

19th April 2013

Dear E Maxwell,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 24th March 2013.
You asked:

“I would like to know the following information:

- 1. Number of claimants sanctioned at the Dod Street, E14 Job centre for the last 5 yrs**
- 2. A breakdown of the reasons for the sanctions for the last 5 yrs**
- 3. The number of complaints received for the Dod Street job centre for the last 5 yrs”**

In response to questions 1 and 2, the information requested covers sanctions data at Jobcentre Plus Office level and these statistics, for Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), are intended for future publication and are therefore exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the FOIA.

This exemption is qualified, and is therefore subject to a public interest test. The public interest test is where the Department considers whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding or disclosing the information requested.

Arguments in favour of disclosure: There are public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this information at the present time. Disclosure would for example improve transparency in the operations of the Department.

Arguments against disclosure: There are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified.

It is also in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process, to ensure that the data are accurate once placed into the public domain. It is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all

members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

On this occasion, the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information. As explained above, these statistics will be published in due course. Information on this publication will be provided on news and announcements link here:

<http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=news>

With respect to Income Support for Lone Parent (ISLP) sanctions, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information on the number of people in receipt of ISLP sanctions by Jobcentre Plus. However, we estimate that the cost of fully complying with your request 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.

Instructions on how to access the latest information we do have readily available are given below.

For JSA sanctions and disallowances select the link below and click on the **Click Here for Sanction & Disallowance Decision Stats** link from the **Benefit Caseloads** section

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

ESA and ISLP sanction statistics can be accessed via the links below.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/is/lone_parent_regime/index.php?page=lone_parent_regime

In response to question 3, information on the number of complaints received for Poplar Jobcentre (Dod Street) during the last 5 years is not held by the Department and therefore we are unable to satisfy this part of your request however we can confirm that the Jobcentre has received 61 complaints from 8th October 2012 to date.

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@dpw.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 www.ico.gov.uk