

Freedom of Information request 508/2013

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Information request

I would be grateful if you could confirm the number of people who were refused ESA in 2011 and 2012.

I would be grateful if you could also clarify the costs of any appeals and payouts for people successfully appealing any refusal in 2011 & 2012.

DWP response

In January 2013, the Department released an update to the official statistics on work capability assessments. They can be found here:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

These statistics include the number of people found fit-for-work as a result of completing a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) up to August 2012.

The unit cost to DWP of processing an ESA Appeal regardless of the outcome was £98.64 in 2011/12.

This figure is sourced from the Departmental Activity Based Management model (2011/12) and covers staffing costs only involved with the processing of an ESA appeal.

This cost estimate does not include any costs incurred by the Tribunals Service, part of the Ministry of Justice. For information on the cost of ESA appeals for the Tribunal Service, please contact the Ministry of Justice. Their contact details are:

Data Access and Compliance Unit
Information Directorate
Ministry of Justice
1st Floor, Zone C
102 Petty France,
London SW1H 9AJ

If the Tribunal overturns the decision made by the Department for Work and Pensions' Decision Maker, the Tribunal's decision is implemented by paying arrears from the relevant date.