

Freedom of Information request 2013-3130

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Information request

- The number of people who were found 'fit for work' through the Work Capability Assessment
- The number of people who were found 'fit for work' through the Work Capability Assessment who were subsequently found unfit to claim Jobseekers Allowance
- The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who appealed
- The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who had the decision overturned on appeal

I would like the information at a national level and for the Borough of Darlington for each month from April 2012 to March 2013.

DWP response

In response to part one of your query regarding **"The number of people who were found 'fit for work' through the Work Capability Assessment** "at a national level, section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The latest publication was released in July 2013 and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

Tables 2a and 2b provide national WCA outcomes for initial assessments and repeat assessments respectively. This covers all WCA outcomes between October 2008 and February 2013, the latest data available.

Table 10 provides outcomes of the WCA for claimants going through incapacity benefits reassessment (IBR), nationally. This covers all claims referred for reassessment by the end of November 2012, the latest data available.

In response to part one of your query regarding **"The number of people who were found 'fit for work' through the Work Capability Assessment "**

in the Borough of Darlington, the tables below provide the initial and repeat WCA outcomes for claimants in Darlington, for WCA outcomes made between April 2012 and February 2013, the latest data available, and also the WCA outcomes for IBR made between April 2012 and November 2012, the latest data available for IBR.

Initial WCA outcomes for WCA completed for claimants in Darlington in months shown										
Volume of caseloads						Percentage of completed assessment caseloads				
Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed						Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed				
Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome		Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome
Work Related Activity Group (a)	Support Group (b)	Either group (a+b)				Work Related Activity Group (A)	Support Group (B)	Either group (A+B)		
Apr-12	10	10	20	40	60	12%	16%	28%	72%	100%
May-12	10	20	30	30	60	20%	32%	52%	48%	100%
Jun-12	10	30	40	20	60	23%	46%	69%	31%	100%
Jul-12	20	30	40	40	80	20%	35%	55%	45%	100%
Aug-12	10	20	30	40	70	17%	25%	42%	58%	100%
Sep-12	10	20	30	30	60	22%	27%	49%	51%	100%
Oct-12	20	30	50	50	100	16%	33%	49%	51%	100%
Nov-12	10	30	40	40	80	15%	36%	51%	49%	100%
Dec-12	10	10	20	30	60	22%	19%	41%	59%	100%
Jan-13	10	20	30	50	70	16%	20%	36%	64%	100%
Feb-13	20	20	40	40	80	19%	26%	45%	55%	100%
Total	140	230	370	410	780	18%	29%	47%	53%	100%

Repeat WCA outcomes for WCA completed for claimants in Darlington in months shown										
Volume of caseloads						Percentage of completed assessment caseloads				
Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed						Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed				
Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome		Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome
Work Related Activity Group (a)	Support Group (b)	Either group (a+b)				Work Related Activity Group (A)	Support Group (B)	Either group (A+B)		
Apr-12	20	10	30	20	50	33%	31%	64%	36%	100%
May-12	10	20	30	20	60	23%	38%	61%	39%	100%
Jun-12	10	20	40	20	50	25%	45%	71%	29%	100%
Jul-12	20	20	40	10	50	40%	38%	79%	21%	100%
Aug-12	20	20	40	20	50	28%	44%	72%	28%	100%
Sep-12	10	20	40	10	50	23%	51%	74%	26%	100%
Oct-12	10	30	50	20	60	17%	53%	70%	30%	100%
Nov-12	20	20	40	10	50	39%	35%	73%	27%	100%
Dec-12	10	30	40	10	40	23%	57%	80%	20%	100%
Jan-13	20	30	50	10	60	27%	57%	83%	17%	100%
Feb-13	20	40	60	10	60	33%	56%	89%	11%	100%

Total	160	270	430	150	580	28%	46%	75%	25%	100%
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WCA outcomes on IBR claims for WCA completed for claimants in Darlington in months shown

	Volume of caseloads									Percentage of completed assessment caseloads				
	Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed					Status of claims where functional assessment has not been completed			Total Caseload	Outcomes of claims where functional assessment has been completed				
	Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome	Closed before assessment	Still in progress	Any status		Entitled to Employment and Support Allowance:			Fit for Work	Any outcome
Month of referral	Work Related Activity Group (a)	Support Group (b)	Either group (a+b)						(c)	(a+b+c)	(d)	(e)		
Apr-12	30	40	70	20	100	-	-	-	100	35%	40%	75%	25%	100%
May-12	20	30	40	30	80	-	-	10	80	23%	34%	57%	43%	100%
Jun-12	40	20	60	30	90	-	-	-	90	44%	26%	70%	30%	100%
Jul-12	20	30	50	30	70	-	-	-	80	26%	38%	64%	36%	100%
Aug-12	40	20	70	30	100	10	-	10	110	42%	24%	66%	34%	100%
Sep-12	20	30	60	30	90	-	-	-	90	27%	38%	65%	35%	100%
Oct-12	30	30	60	20	80	-	-	-	80	41%	34%	75%	25%	100%
Nov-12	20	30	50	20	70	-	-	-	70	36%	40%	76%	24%	100%
Total	230	230	460	210	660	10	-	20	700	35%	34%	69%	31%	100%

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

Notes:

Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages to the nearest percentage point therefore totals may not sum due to rounding;

“-“ indicates a nil or negligible value

In response to part two of your query, regarding “The number of people who were found ‘fit for work’ through the Work Capability Assessment who were subsequently found unfit to claim Jobseekers Allowance”. We can confirm that the Department does hold some information on ESA claimants who were found fit for work and subsequently found not to be eligible for Jobseeker’s Allowance. However, this information is not centrally collated and we estimate that to locate and retrieve 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 this part of your request further.

In response to parts three and four of your query regarding “**The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who appealed** and “**The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who had the decision overturned on appeal**” at a national level, section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Table 3 of the regular official statistics linked above provides outcomes of appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions in initial functional assessment by month of claim start. This covers all claims made up to the end of May 2012, the latest data available.

In response to parts three and four of your query regarding “**The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who appealed** and “**The number of people who were found fit for work through the Work Capability Assessment who had the decision overturned on appeal**” in the Borough of Darlington, the table below provides the latest available data for completed appeal outcomes against a fit for work decision at the initial WCA on a claim. Note that data is only available for claims starting in the months of April and May 2012.

Outcomes of appeals heard on fit for work decision by month of claim start in Darlington								
Volume of appeals in thousands						Percentage of heard appeals		
Outcomes of appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions in the initial functional assessment ²				Status of Fit for Work decisions where there is no completed appeals information at this date	Total caseload with a Fit for Work decision	Outcomes of appeals heard on Fit for Work decisions in the initial functional assessment		
Initial decision upheld	Initial decision overturned	Any outcome	Initial decision upheld			Initial decision overturned	Any outcome	
Apr-12	-	-	-	30	40	-	-	-
May-12	10	-	10	30	40	-	-	-

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

Notes:

Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 therefore totals may not sum due to rounding; Percentages have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

‘-’ nil or negligible

To complete the **response to parts three and four of your query, regarding** information on appeals against IBR WCAs, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information on appeals against IBR WCAs. However, this information is not centrally collated and we estimate that to locate and retrieve 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 this part of your request further.