

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: FOI 603 & 721

Date: 09 March 2015

Dear Gary Martin

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26/02/15.

You asked: Could you tell me how many people who received Employment and Support Allowance under the special rules for terminally ill people with a form DS1500, have been sent ESA50 forms to complete, and/or been asked to attend a face to face assessment in the past 4 years please. Also how many have been found fit for work.

Perhaps it may be helpful if I explain the DWP definition of Terminally Ill. "In relation to a claimant, means the claimant is suffering from a progressive disease and death in consequences of that disease can reasonably be expected within 6 months" SI2008/794 Part 1.

During that defined period the claimant will not receive an ESA50 or an assessment. The review period will not commence immediately after the 6 month period has passed but the claimant will become eligible at some point for a review when they fall within the normal Work Capability Assessment regime. At this point an ESA50 will be issued and an assessment will be conducted. This will not necessarily be a face to face assessment. During the period covered by the DS1500 (notification from an HCP of terminal illness) there is no ESA50s' issued and as such there are no specific statistics maintained.

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@dwpgsi.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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745