

Freedom of Information request 1245/2013

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Information request

Dear Department for Work and Pensions,

Please tell me the number of individuals who had benefit sanctions imposed in the London region, broken down by reason given, for each of the following programmes:

Work Programme

Mandatory Work Activity

Work Experience

Day One Support for Young People Trailblazer

Please also tell me the total number of individuals referred to each programme for each corresponding period.

Please provide this information for each of the financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13, or whatever period within that is applicable and possible.

DWP response

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants are required to meet the basic labour market conditions which include being available for work, actively seeking work and having a signed up-to-date Jobseeker's Agreement. Active job search, engagement with advisers and participation in some employment support programmes are mandatory requirements for claimants.

Failure to meet any of these requirements would lead to disentitlement or a sanction. A sanction is a complete withdrawal of the claimant's JSA award for specified periods.

In response to your questions regarding the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who have been sanctioned for Failing to Participate (FTP) in the Work Programme (WP), Mandatory Work Activity (MWA) and Work

Experience (WE) in London in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 please see the table below.

Number of JSA claimants with a sanction applied² for FTP in the WP, MWA and WE in London and the Home Counties Jobcentre Plus Group³ by Referral Reason⁴ and Year of Decision⁵: 1st April 2011 – 21st October 2012

Referral Reason ⁴		Year of Decision ⁵	
		2011/2012	2012/2013 ⁵
WP	Failed to Participate in the WP ⁵	7,130	12,160
MWA	Failed to Attend MWA	1,360	1,000
	Given Up a Place on MWA	130	130
	Lose a Place on MWA Through Misconduct	40	30
WE	Failed to Attend WE	20	-
	Given Up a Place on WE	30	-
	Lose a Place on WE Through Misconduct	30	-

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
2. **Sanction applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of sanction referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Jobcentre Plus Group:** Formerly known as Jobcentre Plus Regions. Jobcentre Plus Groups were updated to reflect changes to the hierarchical structure of Jobcentre Plus implemented on 5 April 2011 from 11 regions to 7 groups.
4. **Referral Reason:** If a claimant fails to undertake any activity required as a condition of their participation on the WP, MWA or WE without good cause, then a doubt may be raised against their claim. For the WP these doubts are recorded on the department's IT systems under the generic reason of 'Failed to Participate in Work Programme'. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question. If the decision is found against the claimant then a Fixed Length sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed.
5. **Year of Decision:** The year in which the decision to apply a sanction was made. The year 2012/2013 only includes data up to and including the 21st of October, where this is the latest data available.
6. Figures will include individuals who have had more than one sanction applied for more than one reason or in more than one year e.g. if an individual has a sanction applied for Failed to Participate in the WP and Given Up a Place on MWA they will appear twice.

In response to your question on the number of individuals who have been referred to the Work Programme Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes Official Statistics on the Work Programme through its Tabulation Tool, which allows you to design your own tables.

For example, to produce a table on the number of referrals to the Work Programme in each month, since its inception, go to the <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp> website and follow the instructions below.

1. Select [The DWP tabulation Tool](#) link
2. In the **Benefit/Scheme** option select **Work Programme: Monthly figures**
3. Now select **Referrals (Thousands)** from the **Analysis** drop down menu.
4. From the **Row** option select **Time Series**
5. In the **Column, Subset and Date** drop down menus select from the available options and click **Get Table**. The latest available data includes figures to the end of July 2012.

In response to your question on the total number of individuals referred to each programme for each corresponding period, the answer is provided in the table below:

Numbers of work experience and MWA referrals in London

	2011/12	2012/13
Work experience referrals	26230	13450
Mandatory Work Activity - Initial Referrals	3910	3090

Source - DWP LMS opportunities database

Notes

1. Values are rounded to the nearest 10
2. The MWA data for 2012/13 runs up to and including August 2012.
3. The work experience data for 2012/13 runs up to and including November 2012.
4. Between 16 January – 31 March 2012 the Department trailblazed an extension of Mandatory Work Activity across five Jobcentre Plus districts in London, Wales and the West Midlands. The trailblazer tested how the scheme works for claimants who have received more

than one labour-market sanction or disallowance within the last year. Numbers therefore include referrals to the 'MWA Trailblazer'.

5. A work experience referral is defined as the date the claimant was referred to a work experience placement with the employer. This is input by an adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

6. A referral to MWA is defined as the date the claimant is referred to the placement, recorded within their adviser interview. This was inputted by the adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

Day One Support for Young People Trailblazer

The decision has not yet been taken on when to publish statistics on the Day One Support for Young People Trailblazer. The Department works to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.