

Freedom of Information request 2014-598

Date received 5 February 2014

Date of response 4 March 2014

Information request

I would like to know the numbers of people sanctioned on a month by month basis in the Hull area from 1st July 2013 to 31st January 2014. I would like this broken down by benefit e.g. JSA, ESA etc and also to include [where possible] why the customer has been sanctioned e.g. failed to attend or failing to do mandatory work activity.

I would like the data to be taken from the following job centres: Hull Britannia House, Hull Crown House and Hull Market Place to ensure we receive the most recent data possible.

DWP response

In response to the parts of your query regarding Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes statistics on JSA and ESA sanction decisions and further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

For example, statistics for the number of people on JSA who have been sanctioned by month and reason, can be found on Stat-Xplore via the Department's website: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

The IT requirements and guidance for using Stat-Xplore are given below:

Stat-Xplore requirements and settings

Browser Requirements	Browser Settings
<p>The minimum browser requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or later.• Mozilla Firefox 4, 12 or later.• Apple Safari 5 or later.• Google Chrome (stable channel)	<p>For Stat-Xplore to function correctly, DWP recommends that you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use only one browser / browser tab at the same time.• Enable JavaScript.• Ensure 'meta refresh' is enabled in Internet Explorer.• Avoid browser add-ons.

To obtain the number of people on JSA who have been sanctioned monthly for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013 by reason for referral, follow the steps below;

1. Click on the **Stat-Xplore** link.
2. Unless you have already registered you will need to register with the site to enable you to produce any large tables, although smaller tables can be produced without registering. Follow the on screen instructions to register. You will need an email address and must choose a password. The other registration details are optional.
3. You will receive an email to confirm your registration. Follow the instructions in the email and then you will be able to login to Stat-Xplore.
4. Once in Stat-Xplore in the left-hand side window click the small arrow on the left-hand side of the **Sanctions** folder.
5. Then double click on the **JSA Sanction Decisions - decisions on individuals** folder.
6. Once the table information appears in the right-hand window click on the small arrow button on the left-hand side of the **Month Decision Made** folder and select each month July 2013 to September 2013. Once selected, click the grey **Add to Row** button.
7. Then select the arrows to the left of **Geography (Jobcentre Plus) – Jobcentre Plus – Great Britain – North East – North East Yorkshire and the Humber** and select the Jobcentre Plus offices required, then click the grey **Add to Column** button.
8. Next, select the arrow to the right of **Referral Reason**, then from the drop down menu select **Referral Reason**. Again add this to the Column.
9. Next, select the arrow to the left of **Decision Outcome** and select **Adverse** adding this to the row. Please note: An adverse sanction is one that is found against the claimant.
10. Finally, click the grey **Retrieve Data** button in the right-hand side window to populate the table.

To produce figures for ESA, follow the exact same instructions as above but make sure to select the database for **ESA Sanction Decisions – decisions on individuals** in step 5.

New sanctions rules came into force for JSA from 22 October 2012 and ESA from 3 December 2012. Further information on the new sanctions regime for both benefits can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobseekers-allowance-overview-of-sanctions-rules>

In response to the part of your query relating to Income Support for Lone Parents (ISLP) this information is not readily available at Jobcentre level. I 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.

However, within cost we can provide this information at Local Authority level and the table below shows the number of individuals sanctioned in Kingston upon Hull Local Authority (LP) in total in each month from 1 July 2013 – 30 September 2013, which is the latest data available.

Please note that the only reason for sanction for ISLP is 'Failure to attend/participate in a Work Focused Interview'.

Number of ISLP individuals sanctioned in Kingston upon Hull LA by date

Date	Number of ISLP individuals sanctioned
July 2013	10
August 2013	10
September 2013	40

Source:

Income Support Computer System

Notes:

1. Income Support Lone Parents receive a fixed sanction of 20% of the personal allowance rate of a single claimant [not aged less than 25] for each failure to attend/participate in a Work Focused Interview until 10 pence is left in payment. This sanction lasts until the individual attends and participates in a Work Focused Interview. In the case where there is more than one sanction in place the claimant need only attend/participate in one Work Focused Interview in order for all related sanctions to be removed from their benefit. .