

## Freedom of Information request 2015-362

Date received 28 January 2015

Date of response 26 March 2015

### Information request

Please provide statistical data on the proportion of JSA claimants who have had a sanction imposed on payment of their benefit in the East of Scotland (particularly Fife) region. I would be grateful if you could provide monthly statistics for the said region in respect of 2014.

### DWP response

The requested information regarding Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is shown in the table below.

Please note that intention of sanctions is to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefits. Sanctions are a necessary part of the benefits system and are used only as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction, as evidenced by the figures below.

Published figures show that at any one time only around 5% of the JSA caseload has been subject to a sanction.

**Please note that the JSA proportions are derived from unpublished information which have not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standards. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

**Percentage of JSA claimants who received one or more adverse JSA sanction decisions monthly in Fife local authority: January 2014 - June 2014**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Percentage of individuals claiming JSA who received an adverse sanction decision</b>
<b>January 2014</b>	6%
<b>February 2014</b>	5%
<b>March 2014</b>	5%
<b>April 2014</b>	5%
<b>May 2014</b>	5%
<b>June 2014</b>	6%

**Source:** DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), Stat-Xplore, Department for Work and Pensions

**Notes:**

1. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number.
2. Individuals claiming JSA are those who have had at least one live computerised claim at any point throughout each given month and will only be counted once in the figures above.
3. Data is given to June 2014 which is the latest data available at the time of the request.