

Freedom of Information request 5134/2013

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Information request

I am aware of the published information on how DLA is awarded, leading to definite or indefinite awards, changes of circumstance reported by the claimant or other parties,...

For claimants whose end date has not been reached, who no information has been received about a change of circumstances from any party, and no legislative changes or changes in legal interpretation has occurred.

What national guidance is in place to select which of the above claimants will have their cases reviewed before the end date, or when claimants with indefinite awards will be reviewed.

If there is no national guidance, at what level is this policy set?

If there is no national policy for the above - at what level, driven by what requirements would such a selection of cases to review take place.

DWP response

In response to your question, the information is available below.

As of Q3 2013, there were 1.51m people in the UK whose main health problem was a mental health issue. 586,000 were in employment and 168,000 were unemployed and seeking work.

We do not hold information on the number of people joining Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with mental health conditions from employment. DLA is awarded based on someone's Care and Mobility needs arising from their disability, and is awarded both to people who are in and out of work, therefore a person would not necessarily exit employment prior to being awarded DLA.

Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS) Q3 2013

Notes:

1. LFS figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Mental health issues includes those who suffer from mental illness, phobia, panics or other nervous disorders, and includes those with depression, bad nerves or anxiety. Figures also include those who are not disabled within the Equality Act definition.

We do not systematically select Disability Living Allowance (DLA) any cases for review ahead of their natural end date. The only cases we select are those that in a sense select themselves: the Secretary of State receives information from either within the department or from third parties which suggests potential incorrectness on an award. In these circumstances the department is duty bound to investigate.

The attached link provides you with information about the process for reassessing existing DLA claimants for Personal Independence Payment.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/253414/pip-toolkit-factsheet-006-reassessment.pdf