



Department for
Communities
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An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Commonities

From: The Minister

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Our ref: AQW 24492/22-27
Date 23 April 2025

Sian Mulholland MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
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Via email: sian.mulholland@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Sian

AQW 24492/22-27: To ask the Minister for Communities to detail the number of Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments conducted in each of the last five years where claimants were placed into (i) Limited Capability for Work; and (ii) Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, broken down (a) age group; and (b) constituency.

Due to the volume of detail required to answer your question, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

AQW 24492/22/27

To ask the Minister for Communities to detail the number of Universal Credit Work Capability Assessments conducted in each of the last five years where claimants were placed into (i) Limited Capability for Work; and (ii) Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, broken down (a) age group; and (b) constituency.

(i) The number of people who have been classified as having Limited Capability for Work for the first time in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) age group; and (b) constituency is shown in the tables below:

(a)

Universal Credit claimants classified as Limited Capability for Work (LCW) for the first time by age

| Age Group | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| U20 | 80 | 160 | 120 | 120 | 90 |
| 20-24 | 270 | 410 | 320 | 340 | 270 |
| 25-29 | 250 | 390 | 370 | 340 | 300 |
| 30-34 | 240 | 430 | 370 | 400 | 310 |
| 35-39 | 200 | 390 | 330 | 340 | 280 |
| 40-44 | 200 | 300 | 260 | 250 | 250 |
| 45-49 | 190 | 300 | 220 | 220 | 140 |
| 50-54 | 220 | 290 | 220 | 210 | 180 |
| 55-59 | 180 | 260 | 200 | 230 | 170 |
| 60+ | 170 | 260 | 240 | 230 | 190 |
| Unknown | 20 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Total | 2,020 | 3,190 | 2,660 | 2,710 | 2,190 |

Notes

Data Source: Universal Full Credit System (UCFS) at August 2024. Due to retrospection of UCFS data these figures are subject to change.

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

(b)

Universal Credit claimants classified as Limited Capability for Work (LCW) for the first time by parliamentary constituency

| Constituency | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Belfast East | 110 | 150 | 140 | 160 | 140 |
| Belfast North | 130 | 210 | 250 | 250 | 200 |
| Belfast South and Mid Down | 70 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 90 |
| Belfast West | 200 | 270 | 260 | 270 | 210 |
| East Antrim | 60 | 150 | 110 | 120 | 90 |
| East Londonderry | 180 | 270 | 140 | 180 | 120 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 100 | 160 | 120 | 150 | 100 |
| Foyle | 140 | 270 | 170 | 190 | 180 |
| Lagan Valley | 80 | 110 | 130 | 110 | 110 |
| Mid Ulster | 90 | 140 | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| Newry and Armagh | 120 | 220 | 160 | 130 | 110 |
| North Antrim | 170 | 240 | 150 | 160 | 130 |
| North Down | 60 | 110 | 90 | 100 | 70 |
| South Antrim | 60 | 160 | 110 | 110 | 90 |
| South Down | 90 | 180 | 160 | 120 | 100 |
| Strangford | 60 | 110 | 120 | 120 | 90 |
| Upper Bann | 170 | 200 | 160 | 160 | 130 |
| West Tyrone | 110 | 130 | 140 | 130 | 110 |
| Unknown | 20 | 10 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| Total | 2,020 | 3,190 | 2,660 | 2,710 | 2,190 |

Notes

Data Source: Universal Full Credit System (UCFS) at August 2024. Due to retrospection of UCFS data these figures are subject to change.

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In producing the geographical analysis, records were attributed to a parliamentary constituency based on their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated using this method and some cannot be allocated at all.

(ii) The number of people who have been classified as having Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity for the first time in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) age group; and (b) constituency is shown in the tables below:

(a)

Universal Credit claimants classified as Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) for the first time by age

| Age Group | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| U20 | 720 | 750 | 810 | 800 | 830 |
| 20-24 | 1,380 | 1,340 | 1,340 | 1,270 | 1,200 |
| 25-29 | 1,230 | 1,290 | 1,260 | 1,270 | 1,270 |
| 30-34 | 1,260 | 1,430 | 1,550 | 1,510 | 1,490 |
| 35-39 | 1,170 | 1,280 | 1,440 | 1,570 | 1,540 |
| 40-44 | 1,070 | 1,180 | 1,350 | 1,450 | 1,410 |
| 45-49 | 1,150 | 1,410 | 1,320 | 1,340 | 1,370 |
| 50-54 | 1,260 | 1,580 | 1,480 | 1,540 | 1,540 |
| 55-59 | 1,200 | 1,530 | 1,560 | 1,660 | 1,620 |
| 60+ | 1,190 | 1,700 | 2,030 | 2,180 | 2,200 |
| Unknown | 130 | 90 | 90 | 110 | 130 |
| Total | 11,770 | 13,560 | 14,240 | 14,680 | 14,590 |

Notes

Data Source: Universal Full Credit System (UCFS) at August 2024. Due to retrospection of UCFS data these figures are subject to change.

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

(b)

Universal Credit claimants classified as Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) for the first time by parliamentary constituency

| Constituency | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Belfast East | 710 | 760 | 780 | 750 | 790 |
| Belfast North | 1,080 | 1,150 | 1,220 | 1,220 | 1,250 |
| Belfast South and Mid Down | 590 | 670 | 670 | 610 | 730 |
| Belfast West | 1,180 | 1,180 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,420 |
| East Antrim | 530 | 570 | 650 | 650 | 640 |
| East Londonderry | 670 | 770 | 740 | 800 | 800 |
| Fermanagh and South Tyrone | 520 | 670 | 650 | 700 | 610 |
| Foyle | 810 | 840 | 1,140 | 1,180 | 1,280 |
| Lagan Valley | 510 | 680 | 650 | 610 | 620 |
| Mid Ulster | 490 | 600 | 580 | 650 | 590 |
| Newry and Armagh | 630 | 780 | 850 | 850 | 820 |
| North Antrim | 600 | 740 | 790 | 810 | 730 |
| North Down | 500 | 570 | 550 | 590 | 530 |
| South Antrim | 430 | 630 | 600 | 620 | 610 |
| South Down | 570 | 660 | 630 | 680 | 660 |
| Strangford | 570 | 680 | 630 | 640 | 660 |
| Upper Bann | 720 | 830 | 950 | 940 | 960 |
| West Tyrone | 590 | 690 | 730 | 810 | 760 |
| Unknown | 80 | 90 | 140 | 170 | 140 |
| Total | 11,770 | 13,560 | 14,240 | 14,680 | 14,590 |

Notes

Data Source: Universal Full Credit System (UCFS) at August 2024. Due to retrospection of UCFS data these figures are subject to change.

All figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

In producing the geographical analysis, records were attributed to a parliamentary constituency based on their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated using this method and some cannot be allocated at all.