

Freedom of Information request 2013-5268

Date received: 6 November 2013

Date of response: 4 December 2013

Information request

Concerning the 580,000 sanctions that were handed down between October 2012 and June 2013. How many of these were the result of a sanction initiated by a Work Programme provider??

I understand that Work Programme providers do not directly refer their clients for a sanction, they pass on their information to the Jobcentre and let them decide if a sanction is appropriate...

I would like to know how many of the 580,000 sanctions processed were the result of a notification to the Jobcentre via a Work programme provider.

DWP response

In response to your query in whole, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, it is not readily available on the datasets available for analysis and we estimate that the cost of complying with your whole 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 spending 3½ 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 your request further.

However, available within cost is the number of adverse decisions for claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance that were sanctioned for 'Failing to Participate in the Work Programme' between 22nd October 2012 and 30th June 2013 and this figure is 162,400.

Please note that this figure has been rounded to the nearest ten and has been sourced from the DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.