

Interim results of Work Capability Assessments for IB reassessment trial areas

Date 1st April 2011

Introduction

Between October 2010 and Spring 2014 customers who receive Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support paid on the grounds of illness or disability will be assessed for Employment and Support Allowance.

This reassessment will use the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and will focus on what an individual can do despite their health condition, rather than simply what they cannot. Employment and Support Allowance helps people with an illness or disability move into work if they are able.

The first stage of reassessment began in October 2010 with a trial involving 1,700 customers from the Burnley and Aberdeen Benefit Centres in the Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast & Grampian and Cumbria & Lancashire Districts. This trial was designed to provide early indicators about customer and staff reactions to the reassessment process.

This document sets out interim results from the trial in Aberdeen and Burnley. Final results will be made available later.

The data source is from clerically derived internal management information.

Results

As of the 22nd March, 1,626 decisions on whether a customer's claim qualifies for conversion to Employment and Support Allowance had been made. Of these:

- 526 individuals (32%) were found fit for work and so not entitled to Employment and Support Allowance
- 484 individuals (30%) were placed in the Support Group
- 616 individuals (38%) were placed in the Work Related Activity Group

Note that there are still a few trial customers that have not completed the reassessment process, so the above proportions may change when all the outcomes are finalised. These proportions are for the two trial areas and may not reflect the national picture. Therefore, conclusions should not be drawn concerning expectations for the proportions that are expected when IB Re-assessment is rolled-out nationally.

Further information on Employment and Support Allowance can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/employment-and-support/>

Daniel Groves

Department for Work and Pensions

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