

Freedom of Information request 2439/2013

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Information request

Please supply the figures relating to 2012-13 for the number of claimants forced to reapply to be registered for Jobseeker as a consequence of a disallowance.

- 1- Total number of disallowances*
- 2- The number reapplying within the specified allowable time*
- 3- The average number knocked off official unemployment statistics as a consequence of these temporary disallowances.*
- 4- Cost to the taxpayer for falsifying the figures (re-administration of unnecessary removing from unemployment register) thought to be £500 per applicant*
- 5- Cost to the taxpayer for Appeal/Tribunal expenditure.*

DWP response

With regard to your initial point, no one is forced to reapply to be registered for Jobseeker's Allowance as a consequence of a disallowance. However, the total number of disallowances is available on

<<<http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html>>>

With regard to question 3 and 4, the total number of unemployed people is published by the Office for National Statistics, and includes all people who are not in work, but are actively seeking and available to start a job. These unemployment numbers would be unaffected by someone's sanction or disallowance on Jobseekers Allowance as this is not part of the 'unemployment' criteria.

The claimant count is a measure of people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance. It captures the number of live claims at a point in time, if someone has been disentitled from the benefit as they have not met the conditions then they would not be included in the claimant count. As such it cannot be said that these figures are in any way falsified.

With regard to question 5, details about costs of appeals relating to disallowances are not readily available. Costs of all appeals relating to Jobseekers Allowance claims are available but are not broken down by appeals relating to disallowances, therefore we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.