

Access to Work Regional Performance – 2010/11

December 2011

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Background

Access to Work

The purpose of Access to Work is to:

- Help pay towards the equipment an individual needs at work; a communicator at job interviews, adapting premises to meet an individual's needs, or paying a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if an individual cannot use public transport.

An individual may be able to get Access to Work if they are:

- In a paid job
- Unemployed and about to start a job
- Unemployed and about to start a Work Trial
- Self-employed

and their disability or health condition stops them from being able to do parts of their job.

An individual's disability or health condition may not have a big effect on what they do each day, but may have a long-term effect on how well they can do their job.

The amount of help which an individual may receive from Access to Work will vary depending on how long they have been employed, what support they need and whether they are self-employed.

Access to Work can pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs if an individual is:

- Unemployed and starting a new job
- Self-employed
- Working for an employer and have been in the job for less than six weeks

Whatever an individual's employment status, Access to Work will also pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs of help with:

- Support workers

- Fares to work
- Communicator support at interview

Access to Work pays a proportion of the costs of support if all of the following apply to an individual:

- They're working for an employer
- They've been in the job for six weeks or more
- They need special equipment or adaptations to premises

The precise level of cost sharing is agreed between the employer and the Access to Work adviser.

After between one and three years, Access to Work will review an individual's circumstances and the support they're receiving.

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Access to Work. Official statistics on the number of individuals helped by Access to Work are published at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=atw>

Results

Table 1 shows the number of individuals helped by Access to Work during 2010/11 (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011), broken down by Primary Medical Condition and Government Office Region. Each individual is counted once in the year. This shows the number of individuals who have been assessed within the year or for whom there is an element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element has been made available within the year. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and those which are less than 5 are expressed as nil or negligible.

Table 2 shows the amount of spend on the Access to Work programme during 2010/11 (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011), broken down by Primary Medical Condition and Government Office Region. Amounts are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Amounts which are less than £500 or have a corresponding numbers helped which is less than 5, are expressed as nil or negligible.

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