

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

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

Our Ref: 2019-13327

23 April 2019

Dear Andrea Burford,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 1 April 2019.

You asked:

“Please will you supply the figures of the number of Black British people in receipt of JSA/ESA and universal credit who have been sanctioned ,both under the legacy benefit system and the Universal credit system, in all branches of Job centre plus in the Leicester city area since June 2017 until April 2018 and for the period May 2018 until March 2019.

Please supply these figures as a percentage of the total population of ESA/JSA and Universal credit claimants, sanctioned both under the legacy benefit system and the universal credit system.”

We can confirm that whilst we may hold some information falling within the description specified in your request 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 (FOIA) the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

Under section 16 of the Act we should assist the requester in helping narrow their request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. In this instance we would recommend that you might want to consider restricting your request to Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions only and also align your request to the dates in the published statistics (see below). We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit.

The Department publishes quarterly Official Statistics on benefit sanction decisions for UC, JSA, and ESA. The latest statistics are available to October 2018 and can be found here:

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

These statistics also contain a wide set of geographical areas, and are also available by ethnicity for JSA and ESA. These can be extracted from Stat-Xplore here:

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

The Department publishes Official Statistics on various benefits, and the latest information available for Universal Credit (UC) to January 2019 and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) to August 2018 can be extracted from Stat-Xplore here: <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/Getting-Started.html>

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

Statistics on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and can be accessed via their NOMIS website at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information then contact details for ONS can be found here :<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/contacts.asp>

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.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 <https://ico.org.uk/>