

Freedom of Information request 2015-749

Date received 23 February 2015

Date of response 10 March 2015

Information request

"Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments suspended at the Brighton JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?

Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments docked at the Brighton JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?

Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments stopped at the Brighton JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?

Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments suspended at the Worthing JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?

Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments docked at the Worthing JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?

Can you tell me how many clients had their benefit payments stopped at the Worthing JobCentre in a) 2014, b) 2013, c) 2012 and d) 2011?"

DWP response

We have interpreted your request as relating to sanctions and disallowances. Please note that the intention of the sanctions system 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 used only as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction.

In response to your questions, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes Official Statistics on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanction decisions and information on these statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/jobseekers-allowance-sanctions>

The latest set of Official Statistics was released on 18 February 2015 and a summary of this data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/jobseekers-allowance-and-employment-and-support-allowance-sanctions-decisions-made-to-september-2014>

These statistics cover both (i) total decisions made (i.e. if an individual has had multiple sanctions decisions made, all of those sanction decisions made will be included in the tables), and (ii) individuals who have had a sanction decision made (i.e. will only 'count' one individual in a table defined and produced). These statistics provide sanctions data down to job centre level as you require. They also contain a wide set of geographical areas, sanction reason, sanctions appeals and outcomes and if required this information can be extracted using Stat-Xplore via the following link:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

Guidance on how to extract any information required from Stat-Xplore can be found at:

https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Stat-Xplore_User_Guide.htm

If you have any difficulties extracting the relevant information please let us know.

You may also find the following guidance useful in relation to the types of sanctions and disallowances applied:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobseekers-allowance-overview-of-sanctions-rules>