

Freedom of Information request 2014-112

Date received: 3rd January 2014

Date of response: 29th January 2014

Information request

I am therefore requesting under the freedom of information act, how many individuals are claiming Attendance Allowance that have a medical condition the same as I have. The medical condition is having a permanent Stoma which requires frequent changes of a colostomy bag.

DWP response

In response to your request, information on Attendance Allowance (AA) for those with a stoma is only recorded for claimants requiring “attention to their stoma where the diagnosis is not known” and this has only been recorded since October 2008. Please note that if we have information about the underlying reason for the stoma such as ulcerative colitis, this diagnosis is recorded instead. This means the figure provided in the table below will not include everyone on Attendance Allowance who has a stoma. However for your convenience we have included information for two relevant conditions which **may** involve a stoma.

Please note a diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to AA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.

Attendance Allowance cases in payment by disabling condition – May 2013

Total AA caseload	1,502,770
Ulcerative colitis	310
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	980
Attention to colostomy/ileostomy/ stoma – diagnosis not known	110

Source: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Caseloads show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where more than one disabling condition is recorded, the main disabling condition is reported. An exception is where the primary condition recorded is terminal illness: these cases are normally reported under the secondary condition if available.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to AA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability.
5. The category 'Inflammatory Bowel Disease' contains some cases of Ulcerative Colitis, (classified under the pre-October 2008 coding system) as well as Crohns Disease, Coeliac disease and other diseases of the small bowel – type not known.