14	103	289	128	104	1,333	426	2,387
Sep-14	90	320	116	138	1,300	458	2,415
Oct-14	105	312	99	132	1,365	454	2,472
Nov-14	82	260	120	107	1,276	360	2,201
Dec-14	77	283	79	126	1,275	391	2,235
Jan-15	81	218	86	113	1,231	389	2,123
Feb-15	68	300	76	106	1,147	327	2,017
Mar-15	88	276	75	128	1,312	411	2,291
Apr-15	62	190	81	110	1,112	305	1,857
May-15	48	201	50	81	742	267	1,388
Jun-15	42	183	68	96	671	265	1,325
Jul-15	42	157	54	72	471	203	1,000
Aug-15	37	130	55	67	476	191	954
Sep-15	42	131	43	81	506	196	996
Oct-15	54	180	51	94	443	234	1,056
Nov-15	58	131	49	109	456	197	1,001
Dec-15	43	163	30	90	442	213	985
Jan-16	48	148	50	92	362	201	900
Feb-16	51	145	48	70	453	206	972
Mar-16	49	151	49	89	430	202	972
Apr-16	67	182	71	116	506	305	1,242
May-16	49	187	50	124	548	233	1,199
Jun-16	76	240	83	193	788	370	1,749

Source: DWP WPLS and ESA sanctions data

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have had statistical disclosure control applied to avoid the release of confidential data. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.

2. Data for the most recent months will be subject to revision as numbers of sanction decisions and decision outcomes can change due to reconsidered decisions and appeals.
3. Data is provided to June 2016 which is the latest available at the time of request
4. **ICD (disease) summary code:** ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and so may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. The "Other" category includes claimants with an unknown medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
5. A medical condition does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and the decision on entitlement is based on the claimant's ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment
6. **Adverse:** An adverse decision is a decision to apply a sanction i.e. a decision found against the claimant so a sanction is applied or the ESA claim is closed (disallowance).
7. **Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

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