

Freedom of Information request 2014-3537

Date received 9 August 2014

Date of response 8 September 2014

Information request

Expressed as a number and percentage, how many ESA claimants at Wigan assessment centre are disallowed ESA for Mental Health issues as opposed to Physical health issues

DWP response

Entitlement to Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) is based on the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The WCA is a functional assessment of what activities an individual can do, assessed by qualified healthcare professionals against a set of qualifying descriptors and taking into account their functional abilities at the time of the assessment to determine if the individual is capable of working or of undertaking some work related activity.

In response to your query, statistics on the number and percentage of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) initial and repeat functional assessments which took place at Wigan Medical Assessment Centre and where the claimant was found Fit for Work by the Decision Maker by the type of primary health condition recorded at the start of the claim, from 27 October 2008 to 30 September 2013, which is the latest data available at the time of the request, can be found in the table below:

New Claims – initial and repeat functional assessments: Fit for Work decisions by whether the claimant has a mental or physical condition, Wigan Medical Assessment Centre, October 2008 to September 2013

	Fit for Work decisions by primary health condition							
	Number				Percentage			
	Mental	Physical	Unknown	Total	Mental	Physical	Unknown	Total
Initial assessments	3,400	5,000	-	8,400	40%	60%	-	100%
Repeat assessments	1,000	1,400	-	2,300	42%	58%	-	100%

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

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 100, percentages to the nearest whole number. “-“ denotes nil or negligible.
2. Figures include only those who have been found Fit for Work and are therefore not entitled to ESA.
3. Figures are for claims first made in the period 27 October 2008 to 30 September 2013.
4. The initial assessment outcomes relate to the claimant's first assessment before appeal and may include cases that will have been revised following reconsideration.
5. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
6. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim; this in itself does not confer entitlement to ESA and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.