

Freedom of Information request 2014-3711

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Date of response 6 October 2014

Information request

Please provide information on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimant households with dependent children (at 31 May 2013), where the claimant has received an adverse sanction decision (by level of sanction for JSA) between 22 October 2012 and 31 May 2013 for JSA, and 3 December 2012 and 31 May 2013 for ESA, in London.

If it is possible within the cost limit, please provide a breakdown for each of the four London Jobcentre Plus districts.

DWP response

Claimants should do everything they can to find to work if they are able in return for benefits, and more than 70 per cent say they are more likely to follow the rules if they know they risk having their benefits stopped if they don't. Benefit sanctions are only used as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction. The recent independent Oakley review confirmed that they are vital to a properly functioning welfare system.

The most common reasons for a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction include failure to actively look for work, failure to take part in an employment programme and not having a good reason for missing a meeting at the Jobcentre. Claimants can always ask for us to look at the sanction decision again, and we have a well-established system of hardship payments where needed for vulnerable claimants.

The Government has introduced the Claimant Commitment for anyone making a new claim for JSA. The commitment will see jobseekers having to account more clearly for their efforts to find work in order to receive their benefits

In response to your query the information you require is shown in the table below:

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimant households with dependent children where claimant has received an adverse sanction decision by Jobcentre Plus districts in London between 22 October 2012 and 31 May 2013 for JSA and 3 December 2012 and 31 May 2013 for ESA.

Sanctions	Jobcentre Plus District				London Total
	South London	North London	West London	East London	
JSA Total	1,890	820	850	1,970	5,520
Low	960	350	430	900	2,640
Intermediate	850	420	340	1,000	2,610
High	80	50	80	70	270
Level not applicable / not recorded	-	-	-	-	-
ESA Total	130	50	30	60	270

Source: DWP 100% WPLS data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible. Totals may not sum due to the rounding method used.
2. Dependent children are those aged under 16, young adults aged 16 to 18 and those still in full time education under 20, for whom an additional allowance is paid. These figures are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit in April 2003.
3. JSA information is from 22 October 2012 and ESA information is from 3 December 2012. Data is up to 31 May 2013 which is the latest available on dependent children.