

Employment and Support Allowance – Incapacity Benefits Reassessments: Outcomes of Work Capability Assessments, Regions and Local Authorities

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Background

In October 2008, existing benefits paid on grounds of incapacity and disability, that is Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) and Income Support (IS) on the grounds of incapacity, were replaced with Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for all new claimants. Between October 2010 and spring 2014 most claimants who receive IB, SDA and IS paid on the grounds of illness or disability will be assessed to see if they qualify for ESA.

On 15 March 2012, the Department has published information on incapacity benefits reassessments on a national level for the first time. The report published in March presents information on the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants for ESA in Great Britain, for claims that were referred for reassessment before the end of July 2011. The publication can be found at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_ibr

The analysis provided in the associated spreadsheets of this publication shows a breakdown by government office region and local authority of the data underlying the report mentioned above. The geographic breakdown is provided for all incapacity benefits claimants that were referred for reassessment before the end of July 2011. Decisions made on these claims up until February 2012 are included in these statistics.

Figures in this issue cannot reflect the final outcomes, because they do not include effect of appeals still lodged in the legal system, and claims with no outcome yet recorded. For these reasons it is likely that the statistics underestimate the proportion of claimants who will ultimately be awarded ESA.

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