Freedom of Information request 2013-5484

Date received: 18th November

Date of response: 16th December 2013

Information request

I'm contacting you regarding the data for DWP sanctions decisions (Oct -12 to June 13) published on 6th November and I'm hoping you can provide me with the additional information listed below.

We have identified that the key information for us to receive is:

 the number of people in the Nottingham City area who are being sanctioned on a month to month basis

So this means we would need access to:

- the data by local authority area (Nottingham City) rather than by Job Centre and
- the number of individuals being affected at a point in time rather than the number of decisions taken in a month

(This data would need to be grouped by the length of sanction being applied).

Ideally, it would be helpful to receive:

 demographic data (age, ethnicity, gender, disability, lone parent) of the people being sanctioned at a local authority level and

details of the number of individuals with reserved decisions (as we understand it a reserved decision is - people who have left JSA before a sanction can be imposed on them, but the sanction will apply if they restart a benefit claim).

DWP response

In response to your query, the number of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants who have received a sanction resulting in an adverse decision by age, ethnicity, gender, disability indicator and lone parent indicator, or have had a decision reserved, for Nottingham local authority from 22nd October 2012 to 30th June 2013 is available in the tables below:

Number of individuals with a JSA sanction applied, by Demographic breakdown, Nottingham local authority, monthly from 22nd October 2012 to 30th June 2013

		Oct-	Nov-	Dec-	Jan-	Feb-	Mar-	Apr-	May-	Jun-
		12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	13
	NOTTINGHAM	310	750	460	450	320	340	580	570	500
Age	16-17 years of age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Group	18-24 years of age	130	310	220	200	140	140	210	250	190
	25-29 years of age	60	140	90	90	60	60	120	100	100
	30-34 years of age	40	80	40	50	40	50	80	80	60
	35-39 years of age	20	70	40	40	30	30	50	50	40
	40-44 years of age	20	60	30	30	20	30	40	30	30
	45-49 years of age	20	50	20	20	20	20	50	30	40
	50-54 years of age	10	20	20	20	10	10	20	20	20
	55-59 years of age	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	60 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	Unknown Age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethnicity	White	180	460	290	290	210	220	350	360	290
	Asian or Asian									
	British	30	50	30	30	20	20	20	40	30
	Black or Black									
	British	40	110	60	60	40	40	80	70	70
	Mixed	30	50	30	30	20	20	50	40	40
	Other/ Chinese	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	20	20
	Unknown Ethnicity	30	60	40	40	30	30	60	50	50
Gender	Female	70	170	120	120	70	80	140	130	120
	Male	230	590	340	330	240	260	440	440	380
	Unknown Gender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disability	Disability - Yes	50	140	70	70	50	50	100	90	90
	Disability - No	260	610	390	380	270	290	470	480	410
	Disability -									
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lone	Lone Parent - Yes	10	40	30	40	20	20	30	40	20
Parent	Lone Parent - No	290	720	430	410	300	320	540	530	470

Number of individuals with a JSA reserved sanction decision, Nottingham local authority, monthly from 22nd October 2012 to 30th June 2013

	Oct-	Nov-	Dec- 12	Jan- 13	Feb-	Mar- 13	Apr- 13	May- 13	Jun- 13
NOTTINGHAM	20	50	30	30	40	30	70	60	60

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

Notes:

- 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and totals may not sum due to the rounding method used. '-' denotes nil or negligible. Totals will count individuals who have had a sanction applied for more than one time period e.g. if an individual had a JSA sanction applied in October and April then they will appear twice.
- 2. Measures will count individuals who have had a sanction applied for more than one measure e.g. if an individual had a JSA sanction applied when they were 24 years of age, and another when they were 25 they will appear twice.
- 3. The number of benefit sanctions applied is the number of sanction or disallowance referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
- Figures show the month in which the decision to apply a sanction was made. Figures for 2013 include sanction decision made up to and including 30th June which is the latest data available.
- New regulations introduced a new revised sanctions regime for JSA claimants from 22nd October. Details can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobseekers-allowance-overview-of-sanctions-rules
- 6. Reserved/Cancelled decisions: The number of reserved/cancelled decisions is the number of referrals where the decision is to be reviewed/applied on a future benefit claim.

With regards to the duration of sanctions for JSA and the number of individuals affected at a point in time, I 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 these parts of your request further.