

Freedom of Information request 2014-3104

Date received: 8 July 2014

Date of response: 5 August 2014

Information request

I would like to know the number of people claiming Employment and Support Allowance (formerly Incapacity Benefit) deemed fit to work by Atos for the years: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, for the Weymouth and Portland and West Dorset administrative areas.

I would like to know, of these deemed fit to work, how many had their Atos decision overturned by the DWP.

DWP response

Please note that DWP does not 'overturn' Atos 'decisions' but makes decisions based on advice/recommendation of Atos, who carry out the assessments.

Anyone claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) will undergo the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The WCA is based on the premise that eligibility should not be based on a person's condition, but rather on the way that condition limits their functional capability. Following the WCA, Atos Healthcare's Healthcare Professional (HCP) provides a recommendation of the claimant's eligibility for ESA. The final decision on ESA benefit entitlement is made by a DWP Decision Maker (DM) informed by advice from the Atos Healthcare's HCP and other available evidence.

In response to your query, the table below shows the number of ESA DM's decisions compared to the recommendation made by Atos Healthcare's HCP in Weymouth and Portland and West Dorset local authority areas, for claims made in the period January 2009 to September 2013, which is the latest information available.

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Number of Employment and Support Allowance new claims and repeat assessment decisions compared with the Atos recommendation: each year January 2009 to September 2013

	West Dorset			Weymouth and Portland		
	Total FFW Atos recommendations	Of which:		Total FFW Atos recommendations	Of which:	
		DM decision is different	DM decision is the same		DM decision is different	DM decision is the same
Year						
2009	200	-	200	200	-	200
2010	300	-	300	400	-	400
2011	300	-	200	400	-	400
2012	200	-	200	400	100	300
2013	200	100	100	400	100	300
Total	1,200	200	1,000	1,700	300	1,400

Source: Data in the above table is derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.

Notes:

1. Data is rounded to nearest 100 therefore totals may not sum.
2. “ – “ Denotes nil or negligible
3. Data is tabled by the decision made date for January to December each year except for 2013, which is for January to September as this is the latest data available.
4. Figures include initial and repeat assessments for ESA new claims and exclude clerical decisions, clerical cases, and Incapacity Benefits Reassessment cases.
5. FFW= Fit for Work.