

Freedom of Information request 1966/2013

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Information request

With regard to ESA, in the last 12 months:

a) the total number of claimants assessed by Atos Healthcare via a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) in our region & nationally

b) of that total, the number placed in each of the following groups, or recommended to be:

i fit for work

ii placed in the Work related activity group

iii placed in the support group

Aswell, please let me know, of the total number of claimants, how many of the Atos recommendations DWP agreed with/upheld, and how many DWP disagreed with/overruled.

Finally, let me know what criteria needs to be met for a claimant to be eligible for categorisation to the support group for ESA.

DWP response

1) The Department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The latest report was published in April 2013 and can be found on the internet at the link below:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_20130430.xls

2) For initial WCAs on new ESA claims with a result between October 2008 and November 2012 the Atos recommendation was overturned by a DWP decision maker in around 83,200 cases. This represents about 6 per cent of all initial assessments on new claims with an outcome.

3) Information on ESA policy, including information on criteria for the Support Group, can be found online at the following link:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-handbook.pdf>