

Freedom of Information request 2014-2282

Date received: 19 May 2014

Date of response: 20 June 2014

Information request

For each month from July 2013 to December 2013 inclusive, please give the number of adverse ESA sanctions decisions broken down by the Summary International Classification of Diseases (i.e. ESA Total; Other; Mental and Behavioural Disorders; Diseases of the Nervous System; Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System; Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue; and Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes) so that the total in each month matches the adverse decisions figures given in Table 2.1 in the DWP sanctions statistics release of 14 May 2014.

DWP response

The table below shows an estimate of the number of adverse Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction decisions, broken down by the Summary International Classification of Diseases (ICD) cause of incapacity recorded at the start of the claim.

Please note that ESA sanctions are only applied to those in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG), and not the Support Group, therefore comparisons should only be made with the ESA WRAG caseload and off-flows statistics published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-caseload-statistics>

For example, the percentage of the total ESA WRAG caseload who received an adverse sanction decision for the quarter ending Aug 13 was 1%.

For further information on ESA sanctions please see the Benefits Sanctions section here:

<https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance/what-youll-get>

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution. Please read the table notes.

The number of adverse Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction decisions, by ICD (disease) Summary Code, Great Britain: July 2013 to December 2013

| | All | Other | Mental and Behavioural Disorders | Diseases of the Nervous System | Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System | Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue | Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes |
|------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Jul | 2,245 | 373 | 1,354 | 78 | 79 | 256 | 108 |
| Aug | 2,193 | 380 | 1,352 | 92 | 55 | 218 | 102 |
| Sep | 2,603 | 433 | 1,602 | 98 | 102 | 238 | 130 |
| Oct | 3,372 | 586 | 2,006 | 108 | 124 | 390 | 161 |
| Nov | 3,837 | 620 | 2,336 | 169 | 108 | 428 | 180 |
| Dec | 4,789 | 809 | 2,974 | 170 | 138 | 490 | 206 |

Source: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (DWP)

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have had statistical disclosure control applied to avoid the release of confidential data. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Figures are to 31 December 2013, which is the latest data available.
2. ICD (disease) summary code: ICD (disease) code Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and so may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. The "Other" category includes claimants with an unknown medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
3. A medical condition does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and the decision on entitlement is based on the claimant's ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment.
4. **Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**