



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Work Programme official statistics after June 2013: content and presentation

Response to public consultation

September 2014

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## 0 Introduction

On 23 August 2013, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) launched a user consultation inviting views on recommendations to improve the content and presentation of Work Programme official statistics.

The consultation outlined broad plans for enhancements to DWP Work Programme Official Statistics, relating to beyond June 2013, when the first monthly intakes of participants completed their allotted time on the scheme. The original consultation can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/246114/work-programme-statistics-consultation-aug13.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/246114/work-programme-statistics-consultation-aug13.pdf)

The scope included all DWP Work Programme Official Statistics. It excluded changes to other DWP Employment Programmes.

The consultation period closed on 22 November 2013.

This document details the responses from users and the broad DWP response describing the statistical publication intent for Work Programme Official Statistics outputs.

## 1 Summary of publication intent

In summary:

- DWP have outlined the responses to the consultation in section 2 below. In the main the proposals and plans outlined in the consultation document regarding the presentation of Sustainment payment and Work Programme completers information and the format and content of the release remain unchanged with reasoning and any modifications highlighted.
- Whilst some developments have been embedded and others will be introduced into the next official statistics outputs, some decisions will need to be taken later, due to the time involved to discuss, develop and/or implement the proposals, principally where they relate to:
  - The proposed DWP unified publication database development and release via Stat-Xplore, the Department's new dissemination tool which builds in more flexibility than the current Tabulation Tool.
  - The recommendations presented by the Work Programme: Building Best Practice group which includes providers, their supply chains, and external organisations including voluntary and community sector organisations, and national charities.
- DWP will aim to prioritise work items based on the importance to the widest number of users, as revealed by this consultation. DWP will aim to balance the relative benefits arising from requested new statistics with the associated burden of production, in accordance with the principles of Code of Practice for official statistics.

DWP continue to encourage user comments and questions to help us improve our statistics and ensure value for money.

Please complete our [Work Programme statistics questionnaire](#) to tell us what you think about our statistics.

You can also join the 'Welfare and benefits' community at [www.statsusernet.org.uk](http://www.statsusernet.org.uk). We'll post announcements and background information in this forum. You can also use the forum to discuss statistical issues with other users.

If you have any further feedback email [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## 2 Consultation responses and future plans

The official statistics consultation primarily invited views on proposals for the content and presentation of Sustainment payment information and information on participants completing the programme. Views on the overall presentation, content and breakdowns available in the current official statistics were also sought.

DWP received 8 responses to the consultation. The origins of these responses were as follows:

Type of organisation	Number of responses
Academia	1
Charity/ not-for-profit company	2
Local Authorities /groups of Authorities	1
Other Government	1
Employment Services Organisations	3

The consultation posed a number of specific questions for user response. Several responses included detailed comments and requests, many of which used these questions as direct prompts and have informed the approaches outlined below. DWP responses to specific consultation questions and wider comments/requests are summarised in subsequent sections.

In summary, users were largely supportive of the original proposals for statistics on completers of the programme; with some additional requests made for the information to be provided by cohort. User views on the content and presentation of Sustainment payment information were more varied reflecting the relative complexity of their nature.

Some suggestions were made for future development of the overall presentation, content and breakdowns available in the official statistics although fundamentally users were positive about the large amount of statistics, breakdowns and underlying data that is released and find this information extremely beneficial, in particular for local analysis. Users welcomed the increased use of charts and key messages and felt that this aided interpretation.

Following consideration of the responses to the consultation, the broad approaches for publication of Work Programme official statistics on Sustainment payments and completers via the [Statistical Summary](#), [Tabulation Tool](#) and [Data Visualisation Tool](#), are set out below. In the main the proposals and plans outlined in the consultation document remain unchanged with reasoning and any modifications highlighted in this document.

## 2.1 *Work Programme overview*

The Work Programme uses private and public companies, called providers, to find work for claimants transferred to them from Jobcentre Plus at specified points in their claim. Once referred, individuals attach to a provider and remain on the Programme for an allotted time of 104 weeks, unless they complete early.

Following a defined period (of continuous or cumulative spells) in employment, the provider will receive a Job Outcome Payment. Only one of these can be claimed per Referral. After each further four continuous weeks in employment the provider will receive a Sustainment payment<sup>1</sup>. There are no payments for job entry.

Work Programme official statistics provide information on Referrals, Attachments, Outcome payments and Completers with breakdowns available by age, gender, ethnicity, disability flag, lone parent status, payment group, region, Local Authority, Parliamentary Constituency, primary health condition, contract and contract package area.

Comparisons of totals of Outcome payments at any point in time will include those who have not had sufficient time to achieve the defined period of employment which generates a payment. Hence, an effective way to assess the Work Programme is to track the progress of monthly intakes over the same duration of support; an approach endorsed by the UK Statistics Authority.

Work Programme official statistics are released via three main mechanisms

- The [DWP Tabulation Tool](#) which primarily provides detailed, low level, information on a monthly or cumulative basis.
- The [data visualisation tool](#) (via Google Public Data Explorer) which provides detailed, low level information on monthly intake cohorts tracked over time as well as visualising the information contained on the tabulation tool..
- The [Statistical Summary](#) (link to version published in June 2014), which gives a structured overview of Work Programme official statistics, presenting key findings via tables, charts and text, broken down into coherent sections to be read in combination.

The approaches outlined below aim to maximise the utility of the statistics across each method.

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<sup>1</sup> The time it takes to achieve a Job Outcome Payment and the maximum numbers of Sustainment payments are defined by Payment Group to which claimants are assigned at upon Referral.

## 2.2 Work Programme measures overview

The Department publishes a range of [measures](#) to support transparency of public information.

For the Work Programme the main focus of the statistical summary is comparing monthly intakes of Referrals that have had the same duration of support and the transparency indicator measures the proportion of claimants for whom providers were paid a job outcome payment at 12 months following referral to the Work Programme, by monthly intake.

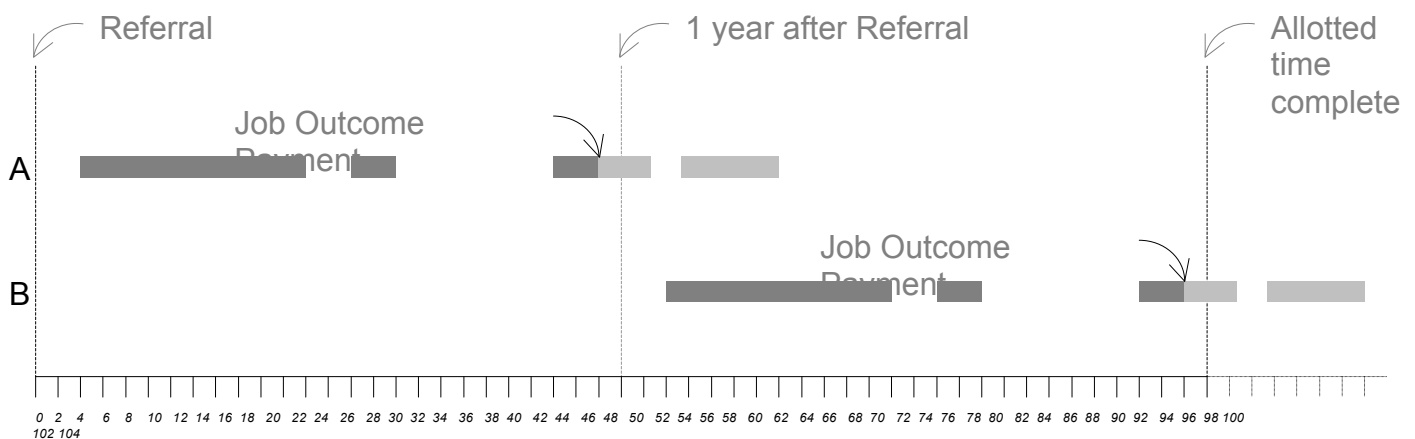
For example, for those that were referred to the Work Programme in June 2011 the indicator will show the proportion of the June 2011 referral cohort for whom providers were paid a job outcome payment by the end of June 2012.

A Job Outcome payment can only be attained after a minimum of three or usually six months on the Work Programme. Following a Job Outcome Payment, after each further four continuous weeks in employment the provider will receive a Sustainment payment.

The consultation proposed a Sustainment measure based on comparison of monthly intakes. A number of factors were taken into account with the proposal.

For instance, where there is a break in employment (in excess of 2 calendar days) after the 104 weeks allotted time on the Programme, providers are not eligible to claim a Job Outcome payment or Sustainment payment even if the individual remains off benefit. Consider the following scenario, two individuals A and B referred to the Work Programme on the same day (and to the same Payment Group). Both have the same pattern of employment (shaded bars represent employment with the darker shades pre-Job Outcome payment and lighter shades post-Job Outcome payment) although with different start dates, resulting in one gaining a Job Outcome payment in their first year on the Programme and the other in the second.

Figure 1: Diagram of Job Outcome and Sustainment payments



Comparison of the two individuals above would show three Sustainment payments for A but only one for B; since B had a break in employment after the allotted time.

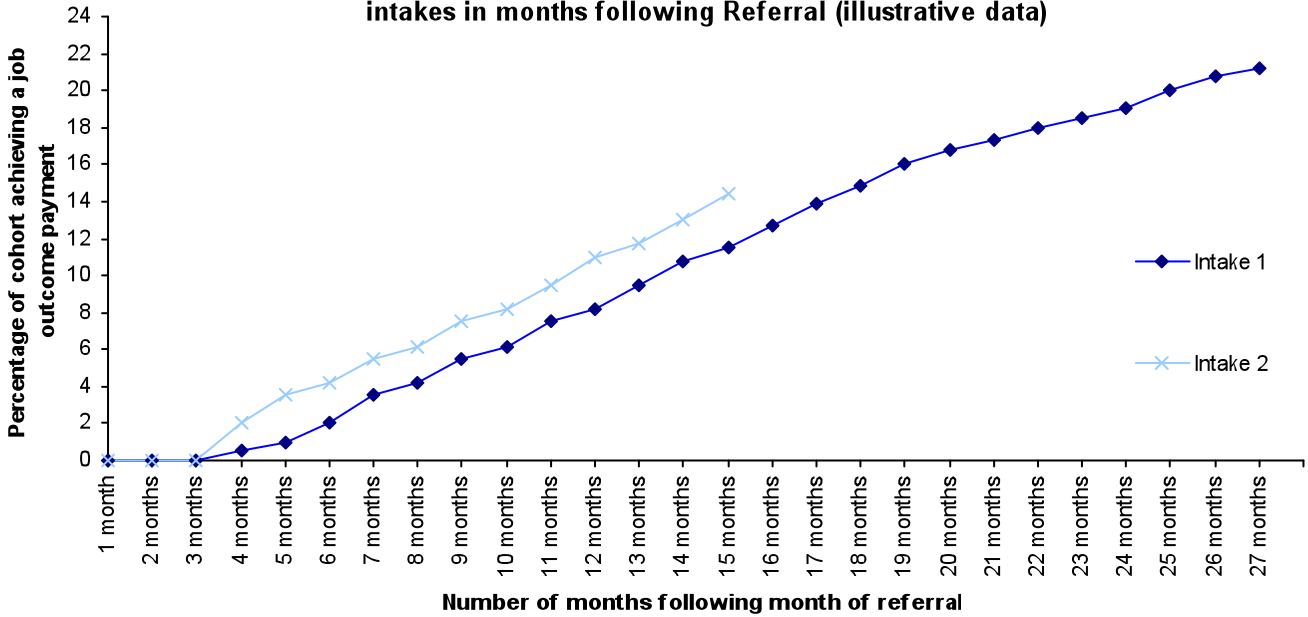
Clearly, as the above example illustrates, when deciding on Sustainment measures, which track and compare monthly intakes over time, the timing of the Job Outcome payments within each intake is pertinent to interpretation.

With all other things equal, the closer to the allotted time that a Job Outcome payment is attained, the less opportunity there is to attain Sustainment payments; due to the eligibility rules associated with breaks in employment. This is true regardless of whether tracking from the point of Referral or Job Outcome (see Annex 4.1).

### 2.2.1 Job Outcome payment measures

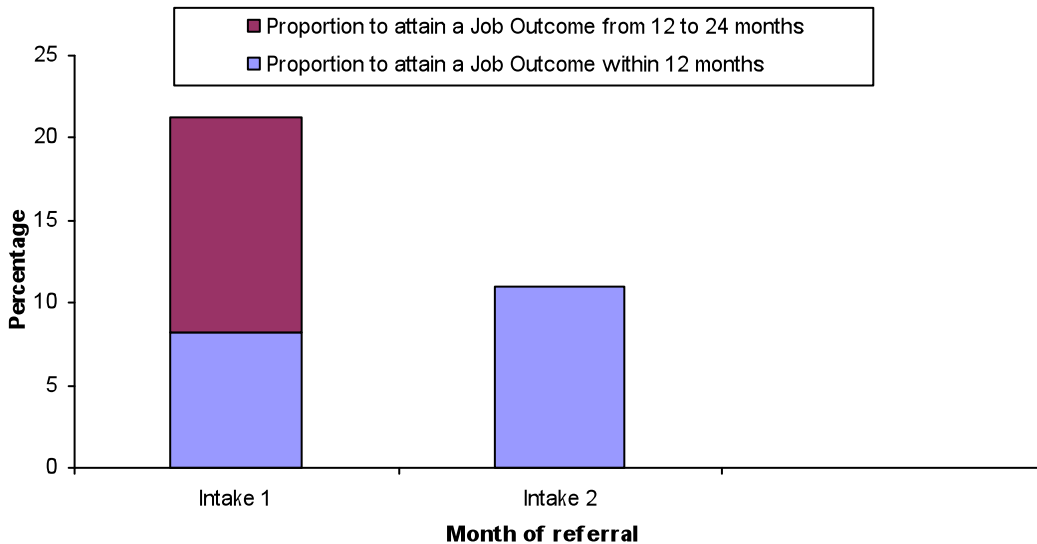
The Work Programme official statistics for Job Outcome payments track, for each monthly intake, the cumulative proportion achieving a Job Outcome payment in the months following referral. This produces a monthly series allowing comparisons, by intake, see chart 1 below.

**Chart 1: Percentage of cumulative Job Outcome payments achieved by monthly intakes in months following Referral (illustrative data)**



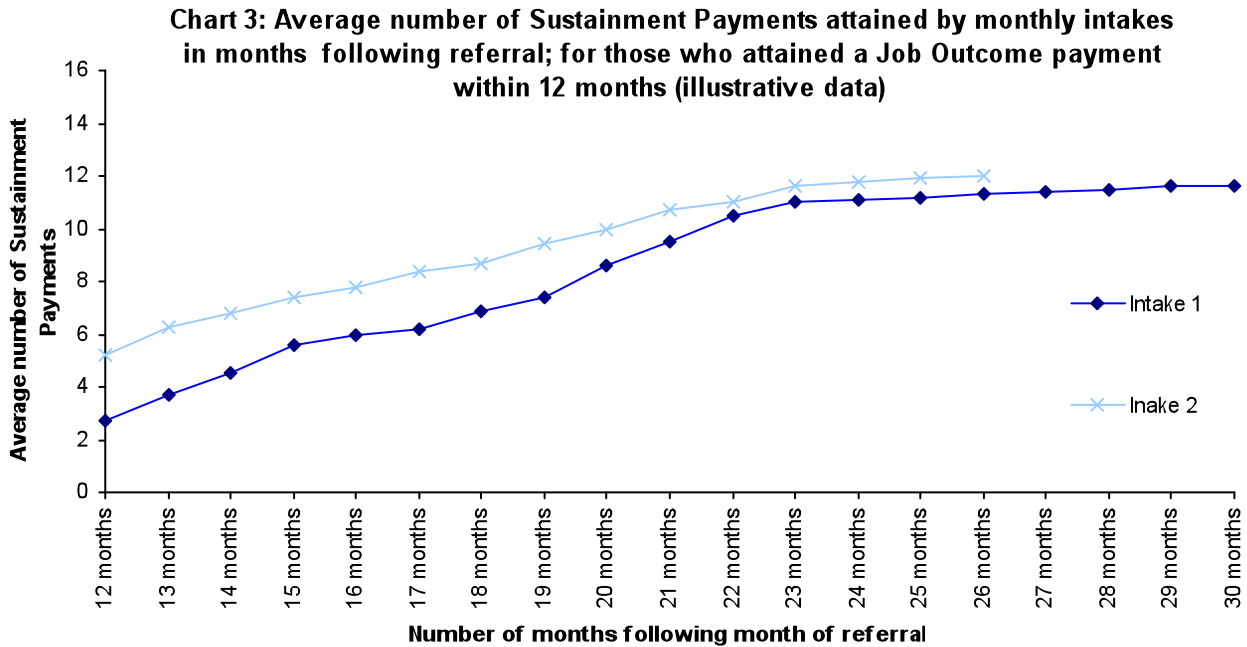
The lead Job Outcome measure examines this proportion at the 12 and 24 month points as per chart 2 below.

**Chart 2: Proportion of monthly intakes of referrals for whom providers were paid a Job Outcome payment within 12 and 24 months following referral (illustrative data)**



## 2.2.2 Sustainment payment measures

The consultation proposed a Sustainment payment measure which tracks those who attained a Job Outcome payment by the 12 month point for each intake and examines the cumulative average number of Sustainment payments attained in subsequent months. The proposed lead measure being the average number of Sustainment payments attained at 24 months following referral, although tracking would continue beyond this. This would produce a series as illustrated in chart 3 below.



In the above illustrative example those from intake one who attained a Job Outcome payment within 12 months of referral, worked a little over 44 weeks (11 Sustainment payments) on average over the following 12 months, compared to 48 weeks (12 Sustainment payments) on average for intake 2 over the same period.

This monthly series builds on the lead Job Outcome payment measure and provides a lead Sustainment payment measure that allows sufficient time for at least 13 Sustainment payments to be attained; the maximum number achievable for the majority of Referrals, prior to completion of the allotted time.

Those gaining a Job Outcome payment between 12 and 24 months after referral will be tracked in the same way but reported separately since (as illustrated in figure 1) the allotted time represents a fundamental point as providers are not eligible to claim payments where there is a break in employment after this.

The shape of the line tracking the cumulative average number of Sustainment payments attained over time in Chart 3 will provide information about the pattern of employment, for example a flatter line would indicate a low increase in the cumulative average i.e. fewer further Sustainment payments being attained in each additional month compared to a steeper line. In Chart 3 you can see that intake 1 achieved Sustainment payments at a higher average rate than intake 2, shown by the narrowing of the distance between the two lines when looking at the 12 months and at 24 months points.

This helps provide some information on breaks in employment. This could be important, for example where two claimants have the same number of Sustainment payments, but different employment profiles such as a person A achieving a Job Outcome payment early in the scheme and going on to have multiple different spells of employment compared to person B achieving their Job Outcome payment just before the end of the first 12 month period on the scheme and staying in uninterrupted employment.



DWP will develop and publish new statistics as outlined above. These statistics are being developed and will form part of the statistical summary later in the year.

### **2.3 Completers**

Individuals on the Work Programme receive two years of continuous support unless they complete early. During this time participants may change benefits or move into employment. Early completion can only occur where the Provider has claimed the final eligible outcome payment; (maximum number of Sustainment payments possible) before the 104 weeks allotted time, where the participant becomes deceased or where the participant is referred to Work choice by Jobcentre Plus or to a Residential Training College.

The first participants completed their allotted time on the Work Programme in June 2013 and, as outlined in the consultation, initial statistics on completers were included in the associated September 2013 release.

Since the consultation was issued, DWP have released further statistics on those who have completed the Work Programme. This information has been incorporated into statistics on the current status of individuals which includes those;

- who have completed the Work Programme early within the 104 week period due to :
  - being referred to other suitable provision, for example Work Choice;
  - being referred to a Residential Training College; or
  - becoming deceased.
- where the Provider has claimed the final eligible outcome payment as the claimant achieved the maximum number of Sustainment payments possible;
- who have not completed early or achieved the maximum number of Sustainment payments possible but completed the 104 week point and returned to Jobcentre Plus
- who have not completed early or achieved the maximum number of Sustainment payments possible but completed the scheme at 104 weeks and returned to Jobcentre Plus at a point later than that, as they were not on benefit at that point;
- who have not completed early or achieved the maximum number of Sustainment payments possible but completed the scheme at the 104 week point and are currently off benefit but have not yet achieved the maximum number of Outcome payments;

This information has been released via the cumulative Tabulation Tool with the following breakdowns available:

- Age of claimant (at time of Referral)
- Gender of claimant
- Region (formerly Government Office Region) (at time of Referral)
- Local Authority (at time of Referral)
- Parliamentary Constituency of claimant (Westminster) (at time of Referral)
- Payment Group
- Disability Indicator
- Ethnicity
- Ethnicity Summary
- Jobcentre Plus District
- Contract
- Primary Health Condition
- Lone Parent Status
- Mandatory/Voluntary Referral
- Current Work Programme Status

A monthly completers Tabulation Tool has also been released with the following breakdowns available:

- Time Series (both of Referral and completion dates)
- Local Authority
- Payment Group
- Westminster Parliamentary Constituency
- Region
- Contract
- Contract Package Area
- Current Work Programme Status

Equivalent information is released via the Google Public Data Explorer.

Month of Referral was a commonly requested breakdown from those responding to the consultation.

Since providers can in theory receive outcome payments up to 48 months after Referral, to reflect any updates to the figures the full historic statistical series is refreshed with each release. This is explained in more detail in section 2.7 of the background information note.

Benefit information is used to inform current Work Programme status, in particular statistics on those completing the allotted time and returning to Jobcentre Plus at 104 weeks. Due to the time taken to receive benefit information after the event, revisions will be higher (revisions will effectively reclassify those from other groups in the subsequent release) for statistics relating to the two most recent intakes to reach 104 weeks. The level of revision between the last two releases, for the last two intakes in both to reach 104 weeks, found a change of around 15% with the level of revision for previous intakes less than 3%. Therefore care must be taken when drawing conclusions involving the most recent two intakes to reach 104 weeks.

## **2.4 Format of the release**

### **2.4.1 Statistical summary**

The statistical summary was overhauled for the September 2013 release, after liaising with the National Statistician's good practice team. The consultation sought to seek views of users on the new layout and the commentary contained in the release.

Feedback from the consultation for the statistical summary was fundamentally positive, with users stating that the presentation was helpful and user friendly. Areas for improvement were suggested which focused on the language used in the commentary and the limitations of releasing statistical tables via .pdf format summary. From the June 2014 release DWP also provided the supplementary tables via excel spread sheets to facilitate re-use.

Some respondents felt that the language used in the statistical summary should be further simplified however others noted that DWP should avoid the risk of over-simplifying, as the programme is complex.

DWP aims to continually improve the statistical release to enhance clarity and consistency for all users. Many of the terms used in the summary provide factual information about the policy and operational context of the Work Programme and as such are an intrinsic part of the statistical release. In order to support non-expert users in interpreting the statistics, DWP provide overviews which describe the various elements of the scheme and explains the various metrics and the key terminology relevant to the Work Programme.

The department is committed to proactively responding to feedback on users regarding the release and offer them the chance to do this via the questionnaire on the Work Programme Statistics landing page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-statistics-questionnaire>

The Department continues to welcome feedback via the mechanisms outlined in this document.

### **2.4.2 Other products in the release**

As noted, in addition to the Statistical summary, the Work Programme official statistics are released via two main mechanisms

- The [DWP Tabulation Tool](#) which primarily provides detailed, low level, information on a monthly or cumulative basis.
- The [data visualisation tool](#) (via Google Public Data Explorer) which provides detailed, low level information on monthly intake cohorts tracked over time.

As well as this, the department publishes stand alone excel tables showing:

- The numbers of Job Outcomes payments paid to providers before validation factors have been taken into account
- The percentage of Referrals that could achieve a Job Outcome payment which did achieve a Job Outcome payment by various geographies.
- The Business plan transparency indicator of the proportion of customers for whom providers have achieved a Job Outcome payment at 12 months on the programme split by contract and payment group

The department also publish a background information note, which gives users information on the programme itself, methodology used, limitations of the data and uses and users of the data.

Feedback from the consultation, in the main, was generally positive but did show some areas of focus:

- More focus on Cohort analysis
- Limitations with the Tabulation tool: primarily being unable to download created tables to excel, limitations with the combinations of breakdowns and requests for further information on cohorts to be available via the tool.

- Limitations with the Data visualisation tool; primarily respondents finding it difficult to navigate the tool and being unable to download created tables.

The department publishes a wide range of information broken down by cohort in both the statistical release and in particular via the visualisation tool. The underlying data from the visualisation tools is available to download on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. More prominent links to the underlying data and information on using the visualisation tool have been placed on the Work Programme statistics page and within the statistical summary document. DWP will update the instructions for the data visualisation tool to assist users in accessing the data.

The limitations with the Tabulation tool and Visualisation tool will, on the whole, be addressed through the plans outlined in Section 3 which include the aim over time to migrate the dissemination of statistics to the Department's new dissemination tool Stat-Xplore.

### **2.4.3 Review of Work Programme minimum performance levels**

As noted in the consultation, an independent review (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-work-programme-minimum-performance-levels>) was carried out to assess how effectively the Department publishes performance for the Work Programme.

There are two key sets of measures that the Department uses for the Work Programme; those which focus on comparing monthly intake cohorts, such as the transparency indicator outlined in section 2.2, which forms part of the range of Departmental measures to support transparency of public information and those measures used when working with providers, based on the number of Job Outcome Payments in a financial year as a proportion of the Referrals in that year.

For the latter, contractual minimum performance levels (MPLs) are set out for certain payment groups based on the proportion of expected Referrals which providers are required to convert to Job Outcome payments under their contracts in that year. These are calculated based on expected movement into employment in the absence of the Work Programme.

The contractual MPLs have limitations; notably the impact of changes between expected and actual referral patterns.

In response to the review of Work Programme measures, expectations based on both the expected movement into employment in the absence of the Programme and actual Referral patterns will be published alongside key measures from September 2014.

## 2.5 Responses to specific consultation questions

The consultation document posed a number of specific questions for user response. Many of the responses used these questions as direct prompts and have informed the strategies outlined above. The responses to the questions were broadly positive, with a few exceptions. The results are in the table below.

Topic	Consultation response	DWP response
The proposed methodology to present the average number of Sustainment payments attained at 24 months following referral, for those who attained a Job Outcome payment within 12 months of referral.	<p>Responses largely supported the approach of measuring and tracking the average number of Sustainment payments over time.</p> <p>In the main respondents were broadly content with the proposed lead measure and suggested extensions; with inclusion of a measure for those gaining a Job Outcome payment after the 12 point, a common request.</p>	<p>DWP will develop and publish new statistics as outlined in Section 2.2.</p> <p>These statistics are being developed and will form part of the statistical summary replacing the current section A4, later in the year.</p>
Other options of presenting and measuring Sustainment payments to consider.	The main alternative measures put forward for consideration were based around grouping and tracking individuals from the point of Job Outcome.	The limitations with this approach are outlined in Section 2.2 and Annex 4.1.
Breakdowns for the new Sustainment payment measure.	<p>No specific breakdowns were requested for Sustainment Payments.</p> <p>Most requests asked for existing breakdowns although a few respondents asked for some additional general breakdowns.</p>	<p>DWP expect the breakdowns outlined in section 2.1 to be available.</p> <p>A response to the request for additional general breakdowns can be found in Section 2.6</p>
The proposed method for presenting numbers of participants who have completed the Work Programme	In general responses to the proposed method for presenting completers supported the approach subject to information being available by intake.	From September 2013, statistics on those completing the Work Programme have been added to the statistical release. From December 2013, they were released via the tabulation tool, to give users the opportunity to table them by various breakdowns, including cohort (by month of referral and completion) For more

		information see section 2.3.
Other options on presenting information on completers to consider.	<p>One response suggested tracking individuals beyond the 24 month point, allowing a run on period, to account for the maximum time providers can receive payments.</p> <p>Another response asked us to include the benefit status of the claimant when the completed the scheme.</p>	<p>The statistics currently track claimants for the entire time that providers are eligible to receive payments for them.</p> <p>Information on the benefit status of the claimant at the time of completion is currently published, through both the statistical release and tabulation tool. However as noted due to the time taken to receive benefit information after the event, revisions will be higher (revisions will effectively reclassify those from other groups in the subsequent release) for statistics relating to the two most recent intakes to reach 104 weeks.</p>
Breakdowns requested for numbers of completers.	Other than requests for currently available breakdowns such as geography, a number of respondents requested information on destinations of completers.	<p>DWP continue to examine data sources and methodologies to improve information relating to the destination of claimants leaving benefit.</p> <p>Whilst some information relating to the destination of claimants leaving benefit is readily available (e.g. claims for other benefits, death), other information (e.g. education, prison and living wage-free) ranges from difficult to impossible.</p> <p>Complete destination information for claimants leaving the benefit system would be very costly to obtain.</p>

	DWP did receive some additional general requests for breakdowns.	A response to the request for more additional general breakdowns is included in Section 2.6
The current format and methods of releasing the Work Programme Official Statistics (and suggestions for enhancement).	<p>Requests for further information via cohort were common</p> <p>Some respondents asked for the tables contained in the statistical summary to be released in an excel format as easier to use than PDF.</p> <p>Respondents spoke about the Tabulation tool limitations. These included not being able to download the created tables to excel, only able to do limited combinations of breakdowns and to have more information on cohorts available via it.</p> <p>Respondents also spoke about the Data visualisation limitations. These included its user friendliness with respondents finding it difficult to navigate and</p>	<p>DWP currently publish a large amount of information by cohort via the data visualisation tool; the underlying data is also available via <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>More prominent links to the underlying data and information on using the visualisation tool have been placed on the Work Programme statistics page and within the statistical summary document. DWP will update the instructions for the data visualisation tool to assist users in accessing the data.</p> <p>From the June 2014 release, the department also released the tables from the statistical summary in an excel format.</p> <p>The limitations with the Tabulation tool and Visualisation tool will, on the whole, be addressed through the plans outlined in Section 3 which include the aim over time to migrate the dissemination of statistics to the Departments new dissemination tool Stat-Xplore.</p>



	<p>the inability to download the associated Data tables</p> <p>One respondent asked us to consider releasing the statistics through the NOMIS Website.</p>	<p>Stat-Xplore is intended to be the main vehicle for the release of DWP Statistics. However, DWP will consider how to make data available for re-use including to NOMIS either in the current manner or via Stat-Xplore.</p>
<p>The improvements from the June 2013 Statistical Release (and suggestions for further improvement)</p>	<p>The improvements to the statistical release were welcomed and respondents recognised that the release was now more user friendly</p> <p>Some respondents wanted the department to simplify the release even further, mainly regarding the language used in the release. While other respondents asked the department not to try and over simplify the release.</p>	<p>DWP aims to continually improve the statistical release to enhance clarity and consistency for all users. Many of the terms used in the summary provide factual information about the policy and operational context of the Work Programme and as such are an intrinsic part of the statistical release. In order to support non-expert users in interpreting the statistics, DWP provide an overview diagram which describes the various elements of the scheme and explains the various metrics and the key terminology relevant to the Work Programme.</p> <p>The department is committed to proactively responding to feedback on users regarding the release and offer them the chance to do this via the questionnaire on the Work Programme Statistics landing page:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-statistics-questionnaire">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-statistics-questionnaire</a></p>

## 2.6 Detailed responses

Of course, many responses included detailed comments and requests primarily about additional content. These have been summarised the table below, together with the DWP response.

Detailed comment	DWP response
As a means to aid subcontractor performance, we also recommend allowing the release of performance data by subcontractors within each prime's supply chain	This requirement has been taken forward via the Work Programme: Building Best Practice group which includes prime contractors, subcontractors, voluntary and community sector organisations, the Employment Related Services Association (ERSA), the Association of the Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO), the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), the Skills Funding Agency, Business in the Community and the Business Disability Forum.
Future releases should contain Job Start as well as Job Outcome and Sustainment data	Information on job starts is not part of the information providers are contractually bound to supply to the Department. DWP is investigating the feasibility of collecting reliable job start data and considering the rationale for publishing associated statistics as part of the Work Programme Official Statistics release.
We would welcome early guidance on how Minimum Performance Levels will be set.	Minimum performance levels will be set based on the performance levels set out in the invitation to tender (ITT). The ITT figures we will be used to generate a lifetime programme performance figure. This will then be profiled over the life of the programme based on the volumes of referrals the programme receives.
The performance tables alone are meaningless as they do not take account of regional variations. The only true measure of comparative performance is within a contract package area.	The department currently publishes the Minimum Performance Levels by contract and as a headline figure. Information regarding the contract package area is also provided allowing comparisons within this level.
Breakdowns showing homeless participants' referrals, attachments, outcomes and completions should be included throughout the Work Programme official statistics	<p>A large number of quality assurance checks were carried out during the early development of the statistics to ascertain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reliability, completeness and level of disclosure of individual variables</li> <li>• levels of duplicate, missing or contradictory information and consistency across computer systems</li> <li>• monthly build up of figures in system data and trends and variation in characteristic, time series and geographical breakdowns</li> </ul> <p>This initial look at information on homeless participants found no major issues however the number of records was very small. The outcome of subsequent quality assurance has determined that this data is not of suitable quality for release as Official Statistics.</p>
Statistics on participants in the JSA Early Access group should be disaggregated	Quality assurance on information relating to disaggregation of the early access group shows the data is not of sufficient quality for release as official statistics.
Performance for the 3-6 month versus 12 month prognosis	To aid consistency of presentation, to reflect user needs and DWP contracts with providers - statistics relating to Payment Group 6:

<p>groups in PG6 are separated out for reporting purposes.</p>	<p>New ESA claimants will present 12 month prognosis claimants separately. The June 2014 Statistical Summary presented the statistics in this way, from September, this will be reflected in all the statistical products including the Tabulation Tool</p>
<p>The opportunity would be welcomed to cross-reference this data by Local Enterprise Partnership area by payment group, age, mandatory/voluntary referral</p>	<p>DWP will review the potential to include further breakdowns during the planned migration to Stat-Xplore outlined in section 3.</p> <p>Currently Stat-Xplore allows geographies including lower level ones such as Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) and Census Output Area (COA). Part of Stat-Xplore's functionality allows registered users to create and save bespoke breakdowns of available data and also redefine existing breakdowns to suit their specific requirements.</p>
<p>CPA level data should be augmented with information on regional economic data</p>	<p>There are no current plans to include economic data in the statistics release. DWP will review the potential to include further information during the planned migration to Stat-Xplore outlined in section 3.</p>
<p>We would also like to see more detailed 'off benefits' data, for example, by payment group.</p>	<p>The Department publishes a wide range of off benefit data within both the statistical release (section A5 and supplementary tables 2.2) and through the cohort data visualisations (including breakdowns by payment group).</p> <p>More prominent links to the underlying data and information on using the visualisation tool have been placed on the Work Programme statistics page and within the statistical summary document. DWP will update the instructions for the data visualisation tool to assist users in accessing the data.</p>
<p>It would also be useful to have greater understanding of how and when historical information is adjusted.</p>	<p>To reflect any updates to the figures the full historic statistical series is refreshed each time the figures are released. Further detail on the nature and magnitude of these changes are provided in section 2.6.2 of the Background Information note.</p> <p>Additionally, the department publishes a one click excel table showing the number of Job Outcome payments achieved by each contract, without the adjustment factor applied. Comparing this with actual Job Outcome tables by contract, allows users to infer the size of the adjustment factors that have been applied to individual contracts.</p>

## 3 Next Steps

DWP will develop and publish new statistics as outlined in Section 2.2. These will form part of the statistical summary replacing the current section A4, later in the year.

The areas for improvement identified will, on the whole, be addressed through proposed plans to develop a unified publication database for DWP which will be released via Stat-Xplore the Department's new dissemination tool which builds in more flexibility than the current Tabulation Tool. The proposed unified database represents a significant development in DWP statistics, which will be rolled out over time. The database will combine for the first time information from Housing Benefit, HMRC Tax Credits and most DWP administered benefits into a single database allowing

- caseload statistics at individual and household level across benefits/credits.
- more detailed breakdowns than previously available.
- statistical group classification by benefit/credit received, personal circumstances, work status and work-related requirements
- a useful baseline prior to, and during the roll out of Universal Credit

and intended over time to include

- statistics on movements and changes of status within the system
- eventual integration of statistics on employment programmes

The public consultation on the proposed changes

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-statistics-showing-claims-for-universal-credit-and-pip>) has now closed. We are analysing your feedback and will publish a response in the coming months.

DWP continue to encourage user comments and questions via the "Welfare and Benefits" community at <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk> or via email to [stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk).

### 3.1 *Stat-Xplore*

Dissemination via Stat-Xplore will further improve the accessibility to DWP data, it will allow users to

- create customised tabulations
- view results in interactive charts and maps
- download outputs into common file formats (or share via social networking tools)

We are still finalising the timescales for when the data will be migrated over to Stat-Xplore, however we will keep users informed via section 2.7.4 of the background information note available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-official-statistics-background-information-note>

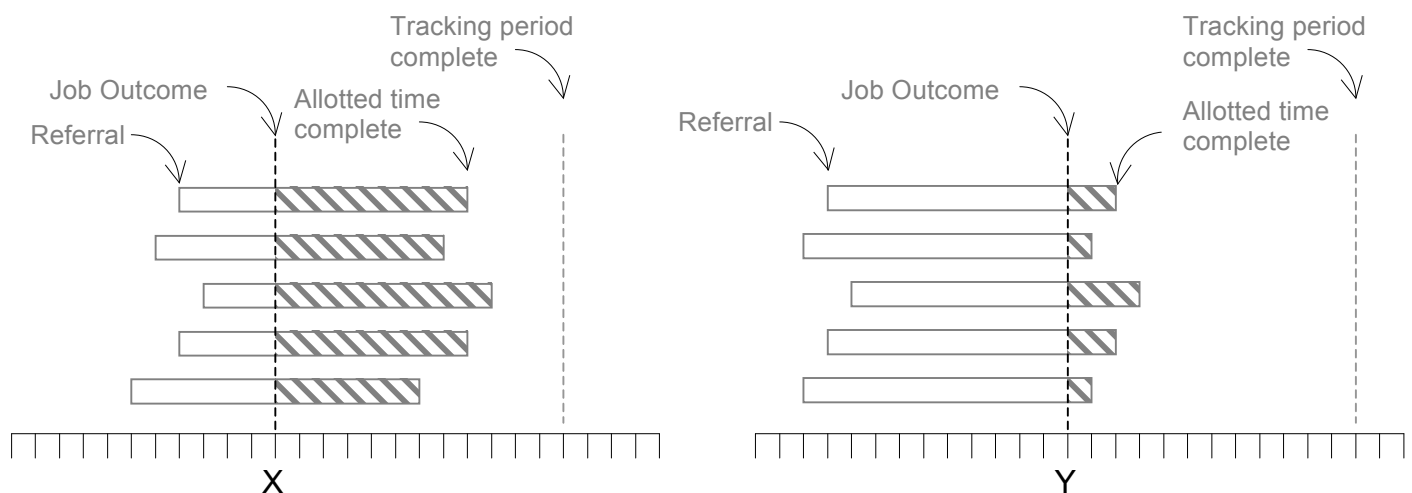
## 4 Annex:

### 4.1 Tracking from the point of Job Outcome

On the face of it, simply tracking from the point of Job Outcome payment would give a good measure of sustainment. However, the rate of Job Outcome attainment could heavily influence the interpretation.

Consider the following example; tracking two sets of five individuals from the point of Job Outcome for the same period of time. Five individuals attain a Job Outcome Payment within month X and five in month Y. The point at which a Job Outcome payment is attained following referral is different, but we assume that both groups have the same pattern of employment following this.

Figure 2: Difference in Job Outcome depending on timing



Both groups have the same tracking period, however a key difference is the proportion of the tracking period where a break in employment is permitted (the shaded area). Therefore, despite having the same pattern of employment from the point of Job Outcome, the measure of Sustainment payments (total or average), could be less for those attaining Job Outcomes in month Y than those in month X.