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Information request

The number of people in Greater Manchester in receipt of ESA and IBR deemed fit to work as a result of work capability assessments since they were introduced; the proportion of total ESA and IBR claimants this figure represents; the number of these judgements that were appealed; a list of the medical conditions these appellants had/have.

DWP response

Work Capability Assessment Outcomes for new ESA claimants

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). 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

Between October 2008 and May 2012 (the latest data available) 43,000 new ESA claimants have been found fit for work at an initial functional assessments in the Greater Manchester area. This represents 56 per cent of assessments completed over this period.

Further between October 2008 and May 2012 (the latest data available) 10,100 claimants have been found fit for work at a repeat functional assessments in the Greater Manchester area. This represents 30 per cent of repeat assessments completed over this period.

The Department only holds information on appeals once they have been heard by HM Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS).

For new ESA claims made between October 2008 and August 2011 (the latest data available) 14,800 had an appeal heard to date on a fit for work decision in the initial functional assessment. Please see the table below showing the primary health condition of the appealing claimants:

Table: Number of appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions in initial functional assessment by International Classification of Diseases (2010) Condition Groups, Greater Manchester

| International Classification of Diseases (2010) | Caseload |
|---|----------|
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| Condition Groups | |
|---|---------------|
| Certain infectious and parasitic diseases | 100 |
| Neoplasms | 100 |
| Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism | 0 |
| Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases | 200 |
| Mental and behavioural disorders | 6,400 |
| Diseases of the nervous system | 300 |
| Diseases of the eye and adnexa | 100 |
| Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process | 100 |
| Diseases of the circulatory system | 600 |
| Diseases of the respiratory system | 300 |
| Diseases of the digestive system | 300 |
| Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue | 100 |
| Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue | 2,700 |
| Diseases of the genitourinary system | 100 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 0 |
| Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities | 0 |
| Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified | 1,900 |
| Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes | 1,300 |
| Factors influencing health status and contact with health services | 100 |
| Not recorded | 0 |
| Total | 14,800 |

Source: DWP's benefit administration datasets and HMCTS's appeals caseload data .
Rounding: All caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Incapacity Benefits Reassessment Outcomes

On 6 November 2012 the Department for Work and Pensions published official statistics on the reassessment of incapacity benefits claimants for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) including outcomes by local authority. The report and its supplementary tables can be found at:

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

Information on appeal outcomes for incapacity benefits reassessments is not available.