

Freedom of Information request 5175/2012

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Information request

You asked seven questions:

1. *How many Benefit Claimants have passed their Work Capability Assessment?*
2. *How many Benefit Claimants have failed their Work Capability Assessment?*
3. *A breakdown of the points awarded for both of the above (i.e., data for all attendees of WCA Medical Assessments, as anonymous data.)*
4. *How many Benefit Claimants that failed their Work Capability Assessment have Appealed?*
5. *How many Benefit Claimants have won their Appeals?*
6. *What points were these successful Appellants previously given at their Work Capability Assessments?*
7. *What compensation, if any, was awarded or paid to these successful Appellants?*

DWP response

1. The Department regularly publishes official statistics on new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims and Work Capability Assessment (WCA) outcomes. The latest report was published in October 2012 and can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

In November 2012 the Department for Work and Pensions published official statistics on the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). The report and its supplementary tables can be found at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_ibr

2. See above.
3. A breakdown of points scored at Work Capability Assessment can be obtained from the publications mentioned above. Claimants who have been found Fit for Work will have been awarded less than 15 points. Table 6 of the new claims publication gives the number of assessments where claimants were assigned to the WRAG because of a score of 15

points or more. Note that in some cases claimants can be awarded the benefit without scoring 15 points.

4. Table 3 of the new claims publication shows the number of appeals against Fit for Work decisions heard by Her Majesties Courts and Tribunal Service.
5. Table 3 also shows the outcomes for appeals heard against Fit for Work decisions.
6. The department recently published a response to a Parliamentary Question which includes this information:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/PQ_FOI/PQ/2013/133104FR.pdf

7. For appeals against a fit for work decision, payments are made at the assessment phase rate (currently £71 for over 25s and £56.25 for under 25s) for the duration of the appeal. If the First-tier Tribunal upholds the appeal, the customer has their full ESA entitlement reinstated. Any resulting arrears will be automatically backdated and paid accordingly. The amount will depend on whether the claimant was awarded the WRAG or Support Group component. Compensation is not normally paid to the claimant in these cases.