

Freedom of Information request 2015-3687

Date received 01 September 2015

Date of response 23 February 2016

Information request

How many Universal Jobmatch benefit sanctions have been applied since it went live?

For these stats please say how many benefit claimants referred for a sanction, how many got an adverse decision and the number of favourable decisions?

DWP response

Please note that the intention of sanctions is to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefits. Sanctions are a necessary part of the benefits system. The overwhelming majority of benefit claimants take up the jobs support we offer, with a small minority facing a sanction for not doing so.

In response to your question, information on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants sanctioned for "Refusal or failure to comply with a Jobseeker's Direction without good reason (Universal Jobmatch)" from June 2013 to June 2015 can be found in the table below.

Please note that information for this sanction reason is only available from June 2013.

JSA Sanction Decisions – number of individuals with referral reason of "Refusal or failure to comply with a Jobseeker's Direction without good reason (Universal Jobmatch)": June 2013 – June 2015

Number of JSA individuals with a sanction referral	3,520
Of those;	
Number of JSA individuals with an adverse decision	2,103
Number of JSA individuals with a non-adverse decision	589

Source: DWP: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Statistical disclosure control has been applied.

2. Information for this sanction reason is only available from June 2013 and the latest data available is up to 30 June 2015.
3. Whilst claiming JSA, a customer can have a Labour Market (LM) doubt raised against their claim. LM doubts are normally identified by staff at the Jobcentre Plus office and are referred to the Sector Decision Makers (SDMs). Once the SDM has made a decision on whether to sanction or disallow/allow a referral, they enter their decision on a system called DMAS (Decision Making and Appeals System). The decision is also sent back to the Jobcentre Plus office for entry to LMS (Labour Market System) and JSAPS (JSA Payment System) which then makes the appropriate changes to the actual payment to the customer.
4. Adverse: An adverse decision is a decision to apply a sanction i.e. a decision found against the claimant so a sanction is applied or the JSA claim is closed (disallowance).
5. Non-adverse: A 'non-adverse' decision is when a case has been considered and a decision was made not to apply a sanction.
6. Please note the table above does not include the following:
 - (a) Reserved Decision: a reserved decision is where a sanction would be appropriate but cannot be imposed because the claimant does not have a current claim to JSA. A case would be re-referred if the claimant reclaims JSA within the period of the reserved decision.
 - (b) Cancelled Referral: A cancelled decision can occur in specific circumstances as explained here: https://sw.stat-explore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/metadata/JSA_sanc_dec/Decision%20Outcome.html