

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2014-5008

11 December 2014

Dear T Dawson,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 16 November 2014.
You asked:

- 1. Under Jobseekers Allowance claims (including NI credits only claims) how many part time workers have been sanctioned by the DWP, either under a single or a joint claim since the Work Programme was implemented.**
- 2. Please give separate figures for the amount of part time workers who claim JSA who have been sanctioned via a) a Work Programme referral and b) via a JCP office.**
- 3. Under Jobseekers Allowance how many part time workers have been affected by a sanction against their non working partner that has resulted in a zero claim for JSA for the entire claim.**

If the above statistics are not available due to a £600 limit on the time it would take the DWP to furnish these statistics then please provide a link to the statistics database and instructions on how to query the data using the above parameters.

Please note that intention of the sanctions regime 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.

In response to your query, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. We do not, however, hold readily available information regarding sanctions imposed on part-time workers only, or information regarding the status of a claimant as a single or joint claimant. As this data is not readily accessible to us, we estimate that the cost of 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 (FOIA) the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we are obliged to assist you in providing options to narrow your request, by reforming or refocusing it, so that it will fall beneath the cost limit. In this case however, we are unable to offer you any advice as we cannot link employment and claim type data to sanctions data within cost.

It may interest you to know the Department publishes Official Statistics on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanction decisions and information on these statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

The latest set of Official Statistics was released on 12 November 2014 and a summary of this data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/jobseekers-allowance-and-employment-and-support-allowance-sanctions-decisions-made-to-june-2014>

These statistics cover both (i) total decisions made (i.e. if an individual has had multiple sanctions decisions made, all of those sanction decisions made will be included in the tables), and (ii) individuals who have had a sanction decision made (i.e. will only 'count' one individual in a table defined and produced). These statistics also contain a wide set of geographical areas, sanction reason (including failure to participate in the Work Programme), sanctions appeals and outcomes and if required this information can be extracted using Stat-Xplore via the following link:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at:

https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore_User_Guide.htm

If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information please let us know.

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 www.ico.gov.uk