

If you contact us, use this reference:
FOI 115

Owen Stevens



Peel Park
Brunel Way
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY4 5ES

www.gov.uk

13th February 2015

Freedom of Information Act – Request for Information
Our Reference: FOI 115

Dear Mr Stevens

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 12th January 2015. You asked for:-

Please provide monthly figures for ESA hardship payment awards 2012-14 for each benefit centre. If you do not have time to provide data for each centre then please just provide data for Belfast BDC.

DWP Response

We can provide the information requested as captured by our internal data system (MISP)

The figures below should be seen within the context of efforts since 2012 to increase promotion of the availability of hardship payments ensuring everyone is made aware of all support available. Notification letters have been revised to include hardship information, as well as changes to ESA conditionality introduced in 2012.

ESA Hardship Awards Made April 2012 to March 2013

	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Total
Aberdeen	1	3	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	3	5	24
Barnsley	2	6	5	2	2	1	3	5	2	5	6	4	43
Basildon	1	2	2	2	2	1	4	7	1	11	7	2	42
Bathgate	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	4	3	8	4	3	28
Belfast	0	2	0	3	1	0	3	2	0	6	1	5	23
Birkenhead	2	2	2	0	1	0	1	4	6	10	19	5	52
Bolton	0	4	2	3	3	0	1	2	3	12	19	14	63
Bury St Edmunds	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4	1	0	9
Caerphilly	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	4	2	4	6	3	27
Canterbury	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	0	2	5	18
Chester	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	3	2	3	14
Chippenham	2	6	5	1	3	5	0	2	1	6	5	2	38
Clydebank	0	2	1	2	3	0	4	5	7	10	8	10	52
Coatbridge	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	5	6	2	10	29
Cosham	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	5	8	3	25
Derby	2	2	1	0	3	3	1	3	8	4	15	16	58
Glasgow Northgate	3	6	6	6	4	4	6	6	9	20	14	23	107
Gloucester	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	9
Greenock	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	9
Hackney	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	10
Halifax	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	4	15
Handsworth	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	9
Hanley	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	4	10
Hull	3	0	4	5	2	1	3	6	5	13	17	5	64
Kilmarnock	0	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	3	14
Leeds	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	12	6	25
Leicester	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4	4	16
Lincoln	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Llanelli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	6	19
Luton	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	1	13
Makerfield	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	6	1	1	4	2	21
Newcastle	0	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	5	4	16	40
Nottingham	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	4	5	4	21
Oldham	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	6	5	20
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	10
Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	7	6	8	29
Preston	0	3	2	0	3	3	3	7	13	6	17	14	71
Ravenhurst	2	1	0	1	4	0	2	0	2	4	3	2	21
St Austell	1	3	2	4	3	1	4	1	1	7	14	10	51
Stockton	2	1	2	3	0	2	5	3	8	7	9	8	50
Stratford	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	4	3	4	18
Sunderland	0	0	0	5	2	2	0	1	1	2	5	5	23
Walsall	1	1	3	2	0	1	2	2	1	4	8	1	26
Wellingborough	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	8
Wolverhampton	0	1	4	2	1	1	2	6	2	9	10	8	46
Worcester	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	4	9	7	5	1	33
Worthing	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	10
Wrexham	3	2	6	5	0	3	4	3	4	1	10	8	49
Others	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	7	3	4	5	2	24
Total	39	74	68	67	63	41	72	125	116	225	298	254	1,442

ESA Hardship Awards Made April 2013 to March 2014

	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Total
Aberdeen	5	7	9	15	10	13	26	15	7	10	10	30	157
Barnsley	6	8	6	28	29	32	38	39	18	18	28	21	271
Basildon	4	18	25	23	24	39	59	48	34	30	26	37	367
Bathgate	4	8	3	15	18	16	14	17	5	10	11	5	126
Belfast	3	13	16	14	12	19	50	42	59	26	45	38	337
Birkenhead	12	14	21	23	15	20	38	35	22	20	28	36	284
Bolton	13	31	28	32	19	35	67	54	47	51	42	45	464
Bury St	3	6	6	6	4	11	7	5	7	6	8	5	74
Caerphilly	6	9	8	14	17	7	14	13	15	15	18	15	151
Canterbury	4	8	4	15	20	16	15	17	16	14	20	26	175
Chester	3	2	2	8	5	11	12	3	4	2	9	10	71
Chippenham	2	2	7	10	5	4	5	3	6	8	12	18	82
Clydebank	11	12	18	24	23	33	50	29	25	25	33	30	313
Coatbridge	5	7	13	14	16	20	12	22	10	16	12	15	162
Cosham	2	2	1	17	5	7	13	10	12	10	11	16	106
Derby	15	20	29	26	11	30	17	22	17	24	10	23	244
Glasgow	13	26	23	23	49	47	66	62	45	41	54	62	511
Gloucester	0	1	0	5	5	6	6	8	1	1	3	7	43
Greenock	2	6	6	10	2	1	7	7	10	7	2	7	67
Hackney	0	4	5	2	4	4	4	4	2	3	2	7	41
Halifax													
Handsworth	1	2	2	10	10	9	14	10	5	7	9	12	91
Hanley	3	6	8	11	7	15	16	8	2	8	9	16	109
Hull	16	21	23	27	18	25	41	27	14	24	20	28	284
Kilmarnock	3	10	6	10	11	8	11	10	8	4	10	10	101
Leeds	5	6	6	11	11	8	11	9	4	8	3	4	86
Leicester	4	18	6	13	10	14	8	8	4	7	9	14	115
Lincoln													
Llanelli	5	3	5	7	8	3	7	5	5	4	8	8	68
Luton													
Makerfield													
Merthyr Tydfil	5	9	13	11	14	9	17	25	9	4	24	15	155
Newcastle	12	7	19	23	21	14	27	35	37	28	28	25	276
Nottingham	2	11	10	13	11	7	15	5	7	8	17	13	119
Oldham	1	9	12	19	11	17	24	21	12	23	25	22	196
Peterborough	0	3	4	3	1	3	1	5	2	5	7	4	38
Plymouth	2	3	0	9	15	12	11	10	4	8	14	13	101
Preston	21	19	17	32	29	37	43	25	17	31	21	33	325
Ravenhurst	2	2	1	5	9	12	14	10	2	13	3	13	86
St Austell	14	15	12	12	22	14	15	14	12	15	20	24	189
Stockton	13	17	6	19	35	30	37	38	18	35	52	54	354
Stratford	2	9	8	14	7	13	30	29	12	11	6	6	147
Sunderland	11	9	10	42	28	19	42	23	19	21	28	42	294
Walsall	8	7	13	6	10	11	4	9	6	10	10	10	104
Wellingborou	0	3	4	3	3	6	7	9	3	5	9	9	61
Wolverhampt	15	11	11	12	16	14	15	21	8	11	14	18	166
Worcester	10	4	6	6	9	6	12	4	3	4	8	5	77
Worthing	1	3	4	6	4	9	8	11	2	2	3	6	59
Wrexham	18	16	24	36	25	29	53	23	22	22	33	27	328
Others	5	8	11	13	12	17	12	10	13	15	16	17	149
Total	292	435	471	697	650	732	1,015	859	612	670	790	901	8,124

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Focal Point Team

Business Intelligence

DWP Finance Group

E mail: businessintelligence.pgandfoicentralteam@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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, 6-12 Tothill Street, London. 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.gov.uk