

# Freedom of Information request 2015-853

Date received 28 February 2015

Date of response 27 March 2015

## Information request

I refer to the dataset "Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance sanctions: decisions made to June 2014" which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/jobseekers-allowance-and-employment-and-support-allowance-sanctions-decisions-made-to-june-2014> (Table 1.3)

These figures are of little value unless scaled by the number of JSA claimants in each Jobcentre office. I have obtained these claimant figures from Nomis, but it quickly became apparent that Nomis is using a different set of Jobcentre office IDs (compare the offices named for Birmingham, for example). With no common ID, it is not possible to match the numbers together.

Data on JSA claimants are not available by Jobcentre from the DWP Tabtool. I would therefore be grateful if you would supply me with the figures for total JSA claimants by Jobcentre, using the same Jobcentre IDs as in the sanctions release of November 2014. Preferably this would be month-by-month for the whole period Oct 2014 - Nov 2014.

Would it be possible to issue this response using the same office names as in the sanctions data?

## DWP response

In response to your question the available information can be found in the attached document (FOI 2015-853 Response.xls) which gives the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants by Jobcentre Plus Group, district and office and caseload month for the period October 2012 to August 2014.

As requested we have provided office names which are consistent with those used in the published sanction decision data where possible but please note that as the data is extracted from separate systems there are some differences which we have highlighted in yellow for your convenience. These mostly involve offices which are now dormant (marked with \*) and also the following cases:

1. Hunstanton – this should be combined with "King's Lynn - Lovell House"

2. Edmonton New Deal - this should be combined with "Edmonton – Fore Street"
3. Houghton-le-Spring - this should be combined with "Houghton-le-Spring – Broadway House"
4. Worthing - this should be combined with "Worthing – Crown House"

Please ensure you read the notes before using and interpreting this data.

**The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.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.**

Source: DWP 100% WPLS, LMS Client data

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
2. Caseload Month: Caseloads are taken on the last day of each month.
3. \* denotes dormant offices.
4. Figures have been created by matching data derived from the Jobseeker's Allowance Payment System (JSAPS) and the Labour Market System (LMS). These systems are used for administration purposes and matching between them can result in incorrect or non-matches.
5. Figures may be subject to change due to retrospection.
6. Data is shown to August 2014 which is the latest data available at the time of the request.
7. Office names which match to the sanction decision data are coloured green and those which do not match are coloured yellow.

The following should also be noted if a comparison is made between these figures and published figures on the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions and disallowances. The number of sanctions and disallowance referrals in each month is taken from the date on which the decision was made. For a number of reasons the claimant may no longer be claiming JSA at this point therefore a direct comparison may not be valid.

There will also be differences between the caseload figures provided and those produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the claimant count. This is for the following reasons:

- The claimant count includes claims which are processed clerically, whereas the DWP JSA statistics only include computer processed claims.

- Claimant count statistics allow approximately 3 weeks for late processed claims to be input onto the DWP computer systems, whereas DWP JSA statistics allow at least 9 weeks.
- The claimant count measures 'live' claimants on the second Thursday of the month, whereas DWP JSA statistics measures 'live' claimants on the last day of the month.

On the 1 April 2013, the following changes occurred:

- The number of districts in Southern England Group reduced from 6 to 5.
- Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and Wessex districts merged to become a new district called Greater Wessex.
- Devon and Cornwall district has been renamed Devon, Cornwall and Somerset district.
- Swindon has moved from Wessex district to Thames Valley district.

However, the office structure will still sit under the pre-2011 districts. There are no changes to Surrey and Sussex district and Gloucestershire and West of England district. **Please note the figures provided are based on the pre-April 2013 Jobcentre Plus geographies.**