

# Freedom of Information request 2013-4677

Date received: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Date of response: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## Information request

- A. How many people with mental health problems have been assessed over the last two years for further Work Capability Assessments?
- B. How many of these people have passed and how many have failed the Work Capability Assessment.
- C. How many people who have failed the Work Capability Assessment for mental health reasons have appealed.
- D. How many of the appeals in relation to the mental health assessments have been upheld or overturned.

## DWP response

Please note that a Work Capability Assessment cannot be 'failed' - the purpose is to determine whether a claimant has limited capability for work, and if so, whether they have limited capability for work-related activity and there are three possible outcomes:

- being found fit for work and therefore not being awarded ESA;
- being awarded ESA and placed in the Work Related Activity Group; or
- being awarded ESA and placed in the Support Group.

In response to queries A and B, the tables below show the number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Work Capability Assessments (WCA) undertaken, this includes WCA's for new claims initial and repeat assessments and Incapacity Benefits Reassessments (IBR), by outcome of the WCA and whether they are classed as having mental and behavioural disorders.

**New Claims - Outcomes at initial functional assessment, Great Britain: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

	<b>Total</b>	Support Group	Work Related Activity Group	Fit for Work	Claim closed before assessment complete	Assessment still in progress
Total outcomes	<b>1,453,900</b>	217,900	211,000	422,800	527,900	74,400
Of which: Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)	<b>560,700</b>	91,700	91,000	166,400	174,700	36,800

**New Claims - Outcomes at repeat functional assessment, Great Britain: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

	<b>Total</b>	Support Group	Work Related Activity Group	Fit for Work	Claim closed before assessment complete	Assessment still in progress
Total outcomes	<b>638,200</b>	207,900	172,400	87,700	70,000	100,300
Of which: Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)	<b>307,900</b>	100,900	91,000	36,800	24,000	55,300

**Incapacity Benefits Reassessments - Outcomes of Work Capability Assessments adjusted to account for the outcome of appeal, Great Britain: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

	<b>Total</b>	Support Group	Work Related Activity Group	Fit for Work	Claim closed before assessment complete	Assessment still in progress
Total outcomes	<b>782,900</b>	235,300	323,300	188,200	28,700	7,500
Of which: Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 - F99)	<b>388,400</b>	113,900	167,000	88,300	15,200	4,000

**Source:** Department for Work and Pensions and ATOS Healthcare.

**Notes:**

1. Data is rounded to nearest 100, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The outcome recorded is the final DWP Decision Maker's decision or the recommendation made by the Atos Healthcare Professional where the Decision Maker's decision is not available.
3. Categories: World Health Organisations' International Classification of Diseases (2010) Condition Groups
4. Data is for new ESA claims made between October 2010 and September 2012 and for IBR referred between March 2011 and September 2012

In response to queries C and D, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we are obliged to assist you in providing options to narrow your request, by reforming or refocusing it, so that it will fall beneath the cost limit. In this case our advice would be to narrow your question so that it only asks for information on those placed in the Fit for Work group who appeal.