



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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**Mo Stewart
(by email)**

Website www.dwp.gov.uk
Email igs.foi@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
Date: 11 March 2019

Our ref: 2018-9859

Dear Mo Stewart,

Freedom of Information ref: 2018-9859

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 5 November 2018. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

You asked:

“Thank you for your reply of 30th October 2018

I welcome your suggestion and, to that effect, please advise the number of ESA claimants who died within 6 months of being deemed ‘fit for work’ by the DWP following an ESA assessment from March 2014 to February 2017.”

The information requested is included in the table below. No causal effect between the decision made and the number of people who died should be assumed from these figures. To be helpful, along with Fit for Work (FfW), we have also supplied the information relating to decisions for the Support Group (SG) and Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) for context.

The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

Total number of individuals with a Work Capability Assessment (WCA) decision between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2017 and of those the number who died within six months of that decision, by decision made, Great Britain: March 2014 to February 2017

	WCA Decision			
	Total	SG	WRAG	FfW
Total number of individuals with a WCA decision between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2017	2,155,170	1,254,760	351,790	548,620
of which:				
Number who died within 6 months of that decision.	24,890	21,940	1,400	1,560

Source: DWP WPLS and data derived from administrative data held by the DWP and assessment data provided by Healthcare Provider.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding. '-' denotes nil or negligible
2. 6 months is measured as 182 days after the WCA decision was made - e.g. for decisions made on 28 February 2017 deaths have been measured up to and including 29 August 2017.
3. WCA decision: The final DWP Decision Maker's or appeal tribunal's decision or the recommendation made by the Healthcare Professional where the Decision Maker's decision is not available.
4. The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard. They should therefore be treated with caution.

You may find it useful to refer to the mortality statistics which are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths>

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
Data as Statistics
Department for Work and Pensions

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 <https://ico.org.uk/>