
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

Rt Hon Frank Field MP DL
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

20 October 2015

Dear Frank,

NUMBER OF BENEFIT CLAIMANTS WHO HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED

Thank you for your letter of 7 September about statistics on the number of benefit claimants who have been sanctioned, published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). DWP officials have confirmed that the information you are seeking is not publicly available, whether via DWP's Stat-Xplore web database or through any other channel.

Statistics about benefit sanctions have been the subject of recent correspondence¹ between Ed Humpherson, the Authority's Director General for Regulation, and David Frazer, DWP's Head of Profession for Statistics, asking DWP to publish much fuller statistical analysis of benefit sanctions, including that DWP should extend the range of benefit sanction data available by addressing the gaps in information on repeat sanctions.

The type of information that you are asking for appears to be consistent with the suggestions in Ed Humpherson's letter.

I am copying this letter to David Frazer, DWP's statistical Head of Profession, in order that he is sighted on this particular example of user need and so that in the course of publishing fuller analysis of sanctions data, he can address the need.

I have also asked Ed Humpherson to discuss with David Frazer the ideal timing of an Assessment of DWP's benefit sanctions statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Andrew Dilnot CBE

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/email-from-ed-humpherson-to-david-frazer.pdf>