

Freedom of Information request 2013-5692

Date received: 4th December 2013

Date of response: 24th December 2013

Information request

The number of claimants in Lincoln and Lincolnshire claiming the main benefits (JSA, IB/SDA, DSA and/Or Universal credit or PIP) who are classified as having an alcohol addiction or drug addiction.

DWP response

In response to your request please see the tables below which are based on the latest available information. These tables show figures for the Lincolnshire district, figures for Lincoln local authority were provided to you in our responses to your previous Freedom of Information requests on 5th December 2013 (ref: 2013-5292) and 16th December 2013 (ref: 2013-5463).

Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants with Alcohol or Drugs Misuse as main disabling condition by Area: May 2013

	Area	Total	Other Diagnosis	Alcohol misuse	Drugs misuse
IB/SDA					
May 2013	Great Britain	742,320	723,090	10,920	8,310
	Lincolnshire	7,670	7,560	50	50
ESA					
May 2013	Great Britain	1,747,610	1,678,360	42,600	26,650
	Lincolnshire	18,760	18,350	240	170

Disability Living Allowance (DLA), cases in payment with Drug and Alcohol misuse as the main disabling condition by Area: May 2013.

	Area	Total	Drug/Alcohol misuse	Other Diagnosis
May 2013	GB	3,305,200	21,630	3,283,570
	Lincolnshire	39,940	100	39,830

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate 100% WPLS

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The medical condition recorded on the ESA/IB/SDA claim form does not itself confer entitlement to benefit. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming 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.
3. Great Britain total includes a small number of cases who are resident abroad.
4. The Local Authorities included in Lincolnshire are: Boston, East Lindsey, West Lindsey, Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Kesteven and South Holland.
5. The DLA Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended e.g. if they are in hospital.
6. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
7. The Department publishes information on benefit claimants, these figures are available at:- <http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

As statistics for Universal Credit (UC) and the Personal independence Payment (PIP) are intended for future publication this information is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption is qualified, and is therefore subject to a public interest test. The public interest test is where the Department considers whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding or disclosing the information requested.

Arguments in favour of disclosure: There are public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this information at the present time. Disclosure would for example improve transparency in the operations of the Department.

Arguments against disclosure: There are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified.

It is also in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process, to ensure that the

data are accurate once placed into the public domain. It is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

On this occasion, the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information. As explained above, statistics on this issue will be published in due course.