

## Freedom of Information request 2013- 4675

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

Date of response 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### Information request

**“Of people who were on IB and have had a WCA  
How many (or %) go on ESA (and in which groups)?  
How many (or %) go on Jobseekers allowance?  
How many (or %) are now working?  
How many (or %) get no benefit at all?”**

### DWP response

In response to your query, although the DWP does hold information falling within the description specified in your request we estimate that the cost of complying with your complete 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 this part of your request further.

However the information that is available within cost is given below.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants for ESA. The latest report was published in July 2013 and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

In response to parts 1, 2 and 4 of your query, table 10 of the above publication provides the outcomes of WCAs for incapacity benefits claimants referred for reassessment for ESA up to November 2012, adjusted to account for the outcome of appeals where the outcome is known. It shows that 841,000 claimants referred during the above period have had a WCA outcome. Of these:

- 267,500 (32%) were placed in the Support Group
- 346,500 (41%) were placed in the Work Related Activity Group
- 227,000 (27%) were found Fit for Work.

Matching with National Benefits Database information shows that, at the end of March 2013, the position of the 841,000 claimants referred to above was as follows:

- 791,100 (94%) were in receipt of a DWP administered benefit, of these 42,800 (5% of the 841,000) were claiming JSA.
- 49,900 (6%) had no live DWP administered benefit claim recorded. This figure will include people who are in employment, people who are economically inactive, and people who have died.