

# Freedom of Information request 2013-3387

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## Information request

I would be most grateful if you could supply me with some statistics so that I can be better understand the number of constituents likely to be assisted. Therefore could you let me know;

- The number of participants in the Work Programme in Bristol South in the past 12 months
- The number of participants who successfully found work
- The number of those participants who were sanctioned whilst on the Work Programme

Please also provide statistical evidence of the "trial" mentioned in your correspondence.

## DWP response

In response to your first three questions; the latest figures available in answer to all three questions can be found in the table below.

**Number<sup>1</sup> of Work Programme referrals<sup>2</sup>, attachments<sup>3</sup>, job outcomes<sup>4</sup> and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants with a sanction applied<sup>5</sup> for failing to participate<sup>6</sup>, Bristol South Westminster Parliamentary Constituency<sup>7</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.**

Number <sup>1</sup> of referrals <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>1</sup> of attachments <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>1</sup> of job outcomes <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>1</sup> of sanctions applied <sup>3</sup>
1,820	1,690	20	70

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

### Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. **Referrals:** Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.

3. **Attachments:** The date of the first engagement activity between the provider and the participant as recorded on the payment administrative system.
4. **Job Outcomes:** The Work Programme IT payment system was updated on the 26th March 2012 and validation processes introduced in April 2012. The early data series following this was subject to fluctuations as the new system and processes bedded in. For further details please see section 4.1 of the information note available on the Work Programme Official Statistics homepage at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/work-programme-statistics--2>
5. **Sanctions applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of sanction referrals, for failing to participate in the Work Programme, where the decision was found against the claimant.
6. **Failing to participate in the Work Programme:** Failing to participate is a fixed length sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks which is applied if a claimant fails to undertake, without good cause, any activity required as a condition of their participation on the Work Programme.
7. **Westminster Parliamentary Constituency:** Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies are assigned by matching the claimant's postcode, at the reference date, against the relevant postcode directory.

We can confirm that the Department does hold some information on non-JSA claimants and JSA claimants, for reasons other than failing to participate, who have had a sanction applied whilst on the Work Programme. However this information is not held centrally and to provide an answer would require us to link together data from a number of different sources. Therefore we estimate the cost of extracting this information 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.

Work Programme providers are not required to submit job start information until they claim a **job outcome**; only then are they requested to input a job start date which helps secure the validity of the job outcome payment. Therefore information on the number of Work Programme participants who have successfully found work is not held by the Department.

A **job outcome** payment can be claimed when:

- There has been a either continuous or cumulative period of employment (job outcome payment trigger point) as defined for each claimant group;
- A participant has been in employment and off benefit in each week of the period (a week is defined as a 7 day period); and
- The job outcome is after the job start date, i.e. a job outcome payment can only be claimed when a participant starts a job after attachment activity has been recorded on DWP prescribed IT or clerical system.

Guidance for providers on how to deliver the Work Programme, including information on **job outcome** payments, can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/provider-guidance/work-programme-provider.shtml>

The number of Work Programme **job outcomes** for the **Bristol South Westminster Parliamentary Constituency** is given in the table above.

In response to your last question;

The Department's analysis of the off-benefit impact of the Support for the Very Long Term Unemployed (SVLTU) trailblazer can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/very-long-term-unemployed-trailblazer>

The evaluation of the SVLTU trailblazer, which covers the impact on outcomes like motivation and work-related ambition mentioned in the letter, can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-support-for-the-very-long-term-unemployed-trailblazer-rr824>