

# Freedom of Information request 2013-IR629

Date received: 6 November 2013

Date of response: 25 March 2014

## Information request

Can you please provide me with the number of Incapacity Benefit claimants who have died so far in 2012 only?

## DWP response

The requested information available at the time the request was raised is shown in Table 1 below.

The analysis below covers all incapacity benefit cases of Incapacity Benefit (IB), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) where a date of death is recorded at the same time of the benefit off-flow, however as cause of death is not recorded we are unable to determine if the cause of death is related to the health issues leading to the incapacity benefit award. It would be expected that the mortality rate amongst this group would be higher than that in the general population as some people receive incapacity benefits due to life-threatening conditions or terminal illness.

**Please note that the data supplied, for those with a date of death recorded, are derived from previously unpublished information which has not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.**

**Table 1: IB/SDA and ESA off-flows with a date of death recorded at time of benefit off-flow: Great Britain 2005/06 to 2011/12**

Year	Total off-flows from IB/SDA & ESA	Of those, with a date of death at time of the benefit off-flow	
		Total	Proportion
2005/06	635,320	44,020	7%
2006/07	620,170	43,850	7%
2007/08	643,920	42,910	7%
2008/09	650,330	41,870	6%
2009/10	692,450	42,100	6%
2010/11	728,740	41,750	6%
2011/12	949,330	39,860	4%

**Source:** DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%.

**Notes:**

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten or nearest whole percent.
2. Data is sourced from quarterly point in time data at February, May, August and November. For example 2010/11 includes the quarters May 2010, August 2010, November 2010 and February 2011.
3. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by ESA for new claims from October 2008 therefore 2008/09 data includes IB/SDA for all 4 quarters and ESA for November 2008 and February 2009 only.
4. Off-flows – The total number of spells on benefit that ended. A person may flow on and off the same benefit more than once during the year. The datasets used in this analysis are quarterly and point in time, hence flows between these quarters (short-term claims) may not be captured and the figures are likely to be an underestimate. For more information on these missing flows see the 'Guidance for Users': [http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows\\_off/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf](http://83.244.183.180/flows/flows_off/Guidance%20for%20Users.pdf)
5. Please note that the data supplied, for those with a date of death recorded, are derived from previously unpublished information which has not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.