

# Freedom of Information request 2532/2013

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## Information request

*How many disability benefit claimants who were claiming benefits as a result of their mental illness have been declared 'fit-for-work' since the current government came to power in May 2010?*

## DWP response

Entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is based on functional capabilities, not on condition per se. The medical condition recorded on a claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to ESA.

The data on health conditions is based on the information recorded on the medical certificate ('fitnote') provided by a person's GP when they first make a claim for ESA. This represents what their GP considers to be the reason a person cannot work at that time. However, many people applying for ESA will, in fact, have more than one condition, and these conditions may affect each other. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only one is currently recorded.

The table below shows the outcomes of initial Work Capability Assessments (WCAs) undertaken between May 2010 and November 2012 (the latest data available) for new ESA claims where the medical condition recorded at the start of their claim was a mental health condition. Claimants who may be experiencing some form of mental ill health but have a physical health condition recorded are not included.

<b>Table: Outcomes of initial WCAs undertaken between May 2010 and November 2012 where a mental health condition was recorded.</b>			
<b>Support Group</b>	<b>Work Related Activity Group</b>	<b>Fit for Work</b>	<b>Any outcome</b>
82,800	113,100	236,300	<b>432,200</b>

Source: Department for Work and Pensions benefit administration datasets.

Rounding: All volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.

Please note that the above figures only include outcomes for new ESA claims. Information on the medical conditions of those on incapacity benefits who are reassessed for ESA is not currently available.