

# Freedom of Information request 2013-4213

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## Information request

Can I please have statistics relating to the issuing of sanctions to benefit claimants for Lincolnshire, namely:

- 1) How many referrals to a decision maker following a doubt as to conditionality were made within Lincolnshire for the last financial year.
- 2) How many referrals to a decision maker following a doubt as to conditionality was made within Lincolnshire for the previous two years.
- 3) How many sanctions were issued within Lincolnshire for the last financial year.
- 4) How many sanctions were issued within Lincolnshire for the previous two years.
- 5) How many appeals against sanctions were issued in Lincolnshire for the last financial year.
- 6) How many appeals against sanctions were issued in Lincolnshire for the previous two years.

Regarding all of the above, if you can supply a break-down of Lincolnshire Job Centre offices that would most helpful.

## DWP response

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 you confirmed that your request was with regards to sanctions on Jobseeker's Allowance.

Please note that the latest data available for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions is to the 21st October 2012 (the last date covered by the old sanctions regime).

The first set of statistics on the new JSA sanctions regime will be published in due course. A proposed publication date will be announced in advance via <https://www.gov.uk/> and <http://www.statsusernet.org.uk/Home> in the "Welfare and Benefits" community.

More information on the new sanctions regime, introduced on the 22nd of October 2012, can be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/jsa-sanction-changes/>

In response to questions 1 to 4 of your query, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department published ad hoc statistics on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction referrals by Jobcentre Plus Office on the 15th May 2013 titled: **"Number of Jobseeker's Allowance sanctions and disallowances, where a decision has been made, in each month from 1 April 2000 to 21 October 2012"** which can be used in answer to your questions and can be found under **"2013 – quarter 2 – ad hoc statistical analyses"** via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

For questions 1 and 2, the number of JSA sanction referrals can be found from the tab labelled **"All decisions"**. For questions 3 and 4, the number of referrals where a sanction has been issued is available from the tab labelled **"Adverse Decisions"**. For information the Jobcentre Plus Offices situated in Lincolnshire are: Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham, Lincoln Orchard Street, Louth, Skegness, Sleaford, Spalding and Stamford.

In response to questions 5 and 6 of your query, statistics on the number of appeals against sanctions issued in all Jobcentre Plus Offices in Lincolnshire for each of the last 3 financial years can be found in the table below:

**Number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctioned claimants who asked for reconsideration or appealed the original decision in Lincolnshire Jobcentre Plus Offices: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

Jobcentre Plus Office	Appeals			Reconsiderations		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1760</b>	<b>1340</b>
Boston	40	20	-	210	240	160
Gainsborough	20	10	-	140	130	120
Grantham	40	20	-	180	120	110
Lincoln Orchard Street	60	10	-	790	530	500
Louth	30	-	-	120	100	60
Skegness	20	20	-	190	260	130
Sleaford	20	10	-	90	100	50
Spalding	20	10	-	170	200	150
Stamford	10	-	-	120	80	60

**Source:**

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

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.  
Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used. Figures will include claimants who have had more than one referral.
2. **Year:** The year in which the decision was made. The year 2012/13 only includes data up to and including the 21st of October, where this is the latest data available.