

# Freedom of Information request 2013-4518

Date received: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Date of response: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013

## Information request

1. How many claimants have been forced onto the Work Programme since it started?
2. How many of these were men of 59 years and older?
3. How many claimants on the Work Programme have had their benefits cut off since it started?
4. How many of these were men of 59 years and older?
5. How many claimants on the Work Programme have found jobs lasting 6 months or longer in the last 12 months - not since the Work Programme started?
6. How many of these were men of 59 years and older?
7. How many unemployment benefit claimants have had their benefits cut off since May 6th 2010?

## DWP response

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

### Number of Work Programme Referrals by Referral Type: 1st June 2011 – 30th June 2013

Referral Type	Total
Mandatory	1,203,760

### Number of Work Programme Referrals by Referral Type, Gender and Age: 1st June 2011 – 30th June 2013

Referral Type	Gender	Age	Total
Mandatory	Male	59 years and older	20,820

**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. Referrals to the Work Programme can be Mandatory or Voluntary dependent on the claimant's circumstance at the time of referral.
4. Gender is recorded on the Jobcentre Plus administrative system at date of referral.
5. 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: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

	<b>Total</b>
Number of individuals with a sanction applied	92,110

**Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied for Failing to Participate in the Work Programme by Gender and Age: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of individuals with a sanction applied	Male	59 years and over	630

**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 the decision was found against the claimant.
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.
7. The latest available data is to the 21st of October 2012.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/employment-and-support-allowance-sanctions>

In response to questions 5 and 6 the information is provided in the table below:

**Number of Work Programme Job Outcomes with *Employment Duration of 6 months or over*<sup>3</sup> by Gender and Age: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

Gender	Age	Total
Total	Total	129,010
Male	59 years and older	980

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

**Notes:**

1. Figures are cumulative and are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Job Outcomes: The Work Programme IT payment system update went live in April 2012. All outcomes prior to this were recorded clerically and uploaded to the system during April and May 2012. The outcome date for these is based on the date the information was uploaded to the system. For job outcomes recorded after this, outcome dates are based on the date that payments were made to providers following pre-payment validation processes to confirm job outcomes. The manual pre-payment validation checks may take time to conduct resulting in a delay between the job outcome being claimed and the date the payment is made to providers, and hence recorded in the statistics. Validation procedures continue to improve to streamline the process as issues are identified. For further details around issues and delays to job outcome payments please see the information note available on the WP landing page:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/work-programme-statistics--2>
3. Employment Duration of 6 months is identified where;
  - A Job Outcome payment has been made for a customer in Payment Group 1, 2 or 9 (at least 26 weeks in employment);
  - A Job Outcome payment and 3 sustainment payments have been made for a customer in Payment Group 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 (at least 25 weeks in employment).
4. A Job Outcome payment can be claimed when:
  - There has been a either continuous or cumulative period of employment (Job Outcome payment trigger point) of 13 weeks for Payment Groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and 26 weeks for Payment Groups 1, 2 and 9.;
  - 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.
5. Sustainment payments: Providers can only claim a Sustainment payment where:
    - A Job Outcome has been reported;
    - Four continuous weeks in employment have elapsed between the Job Outcome payment date and the Sustainment payment date, or between the previous Sustainment payment date and the current Sustainment payment date.
    - A participant has been in employment and off benefit each week (a week is defined as a 7 day period) in the four week period; and
    - 15 working days have passed since the last date of the period being claimed.
    - Following a break in employment after the 104 weeks Allotted Time providers will no longer be eligible to receive a Sustainment payment (a break is defined as when a participant leaves employment for 2 days or more, even if they remain off benefit).
  6. Payment 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. Payment group 9 – is the JSA Ex-Offender Day 1 Mandation group and a Job Outcome payment can be claimed at 26 weeks. Details of the payment groups 1-8 can be found at Annex 1 of the following document: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-pg-chapter-9.pdf>
  7. Gender is recorded on the Jobcentre Plus administrative system at date of referral.
  8. Claimant's age is derived from their date of birth and is fixed at date of referral.

More information on the Work Programme can be found at:  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/provider-guidance/work-programme-provider.shtml>

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

**Number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) sanctions applied: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

	<b>Total</b>
Number of individuals with a sanction applied	1,096,120

**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 the decision was found against the claimant.
3. The latest available data is to the 21st of October 2012.