

Freedom of Information request 2014-3748

Date received 27 August 2014

Date of response 24 September 2014

Information request

1. What was the size of Incapacity / Employment Support Allowance claimants in Glasgow over the last five years that information is available?
2. What proportion of the working population of Glasgow does the above represent for each of the five years?
3. What proportion of the working population of Scotland does ESA/IB claimants represent over the period above?
4. What is the average time a person in Glasgow, Scotland, and rest of UK claiming IB/ESA be on these benefits (figures for the 5 year period)?
5. What is the percentage breakdown of people in Glasgow claiming these benefits that have drug / alcohol problems?
6. What is the percentage breakdown of people in Glasgow claiming these benefits that have a criminal conviction?
7. What is the percentage breakdown of people in Glasgow claiming these benefits that are also claiming housing benefit?

DWP response

In response to questions 1 and 4, section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes information on Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>

For example, to produce statistics on the number of ESA claimants by duration of claim by Region, visit the Tabulation Tool via the link above and follow the instructions provided:

1. Under 'Caseload statistics' select **Benefit caseload national statistics (WPLS data) (includes ESA)**.
2. Under Benefit/Scheme select **Employment and Support Allowance**.
3. Under Analysis select **Caseload (Thousands)**.
4. Under Row select **Region**.
5. Under Column select **Duration of current claim**.

6. There are a range of variables to create a subset of your data, however if no subset is required select **NONE**.
7. Under Date, select **February 2014**. This is the latest data available for analysis.
8. Once you are satisfied, select **Get Table** to retrieve your cross-tabulation.

Repeat the above instructions, choosing **Local Authority** in the row option. Once you have the details for **Employment and Support Allowance** you can then go back to the start and instead choose **Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance**, and repeat the instructions above.

In response to questions 2 and 3, the Department does not hold this information. The responsibility for population statistics lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who publish this information at the following locations:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population>

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>

In response to question 5, the table below shows the number of ESA and IB/SDA claimants in Scotland and Glasgow City with a recorded main disabling condition of Drug Misuse or Alcohol Misuse.

The number of Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance claimants with a main disabling condition of Alcohol Misuse or Drugs Misuse in Scotland and Glasgow: February 2014

	Scotland		Glasgow	
	Drug Misuse	Alcohol Misuse	Drug Misuse	Alcohol Misuse
ESA	5,270	8,570	1,010	2,260
IB/SDA	440	660	70	160

Source: DWP, 100% WPLS data.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding
2. " - " Denotes nil or negligible.
3. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to IB/SDA or ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB/SDA or ESA on the basis of drugs misuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.
4. IB was replaced by ESA from October 2008.

In response to question 6, the Department does not hold information on whether all claimants of ESA or IB/SDA have a criminal conviction.

You may be interested in the following experimental statistics which were jointly produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) The statistics links data on offenders with benefit, employment and income data and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/experimental-statistics-from-the-2013-moj-dwp-hmrc-data-share>

In response to question 7, information on ESA and IB/SDA is for individual claimants of these benefits, whereas Housing Benefit is based on household information, and is therefore not directly comparable.

The Department publishes information on Housing Benefit for those in receipt of a passported benefit (i.e. Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (Income based), Jobseeker's Allowance (Income-Based), or Pension Credit (Guaranteed Credit) which can entitle the claimant to Housing Benefit , and further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-benefit-and-council-tax-benefit-caseload-statistics--2>

Guidance on how to extract the information required for Stat-Xplore can be found at:

https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore_User_Guide.htm

You may also find it useful to know that Department publishes a range of statistics on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2>