

Freedom of Information request 2013-5423

Date received: 18th November 2013

Date of response: 16th December 2013

Information request

Please could you provide me with the following information:

The number of people in Merseyside (for these purposes the boroughs of Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, Wirral, St Helens and Halton) who are receiving some form of benefit because they are classified as unfit to work because of alcoholism.

For context, could you provide me with information for the years 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13?

DWP response

The number of Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants with a primary diagnosis of alcohol misuse in the requested areas is shown in the tables below.

Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance claimants with a medical condition of Alcohol Misuse by Local Authority: May 2009 to May 2013

	Local Authority					
	Knowsley	Liverpool	St. Helens	Sefton	Wirral	Halton
IB/SDA						
May-09	130	630	160	210	410	100
May-10	120	550	140	190	370	90
May-11	110	510	130	160	320	70
May-12	70	340	110	110	230	40
May-13	30	150	40	40	70	20
ESA						
May-10	50	220	40	70	120	50
May-11	60	320	70	90	160	40
May-12	100	480	100	160	270	80
May-13	160	710	160	240	420	110

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Data is at May of each year provided.
2. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of alcohol misuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.
3. IB was replaced by ESA from October 2008 therefore after this time there is a decrease in IB caseload and an increase in ESA caseload. Information by main disabling condition on ESA is not available prior to August 2009.
4. Data includes people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.