

Freedom of Information request 2013-4401

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Information request

I want a freedom of information request for the number of people who have had Jobseeker Allowance (JSA) sanctions off the money they receive from the Jobcentres around the United Kingdom.

DWP response

In response to your question the requested information, for the latest year in which figures are available, is shown in the table below.

Number¹ of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants with a sanction applied² by month of decision³, Great Britain: 1st November 2011 – 21st October 2012

Month of decision	Total
Nov-11	48,580
Dec-11	40,240
Jan-12	51,060
Feb-12	55,380
Mar-12	62,360
Apr-12	57,750
May-12	68,580
Jun-12	61,500
Jul-12	68,070
Aug-12	60,510
Sep-12	65,150
Oct-12	55,350

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and will include individuals who have had more than one sanction applied² in more than one month e.g.

if an individual has a sanction applied² in November 2011 and October 2012 then they will appear twice

2. **Sanctions applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of Varied⁴, Fixed Length⁵ and Entitlement Decision⁶ referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Month of decision:** The month in which the decision to apply a sanction was made. This table only includes data up to and including the 21st of October 2012, which this is the latest data available
4. **Varied Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the Adjudication Officer who makes the decision.
5. **Fixed Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's Direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question.
6. **Entitlement Decisions:** These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.

The Department does not hold the information requested for Northern Ireland. The responsibility for statistics in Northern Ireland lies with the Department for Social Development (DSD). More information on how to submit a Freedom of Information request to the DSD can be found at:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/freedom-of-information/requesting-information.htm>

You may also be interested to know that the Department published ad-hoc analysis on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions and disallowances, where a decision has been made, in each month from 1st April 2000 to 21st October 2012 by Jobcentre Plus Group/District/Office and decision which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/number-of-jobseekers-allowance-sanctions-and-disallowances-where-a-decision-has-been-made-in-each-month-from-1-april-2000-to-21-october-2012>

Please note this publication shows the number of referrals not the number of individuals and will therefore include claimants who have been referred for a sanction or disallowance more than once.