

# Freedom of Information request 2013-5265

Date received 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Date of response 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## Information request

Could you please, for the last year available, tell me how many Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants have had a sanction or disallowance decision overturned on a) reconsideration or b) appeal in the boroughs of Southend, Basildon, Castle Point, Thurrock and Rochford?

- How many requests for reconsideration and appeals have been lodged in those areas in that period?

- Could you break the number down per borough?

## DWP response

In response to your question on “**how many Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) claimants, have had a sanction or disallowance decision overturned on a) reconsideration or b) appeal in the boroughs of Southend, Basildon, Castle Point, Thurrock and Rochford?**” the latest available information from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012 to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 is shown in the table below.

**Number<sup>1</sup> of Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) sanctioned claimants where the original decision was reconsidered or appealed by reconsideration/appeal decision<sup>2</sup> and Local Authority<sup>3</sup>: 22nd October 2012 - 30th June 2013**

	Decision <sup>2</sup>	Local Authority				
		Southend-on-Sea	Thurrock	Basildon	Castle Point	Rochford
Appeals	Adverse	10	10	-	-	-
	Non adverse	-	-	-	-	-
Reconsiderations	Adverse	310	270	310	170	110
	Non adverse	250	180	190	110	70

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and will include individuals who have had more than one decision or the same decision in more than one Local Authority e.g. if an individual has both an adverse and non adverse decision then they will appear twice. “-“ denotes nil or negligible.
2. **Decision:** An adverse decision is one that is found against the claimant. A non adverse decision is one that is found in favour of the claimant.

3. **Local Authority:** On 1 April 2009 structural changes to the local authorities of England took effect. Changes are reflected from April 2009 in this table.

New regulations introduced a new revised sanctions regime for JSA claimants from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobseekers-allowance-overview-of-sanctions-rules>

With regard to a) sanctions information in the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012, needed to provide figures for the latest available year, and b) the total number of reconsiderations and appeals **lodged**, by Local Authority, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of retrieving and extracting this information 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.

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act we are obliged to assist you in providing options to narrow your request, by reforming or refocusing it, so that it will fall beneath the cost limit. In this case our advice would be to narrow your question so that it only asks for a) information prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012 for the first part of your question if you require a longer time series and b) information on reconsiderations and appeals **where a decision has been made**, i.e. excluding those that are still pending, for the second part of your question.