

Freedom of Information request 2013-5276

Date received: 4th November 2013

Date of response: 18th February 2014

Information request

I would be grateful if you could provide me with any updated information on the latest statistics or the subsequent destinations of ESA leavers.

DWP response

Please note that the Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA which are available on the Departmental website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

In response to your query the table below shows the number and proportion of claimants leaving Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and those moving to other benefits. It covers ESA claims that started between October 2008 and March 2013 and whose claims were subsequently recorded as closed. These claims were closed as a result of either:

1. A Fit for Work outcome at the WCA, or
2. An unsuccessful appeal following a Fit for Work outcome at the WCA, or
3. The claimant leaving ESA, or the assessment process, for another reason.

The first two columns of figures in the table show the total number and proportion of claims going to each benefit for all ESA claims. The second two columns of figures show a subset of the same information restricted to all closed claims with a fit for work outcome at the WCA and no appeal recorded to date.

Subsequent benefit destinations of closed ESA claims that started between October 2008 and March 2013.

Post ESA Benefit	All closed claims		Of those: Fit for Work with no appeal	
	Number of claims	%	Number of claims	%
Total	2,314,800	100%	594,400	100%
Employment Support Allowance	86,300	4%	12,200	2%
Incapacity Benefit	7,800	-	2,700	-
Income Support	68,100	3%	22,000	4%
Jobseeker's Allowance	763,400	33%	300,700	51%
Pension Credit	5,400	-	1,500	-
No subsequent benefit claim	1,383,300	60%	255,400	43%

Source: Data in the above table is derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.

Notes:

1. All caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 100 claims, and percentages have been rounded to the nearest percentage point. "-" denotes nil or negligible
2. Data is presented for claims ended on or before 31st March 2013, the latest available data.

You may also find it useful to know that the DWP has published research that investigated why some cases closed before assessment. It found that: an important reason why ESA claims in the sample were withdrawn or closed before they were fully assessed was due to individuals recovering and either returning to work, or claiming a benefit more appropriate to their situation.

The report can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/214543/rrep762.pdf