

Freedom of Information request 2012-3773

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Information request

- 1.) How many claimants have been forced onto the Work Programme since it started?
- 2.) How many of these were men of 58 years and older?
- 3.) How many claimants on the Work Programme have had their benefits cut off?
- 4.) How many of these were men of 58 years and older?
- 5.) How many claimants on the Work Programme have found jobs lasting 6 months or longer?
- 6.) How many of these were men of 58 years and older?
- 7.) How many unemployment benefit claimants have had their benefits cut off since May 6th 2010?

DWP response

In response to question 1 and 2 the information is provided in the tables below:

Number of Work Programme referrals by Referral Type: 1st June 2011 – 30th April 2012

Referral Type	Total
Mandatory	704,930

Number of Work Programme referrals by Referral Type, Gender and Age: 1st June 2011 – 30th April 2012

Referral Type	Gender	Age	Total
Mandatory	Male	58 years and over	18,880

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

Notes:

1. Figures are cumulative and are rounded to the nearest ten.

2. Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections, cancellations or referrals to ESA information sessions.
3. Customer groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. A small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group caused by the way information is recorded on the administrative system.
4. Mandatory referrals are classified as referrals to the following customer groups; JSA 18-24, JSA 25+, JSA NEET, JSA Claiming 22 of 24 Mths, JSA ExIB, ESA (IR) WRAG 3/6 Mth Mandatory, ESA (IR) WRAG 3/6 Mth Mandatory ExIB and JSA Ex-offender Day 1 Mandation. More detailed information can be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-pg-chapter-2.pdf>
5. Gender is recorded on the Jobcentre Plus administrative system at date of referral.
6. Claimant's age is derived from their date of birth and is fixed at date of referral

In response to questions 3 and 4 the available information is provided in the tables below:

Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied for Failing to Participate in the Work Programme: 1st June 2011 to 30th April 2012

	Total
Number of individuals with a sanction applied	46,650

Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied for Failing to Participate in the Work Programme by Gender and Age: 1st June 2011 to 30th April 2012

	Gender	Age	Total
Number of individuals with a sanction applied	Male	58 years and over	480

Source: DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are cumulative and rounded to the nearest ten.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of referrals where there has been an adverse decision.
3. Failing to Participate in the Work Programme is a fixed length sanction
4. Fixed length sanctions: A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's Direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question.

5. Gender of claimant as recorded on the Labour Market System (LMS).
6. Age of claimant: Age of claimant is calculated at the date the referral for a decision was made.

Please note that all the information above relates to JSA customers and does not include non-JSA customers who have been sanctioned in connection to the Work Programme. This information is not readily available.

We estimate that the cost of researching this piece of information for non-JSA customers 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 this part of your request and we will not be processing this further.

For more information on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanctions please select the link below:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc

In response to questions 5 and 6, the information that you have requested on job outcomes is currently unavailable. It is expected that this information will be published in late 2012 via the Department's Tabulation Tool at:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool> .

As the statistics are intended for future publication this information is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 22 (Information intended for future publication) of the FOIA. This exemption is qualified, and is therefore subject to a public interest test. The public interest test is where the Department considers whether the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding or disclosing the information requested.

Arguments in favour of disclosure: There are public interest arguments in favour of disclosure of this information at the present time. Disclosure would for example improve transparency in the operations of the Department.

Arguments against disclosure: There are public interest arguments against disclosure of this information at the present time. These arguments include that it is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified.

It is also in the public interest to ensure that the publication of official information is a properly planned and managed process, to ensure that the

data are accurate once placed into the public domain. It is also in the public interest to ensure that the information is available to all members of the public at the same time, and premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

On this occasion, the balance of the public interest test falls in favour of withholding this information.

In response to question 7 the information is provided in the table below:

Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied: 6th May 2010 to 30th April 2012

Whether a decision was adverse	Total
Adverse	897,450

Source: DWP Information Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. The number of sanctions applied is the number of referrals where there has been an adverse decision.