

# Freedom of Information request 3647/2011

Received 30 November 2011

Published 22 December 2011

## Information request

1. Durations of JSA claims among lone parents – grouped by age of youngest child.
2. Outflows of JSA claims among lone parents – grouped by age of youngest child. Outflows for the most recent period broken down by age of youngest child and duration on the benefit.
3. Onflows of JSA claims among lone parents – grouped by age of youngest child.

## DWP response

### 1. Volume of lone parents on the JSA caseload at 8 September 2011: Duration of JSA claim by age of youngest child

	Total	Duration of JSA claim			
		Under 6 months	6 to 12 months	12 to 24 months	Over 24 months
<b>JSA LP caseload (Sep11)</b>	<b>121,695</b>	<b>61,075</b>	<b>40,755</b>	<b>17,995</b>	<b>1,870</b>
<b>of which, age of youngest child:</b>					
<b>0-6</b>	<b>7,860</b>	5,135	1,665	805	255
<b>7-9</b>	<b>50,190</b>	31,170	18,445	460	110
<b>10-11</b>	<b>25,865</b>	9,080	12,205	4,495	85
<b>12-15</b>	<b>37,785</b>	15,685	8,445	12,235	1,420

## 2. Volume of lone parents flowing off of JSA every six months broken down by age of youngest child

		Age of youngest child at on-flow date:			
Date of off-flow:	Total	0-6	7-9	10-11	12-15
Jan 07 to Jun 07	10,470	5,630	1,350	925	2,560
Jul 07 to Dec 07	9,950	5,355	1,335	865	2,390
Jan 08 to Jun 08	9,090	5,040	1,185	780	2,085
Jul 08 to Dec 08	10,210	5,485	1,280	890	2,555
Jan 09 to Jun 09	20,875	6,795	1,700	1,345	11,035
Jul 09 to Dec 09	37,190	8,690	2,240	1,930	24,330
Jan 10 to Jun 10	46,725	9,175	2,360	7,720	27,475
Jul 10 to Dec 10	58,485	8,535	3,640	16,905	29,405
Jan 11 to Jun 11	73,290	8,165	22,255	15,815	27,055

**Note:**

- (1) Volumes relate to JSA off-flows where the claimant ended their claim as a lone parent.
- (2) Volumes do not include JSA claims where the claimant stopped being a lone parent during their JSA claim, continued to claim JSA and subsequently ended that claim.
- (3) Durations relate to the total length of the JSA claim. Some claimants may not have been a lone parent for the entirety of their JSA claim.

## 3. Volume of lone parents flowing on to JSA every six months broken down by age of youngest child

		Age of youngest child at on-flow date:			
Date of on-flow:	Total	0-6	7-9	10-11	12-15
Jan 07 to Jun 07	9,675	5,090	1,205	865	2,515
Jul 07 to Dec 07	8,920	4,690	1,195	740	2,295
Jan 08 to Jun 08	9,560	5,125	1,215	840	2,380
Jul 08 to Dec 08	15,305	6,380	1,570	1,275	6,085
Jan 09 to Jun 09	45,720	8,655	2,200	2,080	32,785
Jul 09 to Dec 09	59,990	8,605	2,370	4,555	44,460
Jan 10 to Jun 10	63,940	8,005	2,610	27,075	26,250
Jul 10 to Dec 10	78,555	7,975	20,255	27,645	22,680
Jan 11 to Jun 11	105,125	10,125	58,085	14,180	22,735

**Note:**

- (1) Volumes relate to JSA on-flows where the claimant started their claim as a lone parent.
- (2) Volumes do not include JSA claims where the claimant became a lone parent during an existing JSA claim.

## Background information

### Jobseeker's Allowance

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced on 7 October 1996. It replaced Unemployment Benefit and Income Support for unemployed people and brought them together in a unified benefit with two routes of entry. It can be claimed by people who are available for and actively seeking employment,

including those in remunerative work for less than 16 hours a week on average, and by people on a government training scheme.

### **The effect of Lone Parent obligations**

From 24 November 2008 Lone Parents (LPs) with a youngest child aged 12 or over were no longer able to make a new or repeat claim for Income Support (IS) solely on the basis of their parental status. Existing IS LPs with a youngest child aged 12 or over had their eligibility removed over a period of time commencing 2 March 2009. From October 2009 this policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged 10 or 11 and from October 2010 the policy was extended to LPs with a youngest child aged seven or over. Subject to the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill, lone parents will be eligible to claim Income Support until their youngest child is five years old.

### **Identification of Lone Parents claiming JSA**

The preferred source of numbers on JSA is the Claimant Count which is produced on a monthly basis by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) via the NOMIS website ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)). DWP are providing a breakdown of this headline number so we can identify the number of Lone Parents claiming JSA following the roll out of Lone Parent Obligations. This is done using marital status information from the Claimant Count data alongside HMRC Child Benefit data. Specifically looking at whether a JSA claimant has their marital status recorded as "single"; "widowed"; "divorced" or "separated", and has an open Child Benefit claim for at least one child aged under 16, at the 'count date' (second Thursday of the month).

### **Data sources:**

- ONS Claimant Count data
- HMRC Child Benefit data
- DWP ethnicity data.

### **Data lags**

The figures are produced one month in arrears compared to the ONS Claimant Count. This is because additional processing is required in order to identify Lone Parents.

### **Coverage**

All cases in Great Britain excluding clerical cases.

### **Caveats**

The figures potentially undercount the number of Lone Parents in receipt of JSA where the claimant is recorded as having an open Child Benefit claim at the count date but their marital status is not recorded and this cannot be inputted.

Differences between DWP JSA statistics and ONS Claimant Count statistics  
Both the ONS Claimant Count and DWP 100 per cent JSA data are measures of the numbers of people claiming JSA, however there are differences in the statistics published from these two sources. For further details about these

differences please see these following document:

<http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/differences.pdf>

### **Rounding**

All volumes are rounded to the nearest 5.

"-" indicates a nil or negligible value.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.