

Freedom of Information request 2014-1717

Date received 2 April 2014

Date of response 30 May 2014

Information request

1. Please state the total number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims made in each of the following years:

- a) 2013/14
- b) 2012/13
- c) 2011/12

2. Please state the number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims in which requests for additional medical evidence were made to medical professionals in each of the following years:

- a) 2013/14
- b) 2012/13
- c) 2011/12

DWP response

In response to your first question, Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act allows us to point you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes Official Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment which include the number of claims made to ESA and the outcomes for those where a functional assessment has been completed. More information is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

The latest publication was released on 27 March 2014 and can be found via the link below. In particular new claims and the outcomes of assessments by month/quarter/year of claim start up to June 2013, which is the latest available information, can be found in Table 1:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297937/esa_wca_140327.xls

In response to your second question, the table below shows the number of Further Medical Evidence forms issued for the requested periods. These figures have been sourced from assessment data provided by Atos

Healthcare and includes new ESA claims and Incapacity Benefits Reassessment cases.

Please note that the data supplied are derived from unpublished management information which was collected for internal Departmental use only, and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

The number of Further Medical Evidence forms issued for ESA new claims and IB Reassessment cases in 2011/12, 2012/13, and April/June 2013.

Time period	Number of forms issued			
	ESA113	FRR2	FRR3	FRR4
2011/12	341,640	6,120	310	-
2012/13	465,480	16,920	210	-
2013/14 (April/June only)	112,890	8,280	110	-

Source: ATOS assessment data

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. “-“denotes nil or negligible.
2. Further information on the forms used for FME can be found in the document here: [ESAFileworkGuidelinesFinal.pdf](#)
3. Each time period contains data for the financial year 1 April to 31 March. The period 2013/14 includes data from 1 April to 30 June 2013 which is the latest available.