



Sheila Gilmore MP
Edinburgh East Constituency

04 November 2013

Mr Andrew Dilnot
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London
SW1V 2QQ

Our Ref: MB/GILM02002/02131782
Your Ref:

Dear Mr Dilnot

I am writing in relation to 'ESA: outcomes of Work Capability Assessments', a set of statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions on a quarterly basis.

Tables 1a and 2a generally contain data on the outcomes of new claims for ESA. Table 3 generally contains data on the number of appeals and successful appeals. Table 3 generally contains data on outcomes for new claims, with the data on appeals taken into account.

The set published in October 2013 did not include data in Tables 3 and 4. Neither did it contain data in Tables 5, 6, 10 and 11.

The webpage where the set can be downloaded from says:

The October 2013 publication does not include information on appeals. The latest appeals data is available in the July 2013 publication. DWP statisticians are working with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service to incorporate unpublished appeals data as soon as it is available. We hope to be able to do so in our next publication in January 2014. An exact date will be notified to users in advance through both the publication hub and StatUserNet, in accordance with standard United Kingdom Statistics Authority guidelines.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment>

I asked a parliamentary question and received an answer that was almost identical to the above statement:

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish updated statistics for tables 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 of his Department's statistics bulletin, Employment and Support Allowance: outcomes of work capability assessments, published on 22 October 2013. [173540]

Mike Penning: DWP statisticians are working with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) to incorporate unpublished appeals data as soon as it is available. We hope to be able to do so in our next publication in

January 2014. An exact date will be notified to users in advance, in accordance with standard UK Statistics Authority guidelines, via the publication hub at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

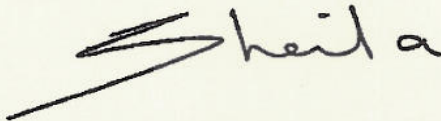
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131101/text/131101w0001.htm#13110152000037>

Based on previous statistics, since the introduction of ESA in October 2008 around 1 in 10 people declared Fit for Work have successfully appealed. This demonstrates the need for reform. However I am concerned that if the Government refuse to publish the data in Tables 3 and 4, it will be a lot more difficult to make a convincing case in this regard.

I would be grateful for any comments you might have on the decision by the Department for Work and Pensions not to publish the data in Tables 3 and 4. I would be particularly keen to know if this decision has broken any official guidelines, and whether you have received any explanation as to why this data has not been published.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Sheila Gilmore MP
Edinburgh East