

Freedom of Information request 2015-3392

Date received 12 August 2015

Date of response 26 October 2015

Information request

For each month from March 2012 to March 2015, please give the number of individuals who received an adverse, non-adverse and cancelled ESA sanction decisions broken down by the Summary International Classifications of Diseases (i.e. Other; Mental and Behavioural Disorders; Diseases of the Nervous System; Diseases of the Circulatory or Respiratory System; Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue; and Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes).

By “number of individuals” what we are requesting is the same data as can be found in the DWP Stat-Xplore software under “ESA Sanction Decisions – decisions on individuals”.

DWP response

Please note that the intention of sanctions is to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefits. Sanctions are a necessary part of the benefits system. The overwhelming majority of benefit claimants take up the jobs support we offer, with a small minority facing a sanction for not doing so.

In response to your query the information you require is shown in the attached document (FOI 2015-3392 Response.xls). This includes information on the monthly number of ESA claimants with an adverse, non-adverse or cancelled sanction referral decision by the Summary International Classifications of Diseases as requested. The data covers the period March 2012 to March 2015.

Please note with respect to the data in more recently published months, care must be taken in using and interpreting this as these are subject to a high degree of revision.

Please ensure you read the notes before using and interpreting this data.

The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.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.