

# Freedom of Information request 2013-5510

Date received 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

Date of response 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## Information request

Please answer the question below and indicate the relevant data for the following:

- Woolwich JCP only
  - Eltham JCP only
1. For each month for each area, beginning in 2011 and ending October 2012 (or data up to the most recent available date):
    - a. how many of the following were applied to JSA claimants:
      - i. Varied length sanctions
      - ii. Fixed length sanctions
      - iii. Disallowances
  2. For each month for each area, beginning in October 2012 and ending October 2013 (or data up to the most recent available date):
    - a. how many of the following were applied to JSA claimants:
      - i. Low level sanctions (please break down by reason)
      - ii. Medium level sanctions (please break down by reason)
      - iii. High level sanctions (please break down by reason)
  3. With reference to the total figures in 1 above, please give the number of decisions (per month) that were overturned for the following reasons.
    - a. Reconsideration by a DWP official
    - b. Hearing at an independent appeal tribunal
  4. With reference to the total figures in 1 above, please indicate the number of sanctions/disallowances applied to the following claimant groups per month:
    - a. Those with a disability
    - b. Ethnicity
    - c. Age
    - d. Lone parent status
  5. With reference to the total figures in 2 above, please give the number of decisions (per month) that were overturned for the following reasons.
    - a. Reconsideration by a DWP official
    - b. Hearing at an independent appeal tribunal
  6. With reference to the total figures in 2 above, please indicate the number of sanctions applied to the following claimant groups per month:
    - a. Those with a disability
    - b. Ethnicity
    - c. Age

d. Lone parent status

## **DWP response**

In response to your query, the information requested can be found in the attached Excel spread sheet (FOI 2013-5510 Response.xls). This includes, for Eltham and Woolwich Jobcentre Plus offices, monthly data on:

- The number of adverse sanctions applied broken down by:
  - i. Type of sanction for the old sanctions regime (fixed length, varied length and entitlement decisions).
  - ii. Type of sanction for the new sanctions regime (low, intermediate and high) which is further broken down by reason for each type.
  - iii. Those with a disability, for both old and new regime.
  - iv. Ethnicity, for both old and new regime.
  - v. Age, for both old and new regime.
  - vi. Lone parent status, for new regime only.
- The number of non adverse appeals and reconsiderations (where the decision has been found in favour of the claimant) for both old and new regime.

Regarding Lone parent status for the old sanctions regime, 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.