

# Freedom of Information request 2014-421

**Date received:** 27 January 2014

**Date of response:** 21 February 2014

## Information request

How many claimants who are currently claiming ESA have been diagnosed with PTSD.

## DWP response

In answer to your query, I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is included under a higher category of Reaction to Severe Stress which also includes the following conditions: Nervous Shock, Stress and Bereavement.

This category cannot be separated without manually checking each individual record. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request 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.

Within cost we can provide the number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants with a main disabling condition of Reaction to Severe Stress, for the latest data available, which is show in the table below.

### **The number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants with Reaction to Severe Stress: August 2013**

	<b>Caseload (Thousands)</b>
<b>Reaction to Severe Stress</b>	38,440

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate 100% WPLS

### **Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a

customer claiming ESA on the basis of reaction to severe stress would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal / Work Capability Assessment. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

3. Data includes people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
4. All diagnoses are coded using the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, published by the World Health Organisation.