

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2020-12120

27 March 2020

Dear Peter McNab,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 11 March 2020.

You asked:

“Please make available the subject matter figures requested previously. As per your advice, to keep the cost under acceptable (statutory) limits, I request that you send only the figures from 1 January 2019, onward.”

On 16 February 2020 you asked:

“Please make available to me, the percentage of Employment and Support Allowance benefit claims, since inception of the Work Capability Assessment, that have been successful at the Paper-Based Assessment stage?”

We can confirm that we do hold the information requested.

Between 1 January 2019 and 1 July 2019 there were 55,600 initial Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims made that progressed to the Work Capability Assessment stage. Of these, 7,900 were placed into the Support Group following a paper-based assessment.

Source: DWP WPLS and data derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Healthcare Provider.

Notes:

1. Data is rounded to nearest 100.
2. For new ESA initial claims only Support Group recommendations can be made using paper evidence only. At repeat ESA assessments and for Incapacity Benefit Reassessments, both SG and WRAG recommendations can be made using paper evidence only.

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.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/>