

Freedom of Information request 2013-IR798

Date received 21 October 2013

Date of response 13 June 2014

Information request

You have not answered my first question about the total number of reconsiderations. The document attached is freely available on the DWP and only shows the number of claimants assigned to the WRAG through reconsiderations and for New claims only, when I was asking the total number of reconsiderations for all groups of ESA claimants.

This response by Chris Grayling in January 2012 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120110/text/120110w0006.htm#1201116001244> shows what I am asking for. I would like the figures for the missing months. If that exceed £600, I would like to have as much as possible within this limit, and preferably the most recent. I would also like to have like in Chris Grayling's response the corresponding number of overturned decisions through reconsiderations

If it does not exceed £600, and I think this information should be straight forward to obtain and at a minimal cost, I would also like to know the total number of appeals received by DWP from 2008 until the most recent figure available, which should mid 2013 at the very least.

DWP response

Thank you for supplying additional relevant information which has now helped us to identify the information you require, which is:

1. the total number of reconsiderations for all groups of ESA claimants;
2. the number of overturned decisions through reconsiderations;
3. the total number of appeals received by DWP from 2008 until the most recent figure available.

We confirmed in our response to you on 8 January 2014 that it was possible to provide this information, which can be found below. Please accept our apologies for the delay in issuing this response.

Table 1 below shows the total monthly number of ESA reconsideration decisions and of those how many were found in favour of the claimant from April 2012 to June 2013. The requested data is only currently available from

April 2012 and the latest available information is given to June 2013 in line with published statistics. The total reconsiderations include initial reconsiderations and those made as part of the appeals process.

Please note that the figures supplied in response to your questions are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Table 1: Number of ESA Total reconsideration decisions made and the number overturned in month: Great Britain April 2012 to June 2013

	ESA Total Reconsiderations	
	Decisions made in month	Decisions Overturned in month
Apr-12	18,290	7,100
May-12	25,190	8,480
Jun-12	21,980	7,990
Jul-12	19,150	4,240
Aug-12	19,480	4,330
Sep-12	18,830	4,190
Oct-12	24,660	5,720
Nov-12	28,410	6,750
Dec-12	24,810	5,290
Jan-13	36,080	7,590
Feb-13	32,600	7,620
Mar-13	31,270	7,800
Apr-13	33,680	10,800
May-13	37,610	12,680
Jun-13	34,030	11,950

Source

Decision Making & Appeals Case Recorder (DMACR) – ESA Management Information Statistics

Notes

1. Data has been rounded to ten.
2. Data is only currently available from April 2012 and the latest available information is to June 2013.
3. Total reconsiderations include initial reconsiderations and those made as part of the appeals process.
4. These figures are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not

been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

5. These figures do not include Incapacity Benefits Reassessment (IBR) reconsideration cases.

Table 2 below shows the total number of ESA Appeals submitted monthly to HMCTS Tribunals Service between April 2010 and December 2012. The requested data is only currently available from April 2010 and the latest available information is October 2013.

Please note that the figures supplied in response to your questions are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Total number of ESA Appeals submitted monthly to the Tribunal Service: Great Britain April 2010 to October 2013

Month	Appeals Submitted to Tribunal Service in month
Apr-10	18,750
May-10	9,120
Jun-10	16,060
Jul-10	17,920
Aug-10	17,050
Sep-10	18,010
Oct-10	15,170
Nov-10	13,660
Dec-10	13,290
Jan-11	14,580
Feb-11	16,330
Mar-11	18,760
Apr-11	12,180
May-11	13,630
Jun-11	15,180
Jul-11	14,620
Aug-11	13,870
Sep-11	13,730
Oct-11	12,400
Nov-11	11,080
Dec-11	6,630
Jan-12	8,920
Feb-12	11,040

Mar-12	11,050
Apr-12	8,740
May-12	14,220
Jun-12	12,010
Jul-12	15,130
Aug-12	13,320
Sep-12	16,050
Oct-12	18,190
Nov-12	20,430
Dec-12	17,330
Jan-13	25130
Feb-13	23660
Mar-13	27640
Apr-13	26770
May-13	25560
Jun-13	22320
Jul-13	24190
Aug-13	17250
Sep-13	15310
Oct-13	12620

Source

Decision Making & Appeals Case Recorder (DMACR) – ESA Management Information Statistics

Notes

1. Data has been rounded to ten.
2. Data is only currently available from April 2010 and the latest available information is to October 2013.
3. These figures are taken from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.
4. These figures do not include IBR appeals against a disallowance for ESA.
5. These figures include appeals against any ESA decision (e.g. new claims, claims maintenance, Work Capability Assessment (WCA) process).

Information on how appeals and reconsiderations are dealt with can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/appeal-benefit/overview>

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us quoting the reference number above.