

Freedom of Information request 877/2011

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Information request

For each of the years 2009 & 2010 how many applications for ESA did you receive as a result of Fibromyalgia and how many were successful.

DWP response

Under the Employment Support Allowance regime, new claimants undergo the Work Capability Assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance. So a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA) on the basis of Fibromyalgia would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

The table below provides the Work Capability Assessment outcomes for all new ESA claims received between October 2008 and May 2010 (the latest data available), where Fibromyalgia is recorded as the main health condition.

Work Capability Assessment outcomes for all new ESA claims received between October 2008 and May 2010, where Fibromyalgia is recorded as the main health condition

Month of Start	Support Group	Work Related Activity Group	Fit for Work	Claim closed before assessment complete	Assessment still in progress	Total
Oct-08	0	10	10	0	0	20
Nov-08	10	40	40	0	0	80
Dec-08	10	40	50	0	0	90
Jan-09	10	60	50	10	0	130
Feb-09	10	60	60	0	0	130
Mar-09	0	50	80	10	0	140
Apr-09	10	70	100	20	0	190
May-09	10	50	80	20	0	150
Jun-09	10	40	100	20	0	160
Jul-09	10	60	90	30	0	190
Aug-09	10	60	90	30	0	190
Sep-09	10	60	100	30	0	200
Oct-09	10	70	100	40	0	210
Nov-09	0	50	90	30	0	180
Dec-09	10	50	70	40	10	170
Jan-10	10	70	80	40	10	200
Feb-10	0	70	80	50	10	210
Mar-10	10	60	110	40	20	240
Apr-10	0	60	80	40	10	200
May-10	10	50	80	50	20	210
Total	110	1,060	1,530	500	90	3,290

Figures are consistent with the January 2011 WCA publication and have been rounded to the nearest 10, so rows and columns may not sum to the totals shown. You can access official statistics on the Employment Support Allowance Work Capability Assessment by health condition and function on the Department's website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

National Statistics on Employment Support Allowance claimants are also published on the DWP website via the Tabulation Tool, which allows you to construct tables to your own requirements:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> . Statistics are available for both caseload and on/off flows from ESA.

Fibromyalgia is included in the condition group "Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified" in the main condition group "Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue". You are able to table the main condition group via the Tabulation Tool.

Information on "Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified " is provided in the table below.

Employment and Support Allowance caseload with Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified - August 2010

	August 2010
All	563,980
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	81,900
Other soft tissue disorders, not elsewhere classified	3,870

Source: DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

- 1) Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
- 2) ICD (disease) code: Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim; this in itself does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition.
- 3) Employment and Support Allowance replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claims from October 2008.
- 4) Analysis includes credits only cases.