

# Freedom of Information request 2015-3811

Date received 03 September 2015

Date of response 15 January 2016

## Information request

Please can you supply me with the number of people who have been placed into the ESA Work-Related Activity Group each quarter from and including February 2014, broken down by the International Classifications of Diseases Summary Code.

## DWP response

The information requested for the number of people who have been placed into the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Work-Related Activity Group (WRAG) each quarter from and including February 2014, broken down by the International Classifications of Diseases Summary Code, is shown in the tables below.

**Table 1.1 Initial ESA functional assessments with a WRAG outcome by disease code: assessments completed December 2013 – February 2015**

International Classifications of Diseases Summary Code	Quarter Ending				
	Feb-14	May-14	Aug-14	Nov-14	Feb-15
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	1,850	2,030	2,270	2,700	2,710
Diseases of the Nervous System	450	500	540	630	640
Diseases of the Respiratory and Circulatory System	590	600	750	920	1,120
Injury Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	510	590	730	920	1,200
Mental and Behavioural disorders	5,780	6,100	6,540	7,750	7,750
Other	2,840	3,080	3,420	4,500	4,410
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>14,240</b>	<b>17,420</b>	<b>17,830</b>

**Table 1.2 Repeat ESA functional assessments with a WRAG outcome by disease code: assessments completed December 2013 – February 2015**

International Classifications of Diseases Summary Code	Quarter Ending				
	Feb-14	May-14	Aug-14	Nov-14	Feb-15
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	2,810	2,870	2,840	2,180	1,150
Diseases of the Nervous System	1,140	1,130	1,130	870	490

Diseases of the Respiratory and Circulatory System	740	760	710	590	290
Injury Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	330	340	330	250	150
Mental and Behavioural disorders	10,030	9,790	9,540	6,780	3,650
Other	3,600	3,550	3,500	2,740	1,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>18,420</b>	<b>18,050</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>7,310</b>

**Table 1.3 Incapacity Benefits Reassessments with a WRAG outcome by disease code: assessments completed December 2013 – February 2015**

International Classifications of Diseases Summary Code	Quarter Ending				
	Feb-14	May-14	Aug-14	Nov-14	Feb-15
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	3,250	1,840	1,310	760	510
Diseases of the Nervous System	900	560	500	310	330
Diseases of the Respiratory and Circulatory System	680	380	320	160	150
Injury Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	270	140	110	60	50
Mental and Behavioural disorders	6,670	4,260	2,900	1,750	1,390
Other	3,320	2,060	1,500	970	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,080</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>6,650</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,170</b>

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

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. February 2015 is the latest data available at the time of the request.
3. ESA replaced IB/SDA for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
5. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of drug abuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Personal/Work Capability Assessment.
6. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
7. The period cohorts allocate Employment and Support Allowance claims to the calendar month that the claim was first made. There is a reporting lag of approximately 9-months at the issuing date of this

statistical output owing to the time needed to process data and time allowed to enable each cohort's assessment phase to elapse e.g. March 2015 data is reported in December 2015.

8. The period cohorts for the latest month's worth of data adjust the least for the situation after appeal, as many appeal processes are still ongoing, and this makes the volumes and percentages on an inconsistent basis over the time series. These statistics are likely to alter the most in successive statistical reports.
9. The Department for Work and Pensions publishes Employment and Support Allowance in-flows caseloads on the Tabulation Tool - please see the departmental web-site for this product. These National Statistics will not match those in this table due to marginal difference in the data source, a degree of difference in retrospection and exclusion rules, and the rounding used in the above outturns; nevertheless both statistical outputs contain almost the same overall volume of cases.

Please note that the Department regularly releases information on ESA Work Capability Assessments which can be found here:

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

The latest tables released show that the number of initial WCAs completed and the corresponding number of WRAG outcomes have increased over the time period from December 2013 to February 2015.