

# Freedom of Information request 2015-3307

Date received 4 August 2015

Date of response 20 October 2015

## Information request

We are interested in the number of people with a learning disability who receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). I have played around with the tabulation tool but it seems only able to give me headline figures. I wonder if you can find the following:

1. The breakdown of people classified as having 'mental and behaviour disorders' who are in receipt of (a) ESA Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) and (b) ESA Support Group. The data should be most recent please ie Nov 2014 I believe.

2. We would also like to know how many within ESA WRAG have a learning disability. I believe that for this you use the WHO definition of mental retardation - which pretty much equates to our definition of learning disability.

We basically wish to see the split between learning disability and mental health.

3. We are also interested in the group 'Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities'. This is because it includes people with Down's syndrome. Can you tell us how many are in the ESA WRAG and how many are in the ESA Support group?

## DWP response

**Employment and Support Allowance claimants in the Mental and Behavioural Disorders and Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities category, by phase of claim - February 2015**

|                                      | All       | Of which      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|                                      |           | Support Group | Work Related Activity Group |
| All Mental and Behavioural Disorders | 1,110,600 | 596,380       | 244,250                     |

|   |               |               |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific Development Disorders of Scholastic Skills</li> <li>▪ Pervasive Development Disorders</li> <li>▪ All other disorders</li> </ul>       | 68,850        | 53,200        | 10,590     |
|   | 9,290         | 6,110         | 1,860      |
|   | 1,032,000     | 537,000       | 232,000    |
| <b>All Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities</b>   | <b>15,380</b> | <b>14,270</b> | <b>630</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spina Bifida</li> <li>▪ Congenital malformations of Cardiac Septa</li> <li>▪ Other Osteochondrodysplasias</li> <li>▪ Downs Syndrome</li> </ul> | 3,060         | 2,610         | 290        |
|   | 230           | 150           | 40         |
|   | 260           | 210           | 30         |
|   | 11,830        | 11,310        | 280        |

**Source:** DWP 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.  
“-“denotes nil or negligible.
2. February 2015 is the latest data available at the time of the request.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit or Employment and Support Allowance. So for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of a learning difficulty would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment.
5. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and may not represent a claimants most recent medical condition. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
6. “Learning Difficulties’ and Severe Learning Difficulties’ are covered in the category ‘Specific Development Disorders of Scholastic Skills’