

Freedom of Information request 2013-3196

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Information request

I was wondering if you could provide me with the figures for the whole of North Ayrshire of those that have been receiving Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and who have received sanctions in the past two years, further to this what percentage is this of current JSA claimants and finally the reasons each individual was sanctioned?

DWP response

In response to your question on **“those that have been receiving Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and who have received sanctions in the past two years, further to this what percentage is this of current JSA claimants”** the information requested can be found in Table 1 below.

Please note that the proportions are derived from unpublished information which have not been quality assured to Official Statistics publication standards. They should therefore be treated with caution.

In response to your question on **“the reasons each individual was sanctioned”** the information requested can be found in Table 2 below.

Please be aware of the difference in number of individuals given in tables 1 and 2. This is because Table 1 shows the total number of individuals with a sanction applied for any reason whereas Table 2 shows the total number of individuals with a sanction applied for each reason. Table 2 will therefore include individuals who have had a sanction applied for more than one reason. For example if an individual has had a sanction applied for Failing to Participate in Work Programme and for Failing to attend an Advisory Interview then they will be counted twice in Table 2 and only once in Table 1.

Table 1: Number¹ of individuals with a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction applied² and what percentage¹ this figure represents of the total number of individuals claiming JSA³ in North Ayrshire Local Authority⁴: 22nd October 2010 - 21st October 2012⁵

	Number of individuals with a JSA sanction applied	Percentage of the total number of individuals claiming JSA
Total	3,030	19%

Table 2: Number¹ of individuals with a Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanction applied² in North Ayrshire Local Authority⁴ by reason for applying a sanction: 22nd October 2010 - 21st October 2012⁵

Reason for applying a sanction	Total
Discharge from HM forces	-
Leaving employment voluntarily	130
Lost employment through misconduct	20
Neglect to avail of an opportunity of employment	-
Refusal of employment	300
Giving up place on training scheme/emp prog	-
Losing place on place on training scheme/emp prog due to misconduct	-
Refusal of place on training scheme/emp prog	-
Neglect to avail of place on training scheme/emp prog	-
Failure to attend place on training scheme/emp prog	320
Failure to attend Advisory Interview (post April 2010)	1,580
Refusal to carry out a Jobseeker' direction	20
Failure to attend Back to Work Session	250
Not Actively Seeking Employment	880
Availability questions	120
Failure to attend Advisory interview/FTP signed declaration	-
Jobseeker' Agreement questions	-
Trade disputes	-
Joint Claim exemption	-
Failed to Participate in Work Programme	170
Failed to Participate in Skills Conditionality	-
Failed to Participate in a Sector-Based Work Academy	-
Failed to Participate in New Enterprise Allowance	-
Failed to Participate in Community Action Programme	-
Failed to Participate in Work Experience	-
Failed to Participate in Mandatory Work Activity	20

Source: DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number. "-" denotes nil or negligible. **Table 2 will include individuals who have had a sanction applied for more**

than one reason. For example if an individual has had a sanction applied for Failing to Participate in Work Programme and for Failing to attend an Advisory Interview then they will be counted twice in Table 2 and only once in Table 1.

2. **Sanctions applied:** The number of sanctions applied is the number of Varied⁶, Fixed Length⁷ and Entitlement Decision⁸ referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Number of individuals claiming JSA:** Individuals claiming JSA are those who have had a live claim at any point throughout the period: 22nd October 2010 - 21st October 2012.
4. **Local Authority:** On April 1st 2009 structural changes to the Local Authorities of England took effect. Changes are reflected from April 2009 in these tables.
5. The 21st October 2012 is the last date covered by the old sanctions regulations and is the latest date for which figures are available. More information can be found at:
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/adviser/updates/jsa-sanction-changes/>
6. **Varied Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the Adjudication Officer who makes the decision.
7. **Fixed Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's Direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question.
8. **Entitlement Decisions:** These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.