

Freedom of Information request 2014-4134

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Information request

Freedom of Information request - JSA sanction statistics by length of claim

Please could you supply me with a statistical breakdown of the number of sanctions applied to claimants in the last fiscal year according to age, benefit claimed and the length of time the claim has existed?

DWP response

Claimants should do everything they can to find to work if they are able in return for benefits, and more than 70 per cent say they are more likely to follow the rules if they know they risk having their benefits stopped if they do not. Benefit sanctions are only used as a last resort and the overwhelming majority of claimants do not receive a sanction. The recent independent Oakley review confirmed that they are vital to a properly functioning welfare system.

The Government has introduced the Claimant Commitment for anyone making a new claim for Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). The commitment will see jobseekers having to account more clearly for their efforts to find work in order to receive their benefits.

The table below shows the number of adverse JSA sanction decisions, broken down by age group and length of claim at time of sanction decision.

Please note that the figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution. Please read the table notes.

Number of Jobseekers Allowance adverse sanction decisions, by Age Group of claimant and Length of Claim at time of sanction decision, Great Britain: April 2013 to March 2014

Age Group	Length of JSA Claim					Total
	13 weeks or less	13 weeks to 39 weeks	39 weeks to 1 year	Over 1 year	Unknown	

16 to 17	391	157	7	0	50	602
18 to 24	152,494	110,920	23,333	68,620	14,797	370,162
25 to 29	48,449	40,901	9,469	40,431	6,459	145,708
30 to 34	30,815	26,964	6,589	31,437	3,675	99,482
35 to 39	21,453	19,799	5,062	26,340	2,540	75,197
40 to 44	18,955	18,076	4,717	27,068	2,273	71,090
45 to 49	16,163	15,831	4,122	25,528	2,156	63,801
50 to 54	12,430	11,679	2,959	19,806	1,564	48,438
55 to 59	8,515	8,021	1,946	13,134	1,151	32,767
60 plus	2,676	2,425	493	3,881	421	9,893
Unknown / Missing	63	79	27	78	1,212	1,458
Total	312,395	254,854	58,719	256,324	36,310	918,600

Source: DWP: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database and WPLS

Notes:

1. Cells in this table have had statistical disclosure control applied to avoid the release of confidential data. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.
2. Figures are to 31 March 2014, which is the latest data available.
3. Adverse: An adverse decision is a decision to apply a sanction i.e. a decision found against the claimant so a sanction is applied or the JSA claim is closed (disallowance).