

Freedom of Information request 2014-1022

Date received: 4 March 2014

Date of response: 1 April 2014

Information request

1) Please could you tell me how many people have been sanctioned for failure to participate in the Work Programme, broken down into high sanctions, intermediate sanctions and low-level sanctions, in the constituencies of Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney during the following periods:

- June 1 2011-November 30 2011
- December 1 2011-May 31 2012
- June 1 2012-November 30 2012
- December 1 2012-May 31 2013
- June 2 2013-November 30 2013

If this information is unavailable by constituency please could I have it for the county of Oxfordshire.

2) How many people have been participating in the Work Programme in the constituencies of Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney during the following periods:

- June 1 2011-November 30 2011
- December 1 2011-May 31 2012
- June 1 2012-November 30 2012
- December 1 2012-May 31 2013
- June 2 2013-November 30 2013

If this information is unavailable by constituency please could I have it for the county of Oxfordshire.

3) Total number of people to have their benefits suspended following sanctions in the constituencies of Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney during the following periods. Divided by which benefit they were in receipt of.

- Jan 1 2010 - December 31 2010.
- Jan 1 2011 - December 31 2011.
- Jan 1 2012 - December 31 2012.
- Jan 1 2013 - December 31 2013.

If this information is unavailable by constituency please could I have it for the county of Oxfordshire.

4) The number of unemployed people living in the constituencies of Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney during the following periods:

- Jan 1 2010 - December 31 2010.
- Jan 1 2011 - December 31 2011.
- Jan 1 2012 - December 31 2012.
- Jan 1 2013 - December 31 2013.

If this information is unavailable by constituency please could I have it for the county of Oxfordshire.

DWP response

The Department answered a request under the Freedom of Information Act on 3 March 2014 on the number of people sanctioned for failure to participate in Work Programme (WP) titled: **“Statistics on Work Programme sanctions and unemployment in west Suffolk and Bury St Edmunds: Jan 2010 to Sept 2013”** (Reference: 2014-414) which can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-foi-releases>

Please note the term sanction has been used here to mean both sanctions (temporary suspension of payment of Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Income Support for Lone Parents (ISLP)) and disallowances (JSA claim is ended, as the customer is not fulfilling their entitlement criteria).

The instructions in the response can be used to answer to questions 1, 2, 4 and part of 3, by selecting the constituencies you require.

In answer to the remaining part of question 3, relating to sanctions for Income Support for Lone Parents (ISLP), the table below shows the number of individuals sanctioned in Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney parliamentary constituencies in total in each year from 1 January 2010 – 30 September 2013.

Number of ISLP individuals sanctioned in Banbury, Henley, Oxford East, Oxford West & Abingdon, Wantage and Witney constituency by date

Date	Number of ISLP individuals sanctioned					
	Banbury	Henley	Oxford East	Oxford West and Abingdon	Wantage	Witney
1 January to 31 December 2010	70	30	160	50	40	30
1 January to 31	80	40	120	30	40	30

December 2011						
1 January to 31 December 2012	70	40	110	30	40	30
1 January to 30 September 2013	50	20	70	20	30	20

Source:

Income Support Computer System

Notes:

1. Income Support Lone Parents receive a fixed sanction of 20% of the personal allowance rate of a single claimant [not aged less than 25] for each failure to attend/participate in a Work Focused Interview until 10 pence is left in payment. This sanction lasts until the individual attends and participates in a Work Focused Interview. In the case where there is more than one sanction in place the claimant need only attend/participate in one Work Focused Interview in order for all related sanctions to be removed from their benefit. .
2. Sanctions are only available up to 30 September 2013 for Income Support Lone Parents