

Freedom of Information request 2381

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Information request

The number of people who took part in Work Trials in the last year and the number of those who were successful.

DWP response

Before providing the specific detail requested, it may be helpful if I provide some general information about Jobcentre Plus Work Trials:

- A Work Trial is undertaken where the participant has been successful at the job interview, but they and/or the employer have some remaining doubts
- The participant is the only person being considered for the post and they will be recruited providing the trial is successful
- The job in question must be for 16 hours or more per week and expected to last for at least 13 weeks
- The Work Trial must be agreed with a Jobcentre Plus adviser, who will work with all parties to decide the length of the trial. Although the maximum trial duration is 30 working days, this is in exceptional circumstances only and most are for a week or less.
- While undertaking a Work Trial, participants receive their benefit payments and certain expenses.

Turning to the specific question, from April 2010 to March 2011 39,293 Work Trials were undertaken, of which 18,170 (about 46%) led to the participant finding work. This management information is gathered internally and has not undergone any rigorous quality assurance.