

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: FOI2020/38148

04 August 2020

Dear Caroline Stickland,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 18 July. You asked:

I would like to obtain data concerning Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Tribunal Decisions.

I would like to see Tribunal Decisions for each of the disability sub groups as used on Stat-Xplore.

DWP Response:

I confirm that we hold the recorded information to respond to your request.

Table 1 attached shows Personal Independence Payment (PIP) appeal clearances by disability subgroup.

Note this data covers Great Britain since the start of the benefit in April 2013 to March 2020. Data has been rounded to the nearest 10. The data includes cases not cleared at a tribunal hearing – including those withdrawn/struck-out and appeals lapsed. Lapsed appeals are where DWP changed the decision in the customer's favour after an appeal was lodged but before it was heard at Tribunal. The figures cover appeals against decisions prior to an assessment being completed, appeals against initial decisions following a PIP assessment, as well appeals against Award Reviews and Change of Circumstances. Data is based on primary disabling condition as recorded on the PIP computer systems. Claimants may often have multiple disabling conditions upon which the decision is based but only the primary condition is shown in these statistics. In the application process, claimants' primary disabling condition is only recorded for collation by the Department at assessment. Appeals data is taken from the DWP PIP computer system's management information. Therefore, this appeal data may differ from that held by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service for various reasons such as delays in data recording and other methodological differences in collating and preparing statistics.

Note the clearances table in Stat-Xplore covers the initial clearance of a PIP claim and therefore does not include Award Review or Change of Circumstance clearances. The Mandatory Reconsideration (MR) tables on Stat-Xplore cover MRs against initial claim decisions as well as against Award Review and Change of Circumstance decisions. Care therefore should be taken when making comparisons against different tables.

Outside of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, you may find the following information useful, since PIP was introduced up to December 2019 there were 3.8 million initial decisions following a PIP assessment, and just under one in ten (9%) of these decisions have been appealed and around one in twenty (5%) have been overturned at a tribunal hearing. This information is available in the PIP Customer Journey statistics, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-april-2013-to-april-2020/personal-independence-payment-official-statistics-to-april-2020#customer-journey-experimental-statistics>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me 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 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
Web: ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745