

Freedom of Information request 2014-72

Date received 7th January 2014

Date of response 3rd February 2014

Information request

I would like to know the proportions of people who, when assessed under the Work Capability Assessment, are held to have a prognosis of either 6, 12, 18 months, 2 years or "in the longer term".

If the filework guidance has been updated since June 2012 please provide an up to date copy.

DWP response

In response to the first part of your query, the table below shows the number and proportion of people who have had an initial or repeat Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and have one of the following prognoses: To be considered for a return to work within 6, 12 or 18 months; are unlikely to return to work within two years; or are unlikely to return to work in the longer term.

Number and proportion of people who have had an initial or repeat Work Capability Assessment (WCA) by prognosis: May 2013

Prognosis advise that a return to work could be considered within:	Initial WCA		Repeat WCA		Initial & Repeat WCA	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
6 months	404,300	51.8%	197,000	29.7%	601,400	41.7%
12 months	215,400	27.6%	227,600	34.3%	443,100	30.7%
18 months	51,300	6.6%	102,900	15.5%	154,100	10.7%
Unlikely to return to work within 2 years	38,300	4.9%	65,300	9.8%	103,500	7.2%
Unlikely to return to work within long term	45,200	5.8%	54,000	8.1%	99,200	6.9%
Other	25,400	3.3%	16,000	2.4%	41,500	2.9%
Total	779,900		662,800		1,442,700	

Source: Data in the above table is derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.

Notes:

1. Data is rounded to nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.
2. Figures include outcomes of initial functional assessments that were completed by month of assessment up to May 2013 for initial and repeat assessments for ESA new claims and exclude clerical cases and Incapacity Benefits Reassessment cases.
3. Prognosis is shown for those in the Support Group and Work Related Activity Group.
4. The 'Other' category includes those whose prognosis is 'Terminally Ill' or 'Unknown'.

In response to the second part of your question, you were provided with the most up to date ESA Filework Guidance (dated 24th May 2013) in our response to FOI 2013-2428 on 14th June 2013. You were also provided with the Neurological Condition List by Practitioner Type (dated 7th March 2013) in our response to IR518 dated 24th June 2013.