

Freedom of Information request 2015-905_911

Date received 5 March 2015

Date of response 2 April 2015

Information request

FOI 2015-905

Hi I am looking for some information, regarding to failed attempts to claim industrial injuries for B6, EAA / Hypersensitivity pneumonitis based on prescription.

Say in the last 10 to 15 years, how many case's have their been.

Also the details of each case, in regards to the employment, the type of activity they were undertaking when they were refused industrial injuries benefit.

FOI 2015-911

Number of claims made to Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit on B6 - EAA in the last ten years.

How many were successful

How many were unsuccessful and in which occupation/industry did these claimants work

DWP response

We 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 the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

Information that is available within cost is shown in the table below and is for the number of Industrial Injury Disablement Benefit (IIDB) first assessments, for the Prescribed Disease B6, Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis, by outcome of the claim. Information on the type of activity being undertaken is not recorded on the data available for analysis and data for disallowances prior to June 2002 is not readily available.

Industrial Injury Disablement Benefit - first diagnosed prescribed diseases all assessments in the year for Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis: April 2002 – June 2014

Year	All	Disallowed	Payable	Not Payable	Claim Withdrawn	Claim Transferred
2002 ²	20	10	-	-	-	-
2003	20	10	-	-	-	-
2004	20	10	10	-	-	-
2005	10	10	-	-	-	-
2006	10	10	-	-	-	-
2007	30	10	10	10	-	-
2008	30	20	10	-	-	-
2009	20	10	10	-	-	-
2010	20	20	10	-	-	-
2011	10	10	-	-	-	-
2012	20	10	10	-	-	-
2013	10	-	-	-	-	-
2014 ²	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	210	120	70	20	10	-

Source: Department for Work and Pensions IIDB database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. " - " denotes nil or negligible.
2. Figures are for each calendar year, except for 2002 which is 1 April to 31 December and 2014 which is 1 January to 30 June 2014 as this is the latest data available.
3. June 2002 is the earliest available data, prior to that figures on disallowances are not readily available.
4. Claims from people resident overseas are included as are cases where assessments resulted in no payment.

You may find it useful to know that many of the antigens associated with B6, Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis (EAA, also known as Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis) are encountered in an occupational setting as below:

Disease	Source
Farmer's lung.	Mouldy hay, straw or grain.
Bird fancier's lung.	Avian excreta and bloom.
Bagassosis.	Mouldy bagasse
Malt worker's lung.	Mouldy maltings.
Mushroom worker's lung.	Spores released during spawning.
Ventilation pneumonitis.	Contamination of air conditioning units.

EAA has been a prescribed disease since 1964 for farmer's lung due to "exposure to the dust of mouldy hay or other mouldy vegetable produce". The terms of prescription were extended in 1983. The current terms of prescription are given in the table below:

Occupation

Exposure to moulds or fungal spores or heterologous proteins by reason of employment in:

- a) agriculture, horticulture, forestry, cultivation of edible fungi or malt working; or
- b) loading or unloading or handling in storage of mouldy vegetable matter or edible fungi; or
- c) caring for or handling birds; or
- d) handling bagasse; or
- e) work involving exposure to metalworking fluid mists.

You may also find it useful to know that that Health and Safety Executive (HSE) also hold information on accidents and injuries:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/a-z.htm>

Guidance on how to raise a Freedom of Information request with HSE can be found here:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/index.htm>