

Freedom of Information request 2013-5054

Date received: 24th October 2013

Date of response: 4th December 2013

Information request

1) The number of claimants in Flintshire who have been sanctioned and had benefits stopped since Jan 2010. If possible can this be broken down by month - if this is not possible can it be broken down into year?

2) The number of claimants in Flintshire who have had their benefits stopped who were on the work program scheme since Jan 2010 - if possible broken down by month.”

On 28th October 2013 you clarified: “Yes I am referring to Jobseekers Allowance sanctions”

DWP response

With regards to your first question, the available information is shown in the two tables below. These cover the time periods January 2010 to May 2012 and 22nd October 2012 to June 2013, which is the latest information available. Please note that due to an issue with the raw data Local Authority level information is not available for the period 1st June 2012 to 21st October 2012.

With regard to JSA sanction information for the period 1st June 2012 to 21st October and also your query on the number of individuals on the Work Programme, who were sanctioned for reasons other than Failing to Participate, in Flintshire Local Authority, we can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, it is not readily available on the datasets available for analysis and we estimate that the cost of complying with your request 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 your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

However, available within cost is the number of individuals on JSA that were sanctioned for 'Failing to Participate in the Work Programme' in Flintshire Local Authority and this information is also shown in the tables below.

Number of individuals with a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction applied in Flintshire Local Authority: 1st January 2010 to 31st May 2012

Month of decision	Number of individuals with a JSA sanction applied	Of which, those who received at least one sanction for "failure to participate in work programme"
Jan-10	140	n/a
Feb-10	150	n/a
Mar-10	150	n/a
Apr-10	120	n/a
May-10	150	n/a
Jun-10	140	n/a
Jul-10	140	n/a
Aug-10	120	n/a
Sep-10	130	n/a
Oct-10	140	n/a
Nov-10	130	n/a
Dec-10	110	n/a
Jan-11	100	n/a
Feb-11	140	n/a
Mar-11	150	n/a
Apr-11	100	n/a
May-11	100	n/a
Jun-11	110	-
Jul-11	100	-
Aug-11	90	-
Sep-11	80	10
Oct-11	90	20
Nov-11	100	20
Dec-11	80	10
Jan-12	120	10
Feb-12	90	10
Mar-12	130	20
Apr-12	100	20
May-12	120	20

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. “-“denotes nil or negligible.
2. **Sanctions applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of Varied³, Fixed Length⁴ and Entitlement Decision⁵ referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Varied Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the Adjudication Officer who makes the decision.
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. **Entitlement Decisions:** These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker’s agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.
6. "n/a" denotes not applicable. The Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011 therefore there are no figures prior to that time.

Number of individuals with a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction applied in Flintshire Local Authority: 22nd October 2012 to 30th June 2013

Month of decision	Number of individuals with a JSA sanction applied	Of which, those who received at least one sanction for “failure to participate in work programme”
Oct-12	40	20
Nov-12	110	50
Dec-12	90	50
Jan-13	110	50
Feb-13	80	20
Mar-13	70	20
Apr-13	80	30
May-13	100	50
Jun-13	90	40

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. **Sanctions applied:** New sanctions rules came into force for JSA from 22nd October 2012. The number of sanctions applied is the number of low, intermediate, and high level referrals where the decision was found against the claimant. Further information can be found here:

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