

Freedom of Information request 2015-4599

Date received 26 October 2015

Date of response 03 December 2015

Information request

Please give the number of individuals (broken down by ICD code) who faced:

- an adverse sanction decision
- a non-adverse sanction decision
- a cancelled sanction referral

as a cumulative total between the months April 2014 and March 2015 (i.e. the last 12 months of statistics available) and the previous 12 months April 2013 – March 2014. We are looking to know the exact number of people who faced a sanction decision in these 12 month periods. Below I have copied a table from Stats Xplore which shows the type of data we are requesting (but with ours broken down by ICD code). As you will see from the table below the final Totals take into consideration individuals who may have faced more than one sanction decision. This is the total we are looking for.

Month Decision Made	201404 (Apr-14)	201405 (May-14)	201406 (Jun-14)	201407 (Jul-14)	201408 (Aug-14)	201409 (Sep-14)	201410 (Oct-14)	201411 (Nov-14)	201412 (Dec-14)	201501 (Jan-15)	201502 (Feb-15)	201503 (Mar-15)	Total
Decision Outcome													
Decision to apply a sanction (adverse)	2,797	2,814	2,534	2,354	1,944	1,971	1,908	1,786	1,829	1,905	1,962	2,639	19,854
Decision not to apply a sanction (non-adverse)	2,648	2,582	2,506	2,284	2,057	2,210	1,916	1,779	1,598	1,788	1,922	2,036	20,446
Cancelled Referrals	3,285	4,499	4,886	4,234	3,629	3,803	2,818	2,606	2,061	1,829	1,621	1,737	29,175
Total	8,331	9,430	9,454	8,405	7,126	7,482	6,661	5,852	5,139	5,213	5,128	5,904	54,794

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. Over the last year the number of individuals receiving an adverse sanction decision on Employment and Support Allowance has decreased.

In response to your query the information you require is shown in the attached table.

This includes information on individuals with adverse, non-adverse and cancelled ESA sanction decisions, by the Summary International

Classifications of Diseases. The data covers the periods April 2013 to March 2014 and April 2014 to March 2015 as requested.

Please ensure you read the notes before using and interpreting this data.

**The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.
They should therefore be treated with caution.**

Number of individuals with adverse, non-adverse and cancelled ESA sanction decisions by Summary International Classifications of Diseases: Great Britain
- April 2013 to March 2014 and April 2014 to March 2015

	2013-14			2014-15		
	Adverse	Non-Adverse	Cancelled	Adverse	Non-Adverse	Cancelled
Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System	677	921	1,336	715	750	922
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	2,276	3,025	3,877	2,306	2,824	2,920
Diseases of the Nervous System	785	1,040	1,131	809	944	920
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	927	1,174	2,445	956	977	1,363
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	11,446	14,693	20,906	10,560	11,096	17,528
Other/Missing	3,424	4,440	7,948	3,364	3,744	5,204
Total	19,528	25,297	37,638	18,715	20,331	28,862

Source: DWP WPLS and ESA sanctions data

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have had statistical disclosure control applied to avoid the release of confidential data. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.
2. Data for the most recent months will be subject to revision as numbers of sanction decisions and decision outcomes can change due to reconsidered decisions and appeals.
3. Data is provided to March 2015 as requested using the latest data available.
4. Tables based on individuals show a count of how many individuals have received a sanction decision. An individual may receive more than one sanction decision in any given period.
5. **ICD (disease) summary code:** ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and so may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. The "Other" category includes claimants with an unknown medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
6. A medical condition does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and the decision on entitlement is based on the claimant's ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment
7. **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 ESA claim is closed (disallowance).
8. **Non-adverse:** A 'non-adverse' decision is when a case has been considered and a decision was made not to apply a sanction.
9. **Cancelled:** After a case has been referred to a Decision Maker the referral can be cancelled before a decision is made. A 'cancelled decision' does not refer to the cancellation of a sanction after an appeal has been made.
10. **Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**