

# Freedom of Information request 2014-1739

**Date received: 3 April 2014**

**Date of response: 13 June 2014**

## Information request

I am making this freedom of information request to establish what data the DWP holds on the number of working age people in Wales with an Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) claiming selected benefits or who are referred to the work programme or attached to a Work programme provider. I am also making this freedom of information request to gather the data the DWP holds on the number of working age people in Wales with an ASD claiming selected benefits or who are referred to the work programme or attached to a work programme provider

### Employment support allowance claimants

Is information about whether people claiming employment support allowance (ESA), have an ASD, collected?

If data is available, we would like to request data on:

- the total number of working age people (i.e. aged 16-64) claiming ESA in Wales who have an ASD in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013
- the number of working age people claiming ESA in Wales who have an ASD in the "work related activity group" and the number in the "support group" in 2011, 2012 and 2013

Is information about ASD included as part of ICD (disease) codes?

If this information is collected, what is the total number of working age people in Wales, whose ESA claim is the result of an incapacity benefit/disability living allowance reassessment, have an ASD, in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

### Incapacity Benefit claimants

What is the total number of working age people claiming Incapacity Benefit in Wales who have an (a) Autism and (b) Asperger's Syndrome recorded as their Main Disabling Condition (within the Learning difficulty category) in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2103?

### Disability Living Allowance claimants

What is the total number of working age people claiming Disability Living Allowance in Wales who have an (a) Autism and (b) Asperger's Syndrome recorded as their Main Disabling Condition (within the Learning difficulty category) in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2103?

### Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) Claimants

Disability status is declared by a Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Is information about the type of disability is recorded?

If information about the type of disability is recorded, we would like to know the number of people in Wales claiming JSA who are known to have an ASD in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2103?

### Numbers of people with an ASD on the Work Programme

If information about the type of disability of people in Wales referred to the Work programme or attached to a work programme provider is collected, we would like to request:

The number of people in Wales referred to the Work Programme who have an ASD in 2011, 2012 and 2013

The number of people in Wales attached to a Work Programme provider who have an ASD in 2011, 2012 and 2013

The number of people in Wales with an ASD on the Work Programme for whom a job outcome payment was made in 2011, 2012 and 2013 .

## DWP response

In response to your queries regarding Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, and Work Programme, the statistics we have available are given in tables 1-5 below. Please note that due to the way the information is held on our system this is the lowest level of detail available.

Tables 1, 2, 3, and 5 show Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA), and Work Programme statistics for those with a recorded medical condition of "Pervasive Development Disorders" (PDD). This includes Asperger's Syndrome (AS) and Autism in addition to other PDDs. We are unable to separate those cases with AS or Autism from this group.

Table 4 shows the number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (cases in payment) with main disabling conditions of "Asperger's Syndrome", "Autism" and "Other learning difficulties". From October 2008 the way in which disabling condition is recorded on the live system changed. Previously AS and Autism cases were recorded under the general heading of "Learning Difficulties". Although AS and Autism cases are now recorded separately, many people are still recorded under the general heading of "Learning Difficulties". The figures given are therefore the new cases recorded under Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, and also the old cases which cannot be separated. These are the number of people whose main disabling condition is recorded as "Learning Difficulties" which includes: Down's Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Other Learning Disability, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Retts Disorder.

**Table 1: Employment and Support Allowance claimants aged 16-64 with a main recorded condition of Pervasive Development Disorder, by phase of claim, Wales: August 2010 – August 2013**

	All with Pervasive Development Disorder	Of which: Support Group	Of which: Work Related Activity Group
--	---	----------------------------	---

Aug-10	70	10	30
Aug-11	110	30	50
Aug-12	210	80	90
Aug-13	330	180	100

**Table 2: Employment and Support Allowance Incapacity Benefits Reassessments claimants aged 16-64 with a main recorded condition of Pervasive Development Disorder, Wales: August 2011 - August 2013**

	All with Pervasive Development Disorder
Aug-11	10
Aug-12	70
Aug-13	130

**Table 3: Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants aged 16-64 with a main recorded condition of Pervasive Development Disorder, Wales: August 2008 – August 2013**

	All with Pervasive Development Disorder
Aug-08	230
Aug-09	230
Aug-10	230
Aug-11	220
Aug-12	160
Aug-13	90

**Source Tables 1-3:** DWP Information Governance and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Notes Tables 1-3:**

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. IB was replaced by ESA from October 2008. Incapacity Benefits Reassessments rolled out nationally from April 2011.
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 Autism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated health problems.
4. Information on ESA by medical condition is not available prior to February 2010.

**Table 4: Disability Living Allowance claimants (cases in payment) aged 16-64 by specified Main Disabling Conditions, Wales: August 2008 – August 2013**

	Asperger's Syndrome	Autism	Other Learning Difficulties (inc. Asperger's Syndrome and Autism)
Aug-08	-	-	10,680
Aug-09	190	150	10,860
Aug-10	430	380	11,130
Aug-11	660	630	11,380
Aug-12	840	870	11,590
Aug-13	1,080	1,150	11,690

**Source:** DWP Information Governance and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

**Notes:**

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. From October 2008 the way in which disabling condition is recorded on the live system changed. Previously Asperger's Syndrome and Autism cases were recorded under the general heading of "Learning Difficulties". Although Asperger's Syndrome and Autism cases are now recorded separately, many people are still recorded under the general heading of "Learning Difficulties". The figures given are the new cases recorded under Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, and also the old cases which cannot be separated. These are the number of people whose main disabling condition is recorded as "Learning Difficulties" which includes: Down's Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Other Learning Disability, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Retts Disorder.
5. 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.

**Table 5: Work Programme Referrals, Attachments and Job Outcomes with a main recorded condition of Pervasive Development Disorder, Wales: June 2011 – December 2013**

	Referrals	Attachments	Job Outcomes
2011	-	-	-
2012	10	10	-
2013	10	10	-

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to the rounding method used. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
2. **Referrals:** Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.
3. **Attachments:** The date of the first engagement activity between the provider and the participant as recorded on the payment administrative system.
4. **Job Outcomes:** A Job Outcome payment can be claimed when Employment Duration of 6 months is identified along with other set conditions dependent on Payment Group. Further details are available on the Work Programme Official Statistics homepage at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-programme-official-statistics-background-information-note>
5. Data for 2011 includes figures from 1 June 2011 when the Work Programme was introduced, to 31 December 2011. Data to 31 December 2013 is the latest information available.

In response to your queries regarding Employment and Support Allowance claimants by medical condition prior to February 2010 and Jobseeker's Allowance claimants by disability type, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

A person can self-declare in the Jobcentre whether or not they consider themselves to *"have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities"* however information is not collated on the type of impairment declared.