

Freedom of Information request 2014-3266

Date received: 16 July 2014

Date of response: 13 August 2014

Information request

I would like data in order to document trends in incapacity and ESA claimant numbers for individual disorders within the 'Mental and behavioural disorders' category for as far back as possible broken down by duration of claim if possible. Going back to 2004 would be useful, or even before this if data is available.

In the past, disorders in the Mental and behavioural disorders category were classified as 'psychosis', 'depressive and neurotic conditions,' 'drug and alcohol dependence', 'personality disorders', 'acute stress reactions' and 'miscellaneous symptoms'. I would like data on numbers of claimants of ESA and incapacity benefit plus severe disablement allowance for these disorders, or other similar classifications if classifications have changed.

DWP response

In response to the majority of your query, the information you requested regarding Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) by ICD10 Disease Code for Mental and Behavioural Disorders and duration of current claim at November each year is shown in the attached spreadsheet (FOI 2014-3266 Response.xls).

In response to the part of your query regarding Employment and Support Allowance claimants by medical condition prior to February 2010, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.