

Freedom of Information request 2013-3634

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Information request

I would like to request the following information:

By Local Authority District, for each of the benefits listed below: the annual number of individuals who had a sanction or disallowance applied and what percentage this figure represents of the total number of individuals claiming those benefits; from 2000 to 2010.

- (A) Jobseekers Allowance
- (B) Income Support for Lone Parents
- (C) Income Support - non Lone Parents
- (D) Incapacity Benefit

DWP response

In response to questions A and B please see the attached document (FOI 2013-3634 Response.xls) which gives the number of individuals who had a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Income Support (IS) for Lone Parent (LP) sanction or disallowance applied and what percentage this figure represents of the total number of individuals claiming these benefits.

In response to question C sanctions are only applied to IS claimants who fail to attend or participate, without good cause, in a mandatory Work Focused Interview (WFI) for LP's. Therefore the information requested is not available.

In response to question and D and for ISLP sanctions prior to 2005 we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of extracting this information 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.