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Department
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Pensions

Access to Work: Official Statistics

January 2014

Executive summary

27,020 individuals were helped through Access to Work between April 2013 and September 2013.

31,460 individuals were helped through Access to Work in the 2012/13 financial year.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

This summary contains figures on Access to Work from April 2007, up to and including **September 2013**. Annex A provides more detailed breakdowns. Some of the figures given for recent months may be subject to revision as more complete data becomes available.

2 Headline Statistics

These statistics are figures for all Access to Work customers in the current financial year.

2.1 Numbers Helped and Continuing to Benefit from Access to Work

2.1.1 Numbers Helped (April 2013 to September 2013)

27,020 individuals helped, of which:

- 20,980 were existing customers
- 6,040 were new customers

2.1.2 Numbers Continuing to Benefit from Access to Work (April 2013 to September 2013)

- 5,020 individuals continuing to benefit from Access to Work¹

¹ Number of individuals who are not counted within the numbers helped, but for whom there is a Special Aids and Equipment element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element was available within the previous two years, and the individual is deemed to still be benefiting from this

3 Purpose of Access to Work

The purpose of Access to Work is to:

- Help pay towards the equipment an individual needs at work; a communicator at job interviews, adapting premises to meet an individual's needs, or paying a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if an individual cannot use public transport.

An individual may be able to get Access to Work if they are:

- In a paid job
- Unemployed and about to start a job
- Unemployed and about to start a Work Trial
- Unemployed and about to start a Work Experience placement through the Youth Contract (from 1st October 2012)
- Self-employed

and their disability or health condition stops them from being able to do parts of their job.

An individual's disability or health condition may not have a big effect on what they do each day, but may have a long-term effect on how well they can do their job.

The amount of help which an individual may receive from Access to Work will vary depending on how long they have been employed, what support they need and whether they are self-employed.

Access to Work can pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs if an individual is:

- Unemployed and starting a new job
- Self-employed
- Working for an employer and have been in the job for less than six weeks

Whatever an individual's employment status, Access to Work will also pay up to 100 per cent of the approved costs of help with:

- Support workers
- Fares to work
- Communicator support at interview

Access to Work pays a proportion of the costs of support if all of the following apply to an individual:

- They're working for an employer
- They've been in the job for six weeks or more
- They need special equipment or adaptations to premises

The precise level of cost sharing is agreed between the employer and the Access to Work adviser.

After between one and three years, Access to Work will review an individual's circumstances and the support they're receiving.

Annex A: Access to Work Breakdowns

Totals may not sum due to rounding. See Annex B for definitions used in tables below.

Table 1: Number of individuals helped each financial year, by whether an existing customer or a new customer helped.

Customer Type	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Q1 and Q2 2013-14	Total numbers helped since April 2007
Existing customer	15,450	18,130	20,750	22,500	20,770	20,660	20,980	-
New customer helped	12,270	14,010	16,540	13,330	10,010	10,800	6,040	-
Total	27,720	32,130	37,280	35,820	30,780	31,460	27,020	104,620

Table 2 – Further numbers who continue to benefit each financial year. This table shows the number of individuals who received special aids or equipment within the two years prior to the relevant reporting period and who are assumed to still be benefiting from the support.

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Q1 and Q2 2013-14	Total who have continued to benefit since April 2007
12,980	11,550	13,000	16,770	15,730	8,210	5,020	46,260

Table 3 – Numbers of new starts on Access to Work programme. This table refers to the year in which customers first registered for Access to Work [as opposed to the year in which that help was received (table 1).]

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Q1 and Q2 2013-14	Total new starts since April 2007
11,150	13,610	16,230	13,070	9,770	10,440	5,710	79,970

Table 4 – Numbers helped in current year to date, by primary medical condition

Primary Medical Condition	
Missing/Unknown	0
Arms or hands	1,090
Legs or feet	2,040
Back or neck	2,580
Stomach, liver, kidney or digestion	80
Heart, blood, blood pressure or circulation	220
Chest or breathing	130
Skin conditions and severe disfigurement	10
Difficulty in hearing	4,740
Difficulty in seeing	4,330
Difficulty in speaking	60
Learning disability	1,460
Progressive illness	1,650
Dyslexia	3,000
Epilepsy	980
Diabetes	150
Mental health condition	870
Cerebral Palsy	400
Spina Bifida	90
Other	3,140
Total	27,020

Table 5 – Numbers of awards granted in current year to date, by element type

Element Type	
Adaptation to Premises	30
Adaptation to Vehicles	110
Communication Support at Interview	180
Miscellaneous	30
Miscellaneous with Cost Share	10
Travel in Work	1,030
Special Aids and Equipment	2,680
Support Worker	12,090
Travel to Work	11,300
AtW Assessment	4,410
Total	31,860

Annex B: Explanation of Access to Work Tables

Headline statistics – section 2.1.2 - the numbers continuing to benefit for the current financial year may change as more up to date data on numbers helped becomes available. If an individual received a Special Aids and Equipment (SAE) award on 1st May 2007, they are classed as being helped in the 2007/08 financial year, and are classed as continuing to benefit from that SAE in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial years. However, when the numbers helped for the current financial year are updated, we may subsequently find that the individual received another SAE in the 2009/10 year. To avoid double counting this individual within the current year the individual is counted as being helped in the 2009/10 year from their new SAE award, but are removed from the numbers continuing to benefit. The individual will, however, be counted as continuing to benefit from their new SAE in the 2010/11 and 2011/12 years, provided they don't receive another SAE in either of those two years.

Table 1 - Each individual is counted once in each year. This shows the number of individuals who have been assessed within the year or for whom there is an element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element has been made available within the year. If a person has been helped in more than one financial year, they are only counted once in the total numbers helped since April 2007 column.

Table 2 - Further numbers who continue to benefit with receipt of Special Aids and Equipment (SAE) in previous two years. Each individual is counted once in each year. These are individuals for whom there is a SAE element where approval has been made (including nil cost) and the element was available within the previous two years, and the individual is deemed to still be benefiting from this. When comparing the same financial year between Tables 1 and 2, these individuals will be counted in Table 1 in one or both of the previous two financial years, but are not counted as being helped in the same financial year. If a person has continued to benefit from a SAE element in more than one financial year, they are only counted once in the total who have continued to benefit since April 2007 column.

Table 3: Each person is only counted once across all financial years. This measure differs from the numbers helped as it simply counts new customers who have received support in each period.

Table 4: Primary medical condition recorded is based on a self-definition of an individual's medical condition, and the condition recorded reflects the barrier the customer faces in finding employment.

Table 5: A person may receive more than one element. Therefore the sum of the awards granted is greater than the numbers helped.