

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: VTR1441

DATE 15/06/2011

Dear E L Henshaw,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 May 2011. You asked:

'I am trying to understand how the ESA statistics are compiled, could you please provide figures for SG, WRAG and Fit for Work decisions reached by each centre and for each month from oct 2008 to april 2011.'

Having considered your request, we have decided to provide a breakdown of Work Capability Assessment (WCA) outcomes by centre only, i.e. not broken down by month. We have determined that the cost of providing monthly breakdowns by centre, as per the original request, would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Department is not obliged to comply with your request. We estimate that the cost of complying with your full 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.

Currently the Department publishes monthly National level figures on the outcome of the WCA. If this information was provided broken down both by centre and by month, there is a high likelihood that there would be large fluctuations from one month to the next, particularly in the smaller centres, due to random statistical variation resulting from the relatively small numbers of claimants in some of these areas.

In providing data on WCA results by centre only we have assumed that "centre" refers to Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery Centres (BDC). The BDCs are used operationally by Jobcentre Plus to distribute the processing of claims. Claims processed by a particular BDC do not necessarily come from the same geographical area in which the BDC is situated. In addition, BDC coverage does not necessarily match the geographical boundaries used by local or central government.

The table below provides the breakdown, by BDC, of all initial WCA outcomes for ESA claims received between October 2008 to August 2010, the latest data available. Note that any apparent variations between different BDCs may be due to statistical variation resulting from the relatively small numbers of cases involved. These trends may change significantly as more data becomes available.

BDC	Support Group	Work Related Activity Group	Fit for Work
Aberdeen BDC	14%	20%	66%
Barnsley BDC	10%	27%	64%
Basildon BDC	10%	29%	61%
Bathgate BDC	8%	18%	74%
Belfast BDC	9%	21%	70%
Birkenhead BDC	8%	29%	63%
Bolton BDC	11%	29%	59%
Bradford BDC	9%	20%	72%
Bristol BDC	11%	34%	55%
Burnley BDC	9%	31%	60%
Bury St Edmunds BDC	13%	32%	55%
Caerphilly BDC	7%	28%	65%
Cannock BDC	10%	24%	66%
Canterbury BDC	12%	35%	53%
Carlisle BDC	9%	35%	56%
Chester BDC	12%	30%	58%
Chippenham BDC	11%	35%	54%
Chorlton BDC	12%	30%	58%
Clyde and Fife BDC	9%	16%	74%
Clydebank BDC	10%	17%	73%
Coatbridge BDC	11%	16%	73%
Cosham BDC	13%	29%	58%
Derby BDC	10%	29%	61%
Glasgow BDC (London)	9%	21%	71%
Gloucester BDC	10%	33%	58%
Greenock BDC	12%	17%	71%
Hackney BDC	9%	17%	74%
Halifax BDC	9%	24%	67%
Handsworth BDC	9%	22%	69%
Hanley BDC	9%	22%	69%
Hastings BDC	15%	33%	52%
Hull BDC	11%	31%	58%
Hyde BDC	13%	33%	54%
Ilford BDC	8%	17%	74%
Kilmarnock BDC	12%	19%	69%
Leeds BDC	10%	22%	68%
Leicester BDC	12%	30%	58%
Lincoln BDC	13%	29%	57%
Llanelli BDC	9%	25%	66%
Luton BDC	10%	26%	64%
Makerfield BDC	9%	21%	70%
Merthyr Tydfil BDC	8%	30%	62%
Newcastle BDC	7%	14%	78%
Newport BDC	9%	30%	61%
Norwich BDC	12%	30%	58%
Nottingham BDC	10%	29%	61%
Oldham BDC	11%	31%	58%

Peterborough BDC	15%	37%	49%
Plymouth BDC	11%	32%	58%
Preston BDC	16%	26%	58%
Ravenhurst BDC	10%	23%	67%
Sheffield BDC	11%	29%	60%
St Austell BDC	10%	32%	58%
St Helens BDC	7%	29%	64%
Stockton BDC	7%	20%	73%
Stratford BDC	9%	20%	71%
Sunderland BDC	8%	18%	74%
Totton BDC	13%	36%	51%
Walsall BDC	10%	28%	61%
Wellingborough BDC	10%	33%	56%
Wolverhampton BDC	8%	23%	68%
Worcester BDC	13%	28%	59%
Worthing BDC	15%	33%	52%
Wrexham BDC	9%	30%	62%
Unknown	5%	32%	63%
All	10%	26%	64%

This data is drawn from Departmental benefit claims data and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

The figures in the table are consistent with those in the official statistics publication, available on the Departmental website at the link below:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, 5th Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk