

Owen Stevens
[By email]

2 March 2015

Ref: 468

Dear Owen Stevens,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 05 February 2015. You asked for the following:-

During the Work and Pension Select Committee evidence hearings on 04/02/15 Esther McVey referred to 130,000 home visits to safeguard vulnerable claimants from sanction.

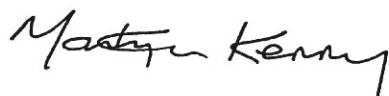
Please release the figures she was referring to, if possible showing monthly figures since 2010. If it is not possible to give monthly figures then please provide annual figures since 2010.

The figure quoted by the Minister for Employment is based on data available for the period December 2011 to December 2014 and is shown for part and whole operational years in accordance with the table below:

Dec 2011 to March 2012	April 2012 to March 2013	April 2013 to March 2014	April 2014 to Dec 2014	Total for the period
7,899	48,518	45,386	26,741	128,544

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

Yours sincerely,



Martyn Kerry
DWP Visiting Business Services

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 FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. 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.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Visiting
Business
Services

Owen Stevens
[By email]

29 June 2015

Ref: 2031

Dear Owen Stevens,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 15 May 2015. You asked for the following in relation to the document you provided in support of your request:-

The documents states "The figure quoted by the Minister for Employment is based on data available for the period December 2011 to December 2014".

Please supply up to date figures up to the beginning of March 2015

DWP Response

The information provided to the then Minister, Esther McVey, was based on operational estimates of the proportion of referrals received from Jobcentre Plus.

it would not be appropriate to supply on going data on this basis.

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

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central FOI team.

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

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Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Visiting
Business
Services

Owen Stevens
[By email]

22 June 2015

Ref: 2030 and 2032

Dear Owen Stevens,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information requests received on 15 May 2015. You asked for the following in relation to the document you supplied in support of your request:-

The documents states "*The figure quoted by the Minister for Employment is based on data available for the period December 2011 to December 2014*".

We have been told by the DWP that there is no data available breaking down the types of visits conducted by the Pension Service. This makes us wonder how these figures could have been supplied to Esther McVey.

Please supply full copies of any documents you have which:

- *place these figures in context i.e. make clear what the figures are based on, what visits they refer to, etc*
- *were used to calculate these figures*

and

Please indicate the breakdown of the types of visits included within these figures e.g. safeguarding visits, appointee visits, benefit cap, whatever

DWP Response:

The information provided to the then Minister, Esther McVey, was based on operational estimates of the proportion of referrals received from Jobcentre Plus.

The referrals would have covered all categories of 'Core Visit'.

The full list of visit types covered by 'Core Visit' referrals from Job Centre colleagues is as follows:

- Benefit Cap
- Benefit Integrity
- Bereavement Benefit

- Civil Penalty (Overpayment)
- Delivery of Overpayment Recoverability Notification
- Employment and Support Allowance
- ESA 50
- Incapacity Benefit (including IB (IS) reassessment)
- Income Support
- Industrial Injuries and Disablement Benefit
- Learning Focused Interviews
- Lone Parents/Lone Parent Obligation Changes
- Safeguard visits
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Work Focused Interviews

The types of visit reflected in the figures quoted, predominantly applied to referrals involving the possibility of sanctions, these included:

- Employment and Support Allowance – Failure to Attend Work Capability Assessment Visits
- Employment and Support Allowance – Failure to Attend Work Focussed Interview Visits
- Safeguarding Visits

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

Yours sincerely,

Martyn Kerry
DWP Visiting Business Services

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www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745



Department
for Work &
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Owen Stevens
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Operations FOI Team
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NA

3 August 2015

www.gov.uk

FOI 3024

Dear Owen Stevens,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 17 July 2015.

You asked:

"Please release any statistics indicating the proportion of compliance doubts by Work Programme Providers for ESA claimants are rejected because safeguarding of a vulnerable claimant did not take place. If this data is not collected then please indicate what data on reasons for compliance doubts being rejected is held".

To put the format of this response into context I should explain a little about the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides people with a right of access to recorded information held by public authorities such as DWP. The Act does not extend to requests for views, comments or questions about a particular matter. Your request can be in the form of a question, but DWP does not have to answer if this would mean creating information that is not already held in a recorded form.

I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Department as we do not keep any statistics on reasons why compliance doubts have been rejected.

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

Yours sincerely

DWP Operations FOI Team

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

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