

Freedom of Information request 1254/2011

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Information request

'I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act to ascertain how many people who suffer with Psychosis actually get back in to the workforce after experiencing such a problem. Could you also let me know how many people who remain on benefits after such a diagnosis, and any other information you believe is relevant.'

DWP response

- There were 18,440 individuals claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) / Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) at 31 October 2007, whose main disabling condition was Psychosis¹. Between 1 November 2007 and 31 October 2008, there were a further 1,910 starts to IB/SDA from individuals whose main disabling condition was Psychosis. Added together, this forms a customer base of 20,350².
- Three years later at 31 October 2010, of this customer base:
 - 17,720 (87%) of the customer base were claiming Income Support (IS), Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)³ or IB/SDA.
 - 16,270 (80%) were still participating in the same IB/SDA claim. The remaining 4,080 (20%) had ended that claim and left IB/SDA⁴.
- Up to 31 October 2010:
 - 1,350 (7%) of the customer base left IB/SDA and entered employment⁵.

Note that a small proportion of individuals may have left that employment and returned to IS, JSA, ESA or IB/SDA by 31 October 2010.

¹ Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

² An individual may be counted more than once within the IB/SDA customer base.

³ ESA replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

⁴ A small proportion may have started another IB/SDA claim before 31 October 2010.

⁵ Sources: DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS, Job Outcome Target database, Return to Work Credit database, New Deal for Disabled People database, Workstep database.

It should be noted that a proportion of employment starts are missing. These are typically individuals undertaking permitted work or those who are self-employed. Individuals who are self-employed are not included in the P45 employment data we receive from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). There is also no obligation on customers to notify Jobcentre Plus (JCP) if they enter employment once they leave IB/SDA. This too will lead to an undercount in the number of individuals recorded as leaving IB/SDA and entering employment.