

Freedom of Information request 2014-66

Date received: 6th January 2014

Date of response: 3rd February 2014

Information request

This is a FOI request regarding Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance Sanctions in respect of decisions made since April 2013.

Please provide the following information on sanctions for claimants who reside in Sandwell local authority:

1. For Job Seeker's Allowance the number of:
 - a. Higher Level sanctions
 - b. Intermediate level sanctions
 - c. Lower level sanctions
2. For Employment and Support Allowance the number of:
 - a. Failure to attend an interview or
 - b. Failure to participate in work related activity
3. Can you advise how many requests for reconsideration and or appeal you received in respect of the above decisions, and how many of these decisions were over turned on reconsideration and or appeal?"

DWP response

In response to your query, the latest available information on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction referrals matching the above criteria can be found in the tables below.

Table 1: Number of JSA sanction referrals where an adverse decision has been made by level of sanction, Sandwell local authority: 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2013

| Month | Sandwell | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| | All | Low | Intermediate | High | Level not applicable/ not recorded |
| Total | 2,650 | 860 | 1,650 | 140 | - |
| Apr-13 | 950 | 290 | 610 | 50 | - |
| May-13 | 970 | 320 | 610 | 40 | - |
| Jun-13 | 730 | 250 | 430 | 50 | - |

Table 2: Number of ESA sanction referrals where an adverse decision has been made by reason for sanction, Sandwell local authority: 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2013

| Month | Sandwell | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Total | Failure to attend mandatory interview | Failed to undertake Work Related Activity |
| Total | 10 | - | 10 |
| Apr-13 | - | - | - |
| May-13 | 10 | - | - |
| Jun-13 | 10 | - | - |

Table 3a: Number of JSA sanction referrals where the decision has been either appealed or reconsidered and the number overturned as a result of the appeal or reconsideration, Sandwell local authority: 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2013

| Month | Sandwell | | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Appeal | | Reconsideration | |
| | Total | Overturned | Total | Overturned |
| Total | 10 | - | 690 | 350 |
| Apr-13 | 10 | - | 200 | 90 |
| May-13 | - | - | 270 | 140 |
| Jun-13 | - | - | 230 | 120 |

Table 3b: Number of ESA sanction referrals where the decision has been either appealed or reconsidered and the number overturned as a result of the appeal or reconsideration, Sandwell local authority: 1st April 2013 – 30th June 2013

| Month | Sandwell | | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | Appeal | | Reconsideration | |
| | Total | Overturned | Total | Overturned |
| Total | - | - | 10 | 10 |
| Apr-13 | - | - | - | - |
| May-13 | - | - | - | - |
| Jun-13 | - | - | - | - |

Source: DWP Information 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.
2. The number of benefit sanctions applied is the number of sanction or disallowance referrals where the decision was adverse i.e. found against the claimant.
3. Overturned - The number of sanction referrals where the decision has been either appealed or reconsidered and the decision was non-adverse i.e. found in favour of the claimant.
4. Figures include sanction decisions made up to and including 30th June which is the latest data available.
5. New regulations introduced a new revised sanctions regime for JSA claimants from 22nd October 2012 and for ESA claimants from 3rd December 2012. Details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>