

Freedom of Information request 2014-3750

Date received 27 August 2014

Date of response 24 September 2014

Information request

Please amend the request to just supply how many people have been on JSA continuously for 10 years or more, and how many of these have been placed on the CWP.

A previous request for long term unemployed was made by Thomas Fairhurst on 14th March 2013. I require an up-to-date figure, plus the CWP referrals.

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/on_jsa_for_longer_than_10_years#incoming-378573

DWP response

In response to the first part of your query, please see the table below.

Please note that the underlying data source used to produce these figures contains a small number of cases where the dates recorded for when the claimant starts and ends their Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claim are either invalid or missing. The figures shown below should therefore be treated with caution.

Number of JSA claimants and of which those with a current continuous claim of over 10 years, Great Britain: February 2014

Number of JSA claimants	Of which; those with a current claim of over 10 years
1,145,630	1,130

Source: DWP, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data is at February 2014 which is the latest data available at the time of request.

In response to part 2 of your query, the Community Work Placement (CWP) programme was rolled out nationally from April 2014 as part of the "Help to Work" scheme.

As statistics on CWP are intended for future publication this information is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This exemption is qualified, and is therefore subject to a public interest test. The public interest test is where the Department considers whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding or disclosing the information requested.

Arguments in favour of disclosure: There are public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this information at the present time. Disclosure would for example improve transparency in the operations of the Department.

Arguments against disclosure: There are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that until a full sample of data is available the results will be skewed and misleading, also, it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified.

It is also in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process, to ensure that the data are accurate once placed into the public domain. It is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

On this occasion, the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information. As explained above, statistics on this issue will be published in due course and the publication date will be pre-announced here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>