

# Freedom of Information request 930/2011

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## Information request

I would like information related to Employment Support Allowance and epilepsy. Namely,

- a) The number of applicants, declaring their epilepsy, each year.
- b) The number of applicants, declaring a neurological condition, each year.
- c) The number of people with epilepsy in the work-related activity group, and the number of people with epilepsy in the support group band.
- d) The number of applicants with epilepsy who are refused ESA each year.
- e) The number of applicants with epilepsy, who are refused ESA each year, who are successful on appeal.

## DWP response

The figures contained in this response are consistent with the January 2011 Work Capability Assessment (WCA) publication, which is available at the link below.

The publication also explains reasons for placement in the support group (SG) and work-related activity group (WRAG), and point scoring across the whole range of functional activities assessed by the WCA.

You can access official statistics on the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) Work Capability Assessment by health condition and function on the Department's website at:

[Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment](#)

Table 1 and Table 3 of the publication have been reproduced at Annex A and B below and are restricted to people whose primary condition recorded at the start of the ESA claim is epilepsy. This provides the information you requested at parts a, c, d and e of your question. The publication provides a detailed explanation of the data used to construct the table and the terminology used.

To address part b of your question, Annex C shows the number of new ESA claims for people whose primary condition recorded at the start of the ESA claim was relating to a disease of the nervous system (ICD10 codes G00 to G99). Our medical experts have advised that this is a suitable category to use to identify people with a neurological condition.

ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support paid on incapacity grounds for new claims from October 2008, and our latest published figures are for claims to May 2010. As we currently have only one complete year of data on ESA, monthly figures are presented.