

Freedom of Information request 48/2011

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Information request

I am seeking statistical information about the Permitted Work programme, operated by the DWP and available to disabled people across the UK who are seeking to participate in employment within the range of their existing disability.

Could you provide the following?

1. The total number of participants in PW across the UK, for the region of Scotland, and for the Edinburgh and Glasgow Travel to Work areas (or other convenient geography of TTWA data is not accessible relating to those two metropolitan areas) for the most recent year for which you hold data?
2. Number of those participants who joined PW in the course of that year and the number of participants who ended their participation in the year for which data is available? In line with the geographical specification above could you provide the data for the UK, Scotland, Glasgow and Edinburgh?
3. Do you hold any data in relation to the total sums earned by participants in PW by employers under the scheme (the weekly maximum being £95 for 16 hours)? If the data is available then if it were broken down by region that would be useful.
4. Are you able to provide data in relation to the total number of those PW participants who moved from that employment status into formal paid employment during or on completion of their PW involvement? Again if a region breakdown could be given it would be useful.

DWP response

Information on the benefit system, the range of benefits available, the rates in payment and eligibility conditions are available on the [Directgov](#) website. This includes information on eligibility for Permitted Work.

Please note that Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claims from October 2008.

National Statistics on Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance claimants are published on the DWP website via the Tabulation Tool, which allows you to construct tables to your own requirements: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> .

Detailed Information on permitted work is not available for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Information on permitted work status is collected on the Department's administrative data however this information is not carried forward to the reporting datasets used for the routine publication of benefit statistics. The raw benefit data indicate approximately 1.9% of ESA claimants have a permitted work start date. **Please note that the figure quoted was derived from unpublished information which has not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard and should therefore be treated with caution.**

In response to question 1, information is not available for Travel to Work Areas. The following table shows Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) claimants with Permitted Work in Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Figures are taken from 5% sample data which have been rated up proportionately to match 100% Great Britain proportions.

Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) claimants with Permitted Work in Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow

		Scotland	Edinburgh	Glasgow
August 2009	IB/SDA	5,200	*400	*400
	IB/SDA with Income Support	1,200	*100	*100
November 2009	IB/SDA	4,900	*400	*400
	IB/SDA with Income Support	1,100	*100	*100
February 2010	IB/SDA	4,700	*300	*400
	IB/SDA with Income Support	1,100	*100	*100
May 2010	IB/SDA	4,700	*300	*400
	IB/SDA with Income Support	1,100	*100	*100

Source: DWP Information Directorate, 5% Samples.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Those marked with "*" are based on a very few sample cases and are therefore subject to a high degree of sampling error. These should be used as a guide to the current situation only.

In response to question 2, information is not available to show the number of participants who joined permitted work in the course of a year and the number of participants who ended their participation in the year. The table below shows the number of people each month working within a cycle of permitted work. The information provided are National totals which cannot be broken down by region.

**Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA)
claimants with Permitted Work, Great Britain**

Month	Currently Working				
	Permitted Work Lower Limit	Supported Permitted Work	Permitted Work Higher Limit (PWHL)	Permitted Work Higher Limit Subsequent PWHL after 52 week gap (supported)	Permitted Work Personal Capability Exempt (from Oct 2006)
January 2009	22,240	17,040	16,990	940	3,770
February 2010	22,290	17,080	16,530	920	3,820
March 2010	.	.	.	.	.
April 2010	22,240	17,160	15,860	920	3,900
May 2010	22,200	17,200	15,590	940	3,910
June 2010	21,610	16,760	14,960	950	3,830
July 2010	.	.	.	.	.
August 2010	21,550	16,820	14,540	960	3,940
September 2010	21,460	16,760	14,340	960	3,960
October 2010	22,080	17,250	14,570	1,000	4,120
November 2010	22,050	17,220	14,500	1,030	4,140
December 2010	22,040	17,220	14,520	1,060	4,160

Source:

Management Information statistics 100% counts.

The data supplied are derived from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Notes

1. "." Not available. "-" Nil or negligible
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The figures provided are Permitted Work Data - National Monthly Totals
4. There are different categories of Permitted Work. Information on Permitted Work rules is available on the [Directgov](http://www.direct.gov.uk) website.
 - Permitted Work Lower Limit – Up to £20 per week for unlimited period;
 - Supported Permitted Work – Up to £95 per week from certain types of supported work for an unlimited period for those in the Support Group;
 - Permitted Work Higher Limit – up to £95 per week and less than 16 hours for up to 52 weeks;
 - Permitted Work Higher Limit Subsequent PWHL after 52 week gap (supported) - up to £95 per week from certain types of supported work and less 16 hours after a 52 week gap;

- Permitted Work Personal Capability Exempt (from Oct 2006) - Up to £95 per week from certain types of supported work for an unlimited period for those on Incapacity Benefit who, on the basis of a diagnosis, are not required to go through the full PCA process in order to establish their entitlement to benefit.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records I have established that information is not available to answer part 3 and 4 of your request.