

Freedom of Information request 2015-699

Date received 19 February 2015

Date of response 30 March 2015

Information request

Please populate the following chart for ESA claimants. I have looked on stat xplare and it doesn't seem to be possible for me to extract this information

DWP response

Claimants should do everything they can to find work if they are able to in return for benefits, and more than 70 per cent say they are more likely to follow the rules if they know they risk having their benefits stopped if they do not. Benefit sanctions are only used as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction. The recent independent Oakley review confirmed that they are vital to a properly functioning welfare system.

When a sanction is applied to someone's benefit it is only the personal allowance element of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) which is affected. Any child-related premiums they receive are unaffected. Those receiving housing benefit will continue to do so throughout a sanction period provided they continue to meet the ESA conditions.

ESA claimants do not face sanction for not finding work and are not required to apply for or take up specific jobs. Sanctions are only imposed where a claimant does not engage with the support on offer which is designed to improve their chances of finding or preparing for work. Claimants are encouraged to discuss the impact of their condition on their support needs, and work coaches are well-placed to understand and reflect the needs of claimants, identifying the type of work related activity that will help them successfully move towards employment. It is worth noting that the vast majority of ESA claimants are not sanctioned; in any given month only around 1% receives a sanction.

As requested the information on the number of adverse, non-adverse and cancelled referral decisions for ESA benefit sanctions broken down by month from April 2013 to March 2014 and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Summary Code is shown in the table below. Please read the table notes carefully.

You may be interested to know that quarterly statistics on ESA sanctions are also published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>.

Please note that ESA sanctions are only applied to those in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG), and not the Support Group, therefore comparisons should only be made with the ESA WRAG caseload and off-flows statistics which are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-caseload-statistics>

The data requested is not available on Stat-Xplore as the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

The number of adverse, non-adverse and cancelled sanction referral decisions for Employment and Support Allowance, by ICD (disease) Summary Code, Great Britain: April 2013 - March 2014

Decision	Month	IB ICD (disease) summary code						Total
		Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System	Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	Diseases of the Nervous System	Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	Other/ Missing	
Decision to apply a sanction (adverse)	Apr-13	43	150	72	79	866	242	1,456
	May-13	58	171	76	94	960	300	1,664
	Jun-13	54	187	58	77	997	307	1,676
	Jul-13	78	242	79	104	1,284	342	2,134
	Aug-13	55	208	80	87	1,248	350	2,019
	Sep-13	88	215	93	114	1,427	381	2,320
	Oct-13	94	322	90	130	1,607	473	2,708
	Nov-13	72	287	110	131	1,528	411	2,542
	Dec-13	77	289	90	97	1,570	470	2,595
	Jan-14	102	317	114	134	1,822	532	3,028
	Feb-14	109	319	124	147	1,933	584	3,222
	Mar-14	119	396	137	183	2,348	633	3,810
Decision not to apply a sanction (non-	Apr-13	69	212	70	86	1,053	341	1,826
	May-13	79	227	102	97	1,137	324	1,973
	Jun-13	82	290	79	97	1,210	373	2,127
	Jul-13	103	338	123	120	1,586	480	2,750
	Aug-13	74	301	105	117	1,536	423	2,556

adverse)	Sep-13	104	328	118	130	1,761	498	2,955
	Oct-13	128	437	158	178	2,278	623	3,799
	Nov-13	116	426	148	139	2,093	685	3,605
	Dec-13	91	325	110	139	1,656	501	2,822
	Jan-14	108	316	133	124	1,653	499	2,835
	Feb-14	80	329	125	121	1,596	458	2,712
	Mar-14	96	360	113	147	1,747	528	3,000
Cancelled Referrals	Apr-13	126	369	104	265	2,107	829	3,806
	May-13	160	392	122	259	2,341	910	4,182
	Jun-13	157	376	108	286	2,302	834	4,059
	Jul-13	184	504	162	366	2,745	1,048	5,014
	Aug-13	163	383	114	257	2,248	849	4,020
	Sep-13	148	431	127	300	2,485	917	4,414
	Oct-13	194	564	148	329	3,033	1,179	5,447
	Nov-13	179	537	149	267	2,542	956	4,632
	Dec-13	161	422	144	269	2,418	885	4,297
	Jan-14	180	491	149	298	2,834	1,059	5,009
	Feb-14	174	557	159	300	3,013	1,069	5,273
	Mar-14	147	519	152	251	2,717	887	4,671

Source: DWP WPLS and ESA Sanctions

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have had statistical disclosure control applied to avoid the release of confidential data therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.
2. Figures are to 31 March 2014, as requested, but have been extracted from the dataset which runs to September 2014. Data for the most recent months will be subject to revision as numbers of sanction decisions and decision outcomes can change due to reconsidered decisions and appeals.
3. ICD (disease) summary code: ICD (disease) code causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and so may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. The "Other" category includes claimants with an unknown medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
4. A medical condition does not confer entitlement to Employment Support Allowance and the decision on entitlement is based on the claimant's ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Work Capability Assessment.

5. Adverse: An adverse decision is a decision to apply a sanction i.e. a decision found against the claimant so a sanction is applied or the JSA claim is closed (disallowance).
6. Cancelled: After a case has been referred to a Decision Maker the referral can be cancelled before a decision is made. A 'cancelled decision' does not refer to the cancellation of a sanction after an appeal has been made.
7. Non-adverse: A 'non-adverse' decision is when a case has been considered and a decision was made not to apply a sanction.
8. Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.