

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2015-IR299

13 August 2015

Dear K T Perry,

Freedom of Information ref: 2015-IR299

Thank you for your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request 2015-2018.

You asked:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Department for Work and Pensions's handling of my FOI request 'Sanctions in County Durham'.

I asked about sanctions in a specific area of the country (not the whole of the UK) and your answer is not specific. Please answer the question I asked in relation to the area I specified!"

In your original request 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...)."

I am of a senior grade to the person who dealt with your request previously, and can confirm that I have carried out an internal review. I confirm that I have considered your request afresh. In conducting my review, I have discussed the original reply, the handling and the decisions on what can be provided with the officer who drafted it.

The response provided explained that various statistics on sanction decisions are published by the Department and under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act directed you to the necessary webpage.

As detailed in the response, this webpage contains some summary statistics in excel and also a link to Stat-Xplore through which any detailed statistics required can be generated. As the combination of information required in your query is not covered in the excel tables you will need to access Stat-Xplore and create the tables required.

You were provided with links to Stat-Xplore and also to the relevant user guidance, therefore I am satisfied that the requirements of section 21 have been met. I can also confirm that the information required is available via Stat-Xplore and I therefore uphold the original response.

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