

# **Freedom of Information request 2013-4773**

**Date received: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

**Date of response: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

## **Information request**

For all ESA claimants:

1. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the date of a claimant making a new claim for ESA and the date an ESA50 form is issued to them, and total claimant numbers?
2. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form and the date of these claimants' face to face assessment, and total claimant numbers?
3. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form to existing Incapacity Benefit claimants and the date of their face to face assessments, and total claimant numbers?

For ESA claimants where there is no mental health capacity issue:

1. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the date of a claimant making a new claim for ESA and the date an ESA50 form is issued to them, and total claimant numbers?
2. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form and the date of these claimants' face to face assessment, and total claimant numbers?
3. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form to existing Incapacity Benefit claimants and the date of their face to face assessments, and total claimant numbers?

For ESA claimants where mental health is the main issue:

1. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the date of a claimant making a new claim for ESA and the date an ESA50 form is issued to them, and total claimant numbers?
2. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form and the date of these claimants' face to face assessment, and total claimant numbers?
3. The mean, modal and maximum length of time between the issue of an ESA50 form to existing Incapacity Benefit claimants and the date of their face to face assessments, and total claimant numbers?

## **DWP response**

In response to your query, the table below gives relevant information.

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished administrative data which is prone to a small degree of error. All claims with an invalid duration (missing or negative) have therefore been excluded from this analysis. It is for this reason that the number of claims given in column (2) of the part of the table is greater than those in column (1). Please also note that these figures have also not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard and should therefore be treated with caution.

**Descriptive Statistics for the number of days between (1) new claims for ESA and the issue of ESA50 form and issue of ESA50 form and the assessment date for (2) new ESA claims and (3) existing Incapacity Benefit Reassessment (IBR) claimants and the total number of claims - for all claims and those with Mental and Behavioural Disorders: Oct 2008 to Feb 2013**

		(1) ESA claim date to ESA50 issue date <sup>2</sup>	(2) ESA50 issue date <sup>2</sup> to assessment date <sup>3</sup>	(3) ESA50 issue date <sup>2</sup> to assessment date <sup>3</sup>
Length of time in days <sup>1</sup>		New ESA claims		Incapacity Benefit Reassessment (IBR) claimants
All Claims	Mean	45.7	82.4	75.1
	Standard deviation	74.2	67.6	57.4
	Median	24	64	63
	Interquartile range	29	55	46
	Mode	30	56	56
Claims – Condition Group: Mental and Behavioural Disorders <sup>4</sup>	Mean	49.2	88.4	76.3
	Standard deviation	81.9	71.7	59.0
	Median	24	69	64
	Interquartile range	29	53	46
	Mode	30	70	63
Claims – All other Condition Groups	Mean	43.4	78.4	74.0
	Standard deviation	68.5	64.4	55.7
	Median	24	62	63
	Interquartile range	28	56	47
	Mode	30	56	56
Total number of claims <sup>1</sup>				
All Claims		1,707,200	1,775,400	840,900
Claims – Condition Group: Mental and Behavioural Disorders.		688,100	710,900	411,000
Claims – All other Condition Groups		1,019,100	1,064,500	429,900

**Source:** Department for Work and Pensions and ATOS Healthcare.

**Notes:**

1. Length of time in days is the number of calendar days. Mean and standard deviation are rounded to 1 decimal place, other measures are rounded to the nearest whole number and figures for total number of claims are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The claim date is the date when the claim is received and following referral to ATOS Healthcare the ESA50 form is usually issued.
3. The assessment date is the date on which ATOS make their recommendation, which is usually the date of the face-to-face assessment, if there is one, or the date on which they make their paper-based recommendation if there is no face-to-face assessment.
4. Categories: World Health Organisations' International Classification of Diseases (2010) Condition Groups
5. Data is for new ESA claims made between October 2008 and February 2013 and for IBR referred between March 2011 and November 2012 and those referred in the trial areas<sup>6</sup>.
6. As all claims with an invalid duration (missing or negative) have been excluded from this analysis the number of claims in column b) of the second table is greater than those in column a).
7. The reassessment of existing incapacity benefits claimants started in October 2010 with a trial in the Burnley and Aberdeen areas.

Information on the maximum values is being withheld from release under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act: we believe that if exact figures were provided then multiple or linked tables from the same data source or other sources could be potentially taken together or enabled by subtraction or deduction to give disclosive data and allow the possible identification of an individual. We have therefore provided two measures of dispersion, standard deviation and interquartile range, which should enable a more meaningful analysis.