

# Freedom of Information request 2013-5368

Date received: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Date of response: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## Information request

How many people in Tayside and Fife are receiving incapacity or disability benefits as a result of chronic alcoholism?

How many of these are aged between 15 and 24?

How many people in Tayside and Fife are receiving incapacity or disability benefits as a result of chronic drug addiction?

How many of these are aged between 15 and 24?

In each of the categories, what is the total amount of benefit being paid out to people in Tayside and Fife?

How many claims relating to a) chronic alcoholism and b) chronic drug use were rejected in the 12 months to end October 2013?

## DWP response

The information requested regarding number of cases and expenditure is shown in the tables below.

Compared to the data for 2011/12 that we provided you earlier this year, expenditure related to drug abuse in the all group for Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disability Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance has risen whilst the number of cases has fallen. This is due to Income Support expenditure associated with these cases not having been included in the information. These cases are being gradually replaced by income based Employment and Support Allowance, the expenditure for which is included.

Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance 2012/13			
		Caseload	Expenditure (£m) (estimated)
All Alcoholism	Great Britain	5,017,390	18,922
	Tayside & Fife (aged 15-24)	0	#
	Tayside & Fife (all other)	490	1.7
Drug abuse	Tayside & Fife (aged 15-24)	0	#
	Tayside & Fife (all other)	80	0.2

Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance 2012/13			
		Caseload	Expenditure (£m) (estimated)
All	Great Britain	2,540,170	10,939
Alcoholism	Tayside & Fife (aged 15-24)	20	0.1
	Tayside & Fife (all other)	990	3.7
Drug abuse	Tayside & Fife (aged 15-24)	30	0.1
	Tayside & Fife (all other)	770	2.7

Source: DWP statistical and accounting data.

#### Notes

1. Severe Disablement Allowance is included alongside Incapacity Benefit;
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000;
3. Expenditure below £50,000 is shown as #;
4. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding;
5. Incapacity Benefit began to be replaced by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008. Employment and Support Allowance also replaced Income Support for those in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or incapacity National Insurance credits. Information on Income Support spending is not included in this analysis.
6. Caseloads in receipt of National Insurance credits for incapacity, but who are not receiving a payment, are included in this analysis. Most of these will receive payments of Income Support also..
7. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim. This in itself does not confer entitlement to the benefit and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded
8. Prior to October 2008 for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance cases where the medical condition was alcohol or drug abuse were not recorded separately. Cases where the award was made prior to the data on no reassessment of the case has taken place are recorded in the alcoholism category for these benefits.

Unfortunately we do not hold information regarding the numbers of unsuccessful benefit claims where the medical condition was chronic alcohol abuse or chronic drug abuse.