

Freedom of Information request 2016-132

Date received 13 January 2016

Date of response 01 March 2016

Information request

- 1. Please could you provide me with the number of incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance (IB/SDA) or equivalent benefit claimants (this should include ESA) who were recorded as claiming benefit because of (a) Alcoholism, (b) reaction to severe stress, (c) obesity and (d) drug addiction as of May 2015.**
- 2. Using the most up-to-date data you have please provide me with the 20 local authority areas that have the largest percentage of claimants in each of the categories above — stating the area, the number and the percentage of claimants for each of the four categories in relation to (a) the working age population and (b) the total number of IB/SDA and ESA claimants.**
- 3. For each year since May 2010 please state the number of people claiming IB/SDA or ESA benefit who fall under the category of metabolic disease? For the date in relation to May 2015 please state the five sub categories within metabolic disease that account for the most people stating what the sub category is and how many people are claiming under that category? Please also provide me with the 20 local authority areas that have the largest percentage of claimants in each of the categories above — stating the area, the number and the percentage of claimants for metabolic disease in relation to (a) the working age population and (b) the total number of IB/SDA and ESA claimants.**

DWP response

The Department does not hold the requested information relating to the working age population. The responsibility for those statistics lies with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) who publish population statistics here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Population>

If you require anything further on this subject then information on how to submit a freedom of information request to ONS can be found here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/business-transparency/freedom-of-information/index.html>

In response to the remainder of your request, the information available for Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants is shown in the following tables and the attached spread sheet (**FOI 2016-132 Response.xls**).

Please note the medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Benefit (IB/SDA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of drug misuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Personal/Work Capability Assessment.

In answer to your first question table 1 shows the number of ESA and IB/SDA claimants by the specified primary medical conditions of Obesity, Alcohol Misuse, Drug Misuse and Reaction to Severe Stress in May 2015.

Table 1: Number of ESA and IB/SDA claimants by specified primary medical conditions Obesity, Alcohol Misuse, Drug Misuse and Reaction to Severe Stress: May 2015

| Benefit | Caseload | Main Disabling Condition | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Obesity | Alcohol Misuse | Drug Misuse | Reaction to Severe Stress | Other Diagnosis |
| ESA | 2,341,350 | 1,630 | 55,930 | 30,590 | 45,290 | 2,207,910 |
| IB/SDA | 208,720 | 120 | 2,010 | 1,720 | 1,710 | 203,160 |

Source: DWP 100% data

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. 'Reaction to Severe Stress' includes the following conditions: Nervous Shock, Stress and Bereavement and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.
3. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Benefit (IB/SDA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of drug misuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Personal/Work Capability Assessment.

4. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
5. ESA replaced IB/SDA for new claims from 27 October 2008.

In answer to your second question the attached spreadsheet (FOI 2016-132 Response.xls) gives the figures of all ESA and IB/SDA claimants and of this the number with specified primary medical conditions of Obesity, Alcohol Misuse, Drug Misuse and Reaction to Severe Stress by Local Authority in May 2015.

In response to your third question please note that the Departmental Internal Reference Guide only contains three conditions which fall into the '**Metabolic Diseases**' category and these are reported under two subgroups in the data we hold, as **Disorders of Lipoprotein metabolism and other Lipidaemias** and **Cystic Fibrosis**.

Table 2 shows the number of ESA and IB/SDA claimants by specified primary medical condition of "Metabolic diseases" by the sub-categories of "Disorders of Lipoprotein metabolism and other Lipidaemias" and "Cystic Fibrosis" from May 2010 to May 2015

Table 2: Number of ESA claimants by specified primary medical condition - Metabolic diseases: May 2010 – May 2015

| | ESA Caseload | Main Disabling Condition | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | Other Diagnosis | Metabolic Diseases | | |
| | | | Total | Disorders of Lipoprotein metabolism and other Lipidaemias | Cystic Fibrosis |
| May-10 | 527,120 | 526,870 | 260 | 10 | 240 |
| May-11 | 662,230 | 661,900 | 330 | 10 | 320 |
| May-12 | 1,134,290 | 1,133,690 | 600 | 40 | 560 |
| May-13 | 1,747,610 | 1,746,570 | 1,030 | 70 | 960 |
| May-14 | 2,145,710 | 2,144,400 | 1,310 | 100 | 1,210 |
| May-15 | 2,341,350 | 2,339,930 | 1,430 | 110 | 1,320 |

| | IB/SDA Caseload | Other Diagnosis | Total | Disorders of Lipoprotein metabolism and other Lipidaemias | Cystic Fibrosis |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|
| May-10 | 2,126,690 | 2,125,500 | 1190 | 180 | 1,020 |
| May-11 | 1,946,200 | 1,945,110 | 1090 | 160 | 930 |
| May-12 | 1,429,680 | 1,428,840 | 840 | 120 | 720 |
| May-13 | 742,320 | 741,900 | 430 | 60 | 370 |
| May-14 | 355,770 | 355,610 | 160 | 20 | 140 |
| May-15 | 208,720 | 208,640 | 90 | 10 | 80 |

Source: DWP 100% data

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. 'Metabolic Diseases' are reported under two subgroups in the data we hold, as Disorders of Lipoprotein metabolism and other Lipidaemias and Cystic Fibrosis.
3. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Benefit (IB/SDA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming on the basis of drug misuse would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities related to physical and mental function, assessed by the Personal/Work Capability Assessment.
4. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition only the predominant one is used.
5. ESA replaced IB/SDA for new claims from 27 October 2008.

In answer to your final part of your third request the attached spreadsheet (FOI 2016-132 Response.xls) gives the figures of all ESA and IB/SDA claimants and of this the number with specified primary medical conditions "Metabolic diseases" and the sub-categories of "Disorders of Lipoprotein

metabolism and other Lipidaemias” and “Cystic Fibrosis” by Local Authority in May 2015.