Freedom of Information request 2012-5023

Received 18th December 2012 Published 29th January 2013

Information request

"Please provide the following information about notices of suspension of benefit payments under the FOI Act and acknowledge receipt of this request:

- 1. The total number of such notices issued by month or quarter January 2009-December 2012 (or latest available date).
- 2. The number of such notices issued by type of benefit, each month or quarter January 2009 December 2012 (or latest available date)."

DWP response

In response to your questions;

For Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) Sanctions Section 21 of the Act allows us to direct you to information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Department publishes a wide range of statistics via the Tabulation Tool at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool.

National Statistics on JSA sanctions can be accessed via the above link, which allows you to design your own tables.

For example, to produce statistics on the number of varied length sanctions by month of decision and whether a decision was adverse, go to the Tabulation Tool link above and then follow the instructions below.

- 1. Scroll down and select the Click here for JSA Sanction & Disallowance Decision Stats link.
- 2. In the **Benefit/Scheme** drop down menu select **Referrals where a** decision has been made for varied length sanctions (by number of referrals)
- 3. Now select (Thousands) from the Analysis option.
- 4. From the **Row** drop down menu select **Time Series**.
- 5. Now select Whether a decision was Adverse in the Column option.
- 6. From the Subset drop down menu select **NONE**.

7. From the Date drop down menu select **April 2012** (which is the latest data available) and then click **Get Table**.

For fixed length and entitlement decision sanctions repeat the steps above replacing 'Referrals where a decision has been made for fixed length sanctions (by number of referrals)' and 'Referrals where a decision has been made for an entitlement decision (by number of referrals)' at step 2.

The number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) sanctions can be found in the table below:

Number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Sanctions: Monthly Time Series: January 2009 - May 2012

Month Number of ESA Sanctions Jan-09 - Feb-09 - Mar-09 10 Apr-09 80 Jun-09 80 Jul-09 120 Aug-09 210 Sep-09 320 Oct-09 400 Nov-09 560 Dec-09 700 Jan-10 760 Feb-10 880 Mar-10 1,200 Apr-10 670 May-10 1,370 Jul-10 1,430 Jul-10 1,430 Jul-10 920 Sep-10 930 Oct-10 950 Nov-10 930 Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610 May-11 710		
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Dec-09 700 Jan-10 760 Feb-10 880 Mar-10 1,200 Apr-10 670 May-10 1,370 Jul-10 1,430 Jul-10 1,150 Aug-10 920 Sep-10 830 Oct-10 950 Nov-10 930 Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610	Oct-09	400
Jan-10 760 Feb-10 880 Mar-10 1,200 Apr-10 670 May-10 1,370 Jun-10 1,430 Jul-10 1,150 Aug-10 920 Sep-10 830 Oct-10 950 Nov-10 930 Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610	Nov-09	560
Feb-10 880 Mar-10 1,200 Apr-10 670 May-10 1,370 Jun-10 1,430 Jul-10 1,150 Aug-10 920 Sep-10 830 Oct-10 950 Nov-10 930 Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610		700
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May-101,370Jun-101,430Jul-101,150Aug-10920Sep-10830Oct-10950Nov-10930Dec-10820Jan-11960Feb-11950Mar-111,240Apr-11610		1,200
Jun-101,430Jul-101,150Aug-10920Sep-10830Oct-10950Nov-10930Dec-10820Jan-11960Feb-11950Mar-111,240Apr-11610		670
Jul-101,150Aug-10920Sep-10830Oct-10950Nov-10930Dec-10820Jan-11960Feb-11950Mar-111,240Apr-11610		1,370
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Nov-10 930 Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610	Sep-10	830
Dec-10 820 Jan-11 960 Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610	Oct-10	950
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Feb-11 950 Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610		820
Mar-11 1,240 Apr-11 610	Jan-11	960
Apr-11 610	Feb-11	950
	Mar-11	1,240
May-11 710	Apr-11	610
		710

Jun-11	770
Jul-11	810
Aug-11	880
Sep-11	670
Oct-11	840
Nov-11	860
Dec-11	900
Jan-12	1,030
Feb-12	1,160
Mar-12	1,390
Apr-12	490
May-12	1,330

Source: ESA sanctions database

Notes:

- 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
- 2. Figures include all sanctions applied to claimants in the ESA work related activity group (WRAG).
- 3. Data to May 2012 is the latest available published information: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_sanc
- 4. During the period covered, claimants who failed to meet requirements were subject to an open ended sanction which was lifted when they recomplied. The sanction amount was 50% of the work related activity component (£28.15 in 2012-13) rising to 100% of the component after four weeks.

The number of Lone Parents claiming Income Support (IS) who have been sanctioned can be found in the table below;

Number of IS Lone Parent sanctions: Monthly Time Series: January 2009 - June 2012

Month	Number of ISLP Sanctions
Jan-09	8,100
Feb-09	7,340
Mar-09	8,310
Apr-09	6,230
May-09	7,390
Jun-09	7,590
Jul-09	7,350
Aug-09	7,450
Sep-09	7,200
Oct-09	7,640

Nov-09 7,150 Dec-09 6,460 Jan-10 7,310 Feb-10 6,580 Apr-10 6,580 Apr-10 6,220 May-10 7,300 Jun-10 6,860 Aug-10 6,860 Sep-10 6,080 Oct-10 6,550 Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 4,430 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,890 Jun-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-12 5,240 Sep-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 4,560 Mar-12 4,560 May-12 4,640 Jun-12 4,110 <th></th> <th></th>		
Jan-10 7,310 Feb-10 6,750 Mar-10 6,580 Apr-10 6,220 May-10 7,300 Jul-10 6,860 Aug-10 6,860 Sep-10 6,940 Sep-10 6,550 Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 May-11 5,960 Jun-11 5,960 Jun-11 5,320 Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,220 Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 May-12 4,640		7,150
Feb-10 6,750 Mar-10 6,580 Apr-10 6,220 May-10 7,300 Jul-10 6,860 Aug-10 6,940 Sep-10 6,550 Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,320 Jun-11 5,320 Jun-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 4,560 May-12 4,640		6,460
Mar-10 6,580 Apr-10 6,220 May-10 7,300 Jun-10 7,390 Aug-10 6,860 Sep-10 6,940 Sep-10 6,550 Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,320 Jun-11 5,320 Jun-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,220 Dec-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 4,560 May-12 4,640		7,310
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Oct-10 6,550 Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,890 Jun-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,660 May-12 4,640	Aug-10	6,940
Nov-10 5,890 Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,320 Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,640		6,080
Dec-10 4,940 Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,320 Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,640	Oct-10	6,550
Jan-11 6,730 Feb-11 5,540 Mar-11 5,960 Apr-11 4,430 May-11 5,890 Jun-11 5,320 Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,640		5,890
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Jul-11 4,810 Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		5,890
Aug-11 5,240 Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,640		5,320
Sep-11 5,230 Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,640 May-12 4,640		4,810
Oct-11 6,170 Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		5,240
Nov-11 5,220 Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		5,230
Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		6,170
Dec-11 4,920 Jan-12 5,040 Feb-12 4,560 Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		5,220
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Mar-12 5,210 Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		5,040
Apr-12 4,250 May-12 4,640		4,560
May-12 4,640		5,210
		4,250
	=	4,640
	Jun-12	4,110

Source: Income Support Computer System (ISCS) data

Notes:

- 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. "-" denotes nil or negligible.
- A Lone Parent claiming Income Support can be sanctioned for failure to attend or participate in mandatory work focused interviews (WFIs) without good cause. The benefit sanction remains in place until the lone parent attends and participates in a WFI.
- 3. These dates cover a time period when lone parents whose youngest child was 12 5 years old were being removed from the Income

- Support caseload. As a result, fewer Lone Parents were required to attend WFIs.
- 4. Data to June 2012 is the latest available published information see: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/is/lone_parent_regime/index.php?
 page=lone_parent_regime