

# **Freedom of Information request 2013-3507**

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## **Information request**

1. For each of the last five calendar years we would like to know the total number of people with rheumatoid arthritis who:

- Applied for the Disability Living Allowance
- Were awarded the Disability Allowance

2. For each of the last five calendar years we would like to know the total number of people with rheumatoid arthritis who were awarded:

- Higher rate mobility under the Disability Living Allowance
- Lower rate mobility under the Disability Living Allowance

3. For each of the last five calendar years we would like to know the total number of people with rheumatoid arthritis who:

- Appealed against a DWP decision regarding the Disability Living Allowance
- Successfully overturned a DWP decision regarding the Disability Living Allowance

As well as giving us figures for the overall numbers of people with rheumatoid arthritis, it would also be helpful to us if you could please provide us with percentage figures to understand what proportion of the total number of claimants this represents in each case.

## **DWP response**

For Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claims which started prior to October 2008, Rheumatoid Arthritis fell under a higher level category for Arthritis which also included other disabling conditions regarding Arthritis. This category cannot be separated without manually checking each individual record therefore we cannot identify those classified as Rheumatoid Arthritis prior to October 2008. As a result of this, the data provided contains DLA on-flows with a main disabling condition of Rheumatoid Arthritis starting from the full quarter ending February 2009.

In response to the second part of question 1 and both parts of question 2, regarding the number of people with Rheumatoid Arthritis who **“Were awarded the Disability Allowance”** and of these those who were awarded **“Higher rate mobility under the Disability Living Allowance”** and **“Lower rate mobility under the Disability Living Allowance”** and also your final request on **“percentage figures”**, information on the number of on-flows to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) by quarter of on-flow and Rate of DLA for Rheumatoid Arthritis from February 2009 – February 2013 can be found in the attached Excel document (FOI 2013-3507 Response.xls). February 2013 is the latest information available.

In response to the first part of question 1 and both parts of question 3, regarding the number of people with Rheumatoid Arthritis who **“Applied for the Disability Living Allowance”**, **“Appealed against a DWP decision regarding the Disability Living Allowance”** and **“Successfully overturned a DWP decision regarding the Disability Living Allowance”**, we are unable to provide this information. This is because our management information systems do not record this level of detail. Although the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request it would require a clerical scrutiny of the customer case papers to obtain the data.

We estimate that the cost of complying with this part of your request 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 DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate spending 3.5 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.

Information that is available is that on overall DLA Appeals and this is published by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics>

Information on how to raise a Freedom of Information request with HMCTS can be found here: <https://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-requests/make-an-foi-request-online>