

# Freedom of Information request 2013-2901

Received 25<sup>th</sup> June

Published 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## Information request

**“I don't know if you remember, but I asked whether you could get me a simple statistic on the proportion of Jobseekers Allowance claimants who are registered as disabled (on the JSA database - I am aware that some may have chosen not to declare a disability).**

**As far as I can see, the stats should be readily available. On the sanctions statistics, for example, you can break down the number of JSA sanctions by their disability status. What I am looking for is the far simpler statistic of general Disability status of JSA claimants. (If you have this as any kind of time series, that would be great.)”**

## DWP response

A person can self-declare in the Job Centre whether or not they consider themselves to *"have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities"*. This information is recorded via the “Person with Disability” (PWD) marker on the Labour Market System (LMS). The data from LMS only shows whether the person *currently* considers themselves as disabled, so we therefore cannot give a time series and can only give a current point in time figure on the proportion of JSA claimants who consider themselves disabled. Because this is a self-declared variable, there are limitations. It is inevitably less complete and accurate than a more objective variable such as gender.

The latest published statistics for JSA relate to end of November 2012. They show that there were 1,443,540 JSA claimants, of whom 340,450 (24%) currently have a PWD marker present on the latest LMS client extract. (Source: DWP LMS Client Extract (May 2013) and 100% WPLS (November 2012). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.)

This disability information using the PWD marker is not published for the JSA caseload as a whole, but is published for JSA claimants who have been referred to the Work Programme here:

[http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/WorkProg/wp\\_cuml jo/payment\\_group/clndsbmt/a\\_cnref\\_r\\_p ayment\\_group\\_c clndsbmt\\_mar13.html](http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/WorkProg/wp_cuml jo/payment_group/clndsbmt/a_cnref_r_p ayment_group_c clndsbmt_mar13.html)

and for those referred to Work Choice here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/203397/wc\\_may13.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/203397/wc_may13.pdf)

You may also find it useful to know that statistics on unemployment based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are published on the Nomis website [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk), the Office for National Statistics official website of labour market statistics, which allows you to construct your own tables. The LFS measures all people who meet the internationally agreed definition of unemployment, namely those who are without a job, want a job, are seeking a job, and are available to start work, and is not dependent on being in receipt of benefit.

To produce a table of the number of unemployed who are disabled, based on the LFS, go to [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk). Select **Advanced Query** in the **Detailed Statistics** and then select the dataset **Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey** and choose **Annual Population Survey**. From here select **variables** and use the drop down menu to select **Disability Level by Economic Activity**. From here you can create your table by choosing **Unemployment Rate/Disabled**.

In addition to the above, ONS publish a table alongside their monthly Labour Market Statistics bulletin that includes unemployment numbers and rates for different definitions of disability. The list of latest releases is available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-21589>

Select the latest release (currently June 2013) then click on [Labour Market Statistics Data Tables \(Excel Spreadsheets\), June 2013](#) ). Then select "Summary tables" and look at Table A08.