

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: 2015-2018

26 May 2015

Dear K T Perry,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 16 May 2015.

You asked:

**“1, Please could you tell me the number of JSA claimants that have been sanctioned in County Durham during the past five (5) years?**

**2, Can you also provide the numbers of those sanctioned who asked (appealed) for a Mandatory Reconsideration?**

**3, Also, how many of those appeals were successful?**

**Please list them under the name/area of each jobcentre and in yearly order (2009-2010, 2010-2011 etc...).**”

Please note that intention of sanctions 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. Sanctions are a necessary part of the benefits system and are used only as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes Official Statistics on Jobseeker's 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 13 May 2015 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-december-2014>

The official 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, 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 any information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at:

[https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore\\_User\\_Guide.htm](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 FoI 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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)