

18 September 2019

Dear Amanda Hart,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 28 August 2019.

You asked:

**“Since 2015 to the present, please kindly provide the number of sanctions you have issued that you have been subsequently ordered to reverse by any court where the stated reason you had been given for failing to comply was "miscarriage".**

**Benefits: Universal Credit, ESA Work Related Activity Group, Jobseekers Allowance.”**

We can confirm that we hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit for central Government, set by regulations 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 it. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing them further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist the requester in helping narrow their request so that they may fall beneath the cost limit. The department does compile benefit sanction referral reasons but these do not give the detail on a claimant's reason for failing to comply. We would need to manually check all the claimant history and journal entries for such information, in addition to any information recorded in the referral from the work coach. Therefore, in this instance, due to the specificity of your request, we are unable to give any advice so that it might fall under the cost limit.

You might be interest to know that the Department publishes information on benefit sanctions on the Stat- Xplore website, this data can also be broken down by sanction referral reason. This information can be accessed here: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract the information required can be found at:  
<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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## **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](mailto: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/>