# RNIB – supporting people with sight loss Research briefing Number of Work Programme referrals, attachments and job outcomes for blind and partially sighted claimants: 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2015

## 1. Introduction

This briefing contains statistics on the number of blind and partially sighted (BPS) people referred to, and subsequently taken on/attached to the Work Programme between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2015, and their job outcomes.

The statistics relating to BPS people were provided by DWP following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for an ad hoc analysis of Work Programme statistics, to update an earlier table of statistics provided by DWP. The earlier version had covered the period 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2014.

This briefing applies to Great Britain, with a breakdown by country for two of the four tables detailed.

The statistics in this briefing relating to Work Programme referrals, attachments and outcomes for all people (i.e. not just those who were blind or partially sighted) were calculated from the DWP published tables linked to the DWP's statistical release (DWP, 2015). The statistical release also provides background information about the Work Programme and a range of statistics for the Work Programme client population as a whole.

### 1.1 Definition of blind and partially sighted

DWP administrative data has a category 'Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa'. As this includes some acute medical conditions that do not cause vision impairment, claimants with these acute conditions are excluded from the tables in this briefing. The tables are broken down by each of the 10 non-acute conditions in Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa detailed in appendix A.

Throughout this document, claimants with Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa with conditions that are associated with vision impairment (as detailed in appendix A) will be referred to as the **BPS** group.

## RNIB – supporting people with sight loss RNIB charity numbers 226227, SC039316 and 1109 2. Key findings

### 2.1 Number of BPS people referred to the Work Programme in Great Britain and by country

Between 1 June 2011 and 31 March 2015 a total of 1,140 BPS people were referred to the Work Programme, representing 0.066%, or 66 in 100,000 of all Work Programme referrals in Great Britain.

#### 2.1.1 Broken down by country, the numbers of referrals were:

* England: 1,000
  + 87% of BPS referrals
* Scotland: 90
  + 7.8% of BPS referrals
* Wales: 60
  + 5.2% of BPS referrals

### 2.2 Number of BPS people referred to the Work Programme annually over a four-year period to 31 March 2015

While the total number of blind and partially sighted people in Great Britain referred to the Work Programme over a four-year period from June 2011 to March 2015 was **1,140**, the annual breakdown was:

* **Year 1:** June 2011 to March 2012: **280**
  + **0.04%** of all referrals
* **Year 2:** April 2012 to March 2013: **390**
  + **0.07%** of all referrals
* **Year 3:** April 2013 to March 2014: **340**
  + **0.09%** of all referrals
* **Year 4:** April 2014 to March 2015: **130**
  + **0.07%** of all referrals

### 2.3 Number of BPS Work Programme attachments in Great Britain

Of the 1,140 blind and partially sighted people in Great Britain referred to the Work Programme during this period, 1,120 were subsequently attached to a Work Service Provider, which is 98.2% of referrals. This is the same proportion as the 98.0% of all WP referrals who were subsequently attached to a provider.

### 2.4 Number of BPS participants achieving a Work Programme Job Outcome payment in Great Britain

Of the 1,140 BPS people in Great Britain referred to the Work Programme between June 2011 and March 2015, 1,110 were on the programme for a sufficient amount of time to enable them to achieve a Job Outcome payment.

However, only 90 BPS participants in Great Britain ***actually*** qualified for a Job Outcome payment, representing **8.1%** of BPS people that could have done so. This is significantly lower than the proportion of all participants achieving a Job Outcome payment that were eligible to do so, which was **25.9%.**

#### 2.4.1 Broken down by country, the numbers of blind and partially sighted people who qualified for job outcome payments were:

* England: 80
  + 8.2% of BPS people in England qualified to do so
* Scotland: 10
  + 5.9% of all BPS people in Scotland qualified to do so
* Wales: 10
  + 9.9% of all BPS people in Wales qualified to do so.

### 2.5 The status of all Work Programme Referrals for BPS people in Great Britain between June 2011 and March 2015

According to DWP:

“Once referred, individuals generally remain on the scheme for two years. Those out of work at this point return to Jobcentre Plus. Providers can continue to receive payments after this, up to the maximum allowable, if individuals remain in work. Payments end following a break in employment after the two year point.” (DWP, 2015, p6)

Of the 1,140 BPS people referred to the Work Programme between June 2011 and March 2015:

* Nearly three in five (57.9%) completed the allotted two years on the programme, which is the same proportion as for all people referred to the Work Programme.
* Four in ten (39.5%) were still on the programme compared to three in ten (29.9%), which was the proportion of all people still on the programme.

Of the 660 BPS people that completed the allotted two years on the programme:

* 7.5% achieved a Job Outcome compared with 16.6% of all people who completed the allotted two years.

## 3. Conclusion

From the figures provided in this briefing it is apparent that at around 6 per 10,000 of all referrals between June 2011 and March 2015, blind and partially sighted individuals represent only a tiny proportion of the overall number of participants on the Work Programme. This is perhaps not surprising as the prevalence of blindness and partial sight in the working age population is also low. The total number of people referred to the Work Programme over this period was 1,140, the vast majority of whom (nearly 9 in 10) were in England.

The proportion of BPS people attaining employment as result of their participation in the Work Programme remains substantially smaller than the overall population of WP referrals who found jobs. Only eight in 100 blind and partially sighted people who were on the Work Programme for a sufficient length of time to enable them to achieve a Job Outcome payment actually did so, compared with over one in four of all qualifying Work Programme participants.

The **key message** to be taken from these statistics therefore is that comparatively few blind and partially sighted individuals are benefitting from the Work Programme, with only 90 people in Great Britain having gained employment as a result of their participation between June 2011 and March 2015. A **key question** is what has happened to the 600 BPS people who completed their two years on the Work Programme and were returned to Jobcentre Plus without having secured a job, as well as the remaining 450 people still on the programme at the end of March 2015?

### Table 1: Time series showing number of Work Programme Referrals, Attachments and Job Outcome payments for people with non-acute Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa 1 June 2011 to 31 March 2015 (Great Britain)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time period | **Referrals: BPS people** | Referrals: All people | **Attachments: BPS people** | Attachments: All people | **Job outcome payments: BPS people** | Job outcome payments: All people |
| Year 1: June 11 to March 12 | **280** | 687,130 | **260** | 644,690 | **-** | 9,090 |
| Year 2: April 12 to March 13 | **390** | 512,140 | **380** | 515,360 | **20** | 120,530 |
| Year 3: April 13 to March 14 | **340** | 347,940 | **340** | 351,700 | **40** | 164,500 |
| Year 4: April 14 to March 15 | **130** | 180,540 | **140** | 182,180 | **30** | 138,490 |
| **Great Britain total** | **1,140** | 1,727,740 | **1,120** | 1,693,930 | **90** | 432,610 |

**Source of BPS data**: DWP Statistical Services Freedom of Information response to RNIB ref: 2015-3286 dated 12 February 2016

**Source of data for all claimants**: Supplementary Table 1.1, DWP (2015) Work Programme Statistical Summary dated 18 June 2015.

**Notes:** ' - ' denotes nil or negligible (less than10); figures are rounded to the nearest 10; tables may not sum due to rounding.

### Table 2: Proportion of all Participants with non-acute Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa who had spent sufficient time on the programme to do so that achieved a Job Outcome payment: June 2011 to March 2015 (Great Britain)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participant type | Referrals | Referrals able to attain a Job Outcome payment | Referrals achieving a Job Outcome payment | Percentage of the Referrals that could achieve a Job Outcome payment that did so |
| **BPS participants** | **1,140** | **1,110** | **90** | **8.1%** |
| All participants | 1,727,740 | 1,668,170 | 432,610 | 25.9% |

**Source of BPS data**: DWP Statistical Services Freedom of Information response to RNIB ref: 2015-3286 dated 12 February 2016

**Source of data for all claimants**: Supplementary Table 1.4, DWP (2015) Work Programme Statistical Summary dated 18 June 2015.

**Notes:** ' - ' denotes nil or negligible (less than10); figures are rounded to the nearest 10; tables may not sum due to rounding.

### Table 3: Proportion of all Participants with non-acute Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa who had spent sufficient time on the programme to do so that achieved a Job Outcome payment – by country: June 2011 to March 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Referrals | Referrals able to attain a Job Outcome payment | Referrals achieving a Job Outcome payment | Percentage of the Referrals that could achieve a Job Outcome payment that did so |
| **Great Britain** | **1,140** | **1,110** | **90** | **8.1%** |
| England | 1,000 | 960 | 80 | 8.2% |
| Wales | 60 | 60 | 10 | 9.9% |
| Scotland | 90 | 80 | 10 | 5.9% |
| Unknown | - | - | - | - |

**Source of BPS data**: DWP Statistical Services Freedom of Information response to RNIB ref: 2015-3286 dated 12 February 2016

**Notes:** ' - ' denotes nil or negligible (less than10); figures are rounded to the nearest 10; tables may not sum due to rounding.

### Table 4: The status of all Work Programme Referrals for people with non-acute Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa: June 2011 to March 2015 (Great Britain)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Referrals: BPS people** | Referrals: All people | **Of which, Job Outcomes: BPS people** | Of which, Job Outcomes: All people |
| Total | **1,140** | 1,727,740 | **90** | 432,610 |
| Completed early | **10** | 4,210 | **-** | 460 |
| Completed allotted time (104 weeks): Returned to Jobcentre Plus at 104 weeks | **590** | 796,950 | **10** | 59,650 |
| Completed allotted time (104 weeks): Returned to Jobcentre Plus post 104 weeks | **30** | 124,720 | **10** | 47,190 |
| Completed allotted time (104 weeks): Provider still receiving Outcome payments | **40** | 79,120 | **30** | 59,560 |
| Completed: Maximum Outcome payments attained | **10** | 188,290 | **10** | 178,490 |
| Still on the scheme | **450** | 515,930 | **30** | 87,260 |
| Completed allotted time: Never Attached | **10** | 18,290 | **-** | - |
| Unknown | **-** | 230 | **-** | - |

**Source of BPS data**: DWP Statistical Services Freedom of Information response to RNIB ref: 2015-3286 dated 12 February 2016

**Source of data for all claimants**: Supplementary Table 1.7, DWP (2015) Work Programme Statistical Summary dated 18 June 2015.

**Notes:** ' - ' denotes nil or negligible (less than10); figures are rounded to the nearest 10; tables may not sum due to rounding.

### Table 5: number of Work Programme Referrals, Attachments and Job Outcome payments for people with Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa by country and contract: June 2011 to March 2015

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Provider** | **Referrals: BPS people** | Referrals: All people | **Attach-ments: BPS people** | Attach-ments: All people | **Job Out-come Pay**  **ments: BPS people\*** | Job Out-come Pay  ments: All people |
| East of England: Ingeus UK LTD | **30** | 61,980 | **30** | 60,580 | **-** | 18,110 |
| East of England: Seetec | **40** | 59,450 | **30** | 58,630 | **-** | 15,960 |
| East Midlands: A4E Ltd | **50** | 61,130 | **50** | 59,470 | **-** | 14,970 |
| East Midlands: Ingeus UK Ltd | **40** | 63,190 | **40** | 61,900 | **-** | 16,780 |
| West London: Ingeus UK Ltd | **30** | 37.070 | **30** | 35,960 | **-** | 9,160 |
| West London: Maximus Emp UK Ltd | **30** | 35,870 | **30** | 35,130 | **-** | 8,710 |
| West London: Reed in Partnership | **40** | 35,310 | **40** | 34,280 | **-** | 8,180 |
| East London: A4E Ltd | **60** | 49,330 | **50** | 48,130 | **-** | 12,390 |
| East London: Careers Development Group | **40** | 49,230 | **40** | 48,390 | **-** | 12,920 |
| East London: Seetec | **30** | 48,780 | **30** | 47,770 | **-** | 12,330 |
| North East: Avanta Enterprise Ltd | **20** | 53,000 | **20** | 52,210 | **-** | 13,660 |
| North East: Ingeus UK Ltd | **20** | 53,190 | **20** | 52,430 | **-** | 13,410 |
| Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria, Lancs: A4E Ltd | **40** | 59,310 | **30** | 57,690 | **-** | 13,840 |
| Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria, Lancs: Ingeus UK LTD | **30** | 59,560 | **30** | 58,530 | **-** | 14,800 |
| Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Avanta Enterprise Ltd | **20** | 39,690 | **20** | 39,080 | **-** | 10,930 |
| Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: G4S | **30** | 39,770 | **30** | 39,460 | **-** | 11,340 |
| Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Seetec | **20** | 39,170 | **20** | 38,670 | **-** | 10,710 |
| Scotland: Ingeus UK LTD | **40** | 84,830 | **40** | 82,980 | **-** | 19,750 |
| Scotland: Working Links | **50** | 83,780 | **40** | 82,130 | **-** | 18,880 |
| Thames Valley, Hamps, Isle of Wight: A4E Ltd | **40** | 34,460 | **40** | 33,840 | **-** | 8,630 |
| Thames Valley, Hamps, Isle of Wight: Maximus Emp UK Ltd | **30** | 34,730 | **30** | 34,550 | **-** | 9,960 |
| Surrey, Sussex, Kent: Avanta Enterprise Ltd | **40** | 42,550 | **40** | 41,660 | **-** | 11,570 |
| Surrey, Sussex, Kent: G4S | **30** | 43,140 | **30** | 42,470 | **-** | 12,050 |
| Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset: Prospects Serv Ltd | **10** | 25,070 | **10** | 24,330 | **-** | 5,860 |
| Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset: Working Links | **20** | 25,260 | **20** | 24,930 | **-** | 6,320 |
| Glouc, Wilts, Swindon, West of England: JHP Group Ltd | **10** | 23,070 | **10** | 22,690 | **-** | 5,670 |
| Glouc, Wilts, Swindon, West of England: Rehab jobfit | **20** | 23,090 | **20** | 22,410 | **-** | 5,500 |
| Wales: Rehab jobfit | **30** | 47,100 | **30** | 45,990 | **-** | 9,890 |
| Wales: Working Links | **30** | 47,720 | **20** | 47,070 | **-** | 10,610 |
| Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: EOS-Works Ltd | **40** | 40,260 | **40** | 39,750 | **-** | 10,690 |
| Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: Newc College Group | **30** | 38,520 | **30** | 37,630 | **-** | 9,000 |
| Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: Pertemps | **20** | 39,270 | **20** | 38,700 | **-** | 9,030 |
| Coventry, Warwicks, Staffs, the Marches: ESG | **20** | 32,550 | **20** | 31,570 | **-** | 8,780 |
| Coventry, Warwicks, Staffs, the Marches: Serco Ltd | **30** | 32,790 | **30** | 32,550 | **-** | 8,710 |
| West Yorkshire: Interserve Working Futures | **20** | 40,960 | **20** | 40,340 | **-** | 8,900 |
| West Yorkshire: Ingeus UK LTD | **20** | 42,500 | **20** | 41,680 | **-** | 10,600 |
| South Yorkshire: A4E Ltd | **10** | 26,180 | **10** | 25,520 | **-** | 6,360 |
| South Yorkshire: Serco Ltd | **10** | 26,440 | **10** | 26,240 | **-** | 6,680 |
| NE Yorks, The Humber: G4S | **10** | 24,660 | **10** | 24,370 | **-** | 5,810 |
| NE Yorks, The Humber: Newc College Group | **-** | 20,070 | **-** | 19,720 | **-** | 5,160 |

### \*NOTE: for BPS people, all Job Outcome Payment figures are nil or negligible

**Source of BPS data**: DWP Statistical Services Freedom of Information response to RNIB ref: 2015-3286 dated 12 February 2016

**Source of data for all claimants**: Supplementary Table 2.9, DWP (2015) Work Programme Statistical Summary dated 18 June 2015.

### Notes: ' - ' denotes nil or negligible (less than10); figures are rounded to the nearest 10; tables may not sum due to rounding

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## References

DWP (2015) **Work Programme Statistical Summary: Data to 31March 2015**

DWP official statistics publication 18 June 2015 and associated tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/work-programme-statistical-summary-data-to-31-march-2015>

## Appendix A

### Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (ICD10): Conditions that are associated with vision impairment

The list below is taken from the DWP category 'Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa'. Because this includes some acute medical conditions that do not cause vision impairment, we have removed the acute conditions from the Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa category and would like analysis of DWP data to include **only** those people with the following 10 conditions:

* H16 - Keratitis (inflammation of the cornea)
* H20 - Iridocyclitis (acute inflammatory disease of the anterior segment)
* H26 - Other cataract
* H33 - Retinal detachment and breaks
* H40 - Glaucoma
* H44 - Disorders of the globe
* H47 - Other disorders of the optic (2nd) nerve and visual pathways
* H54 - Visual impairment including blindness (binocular or monocular) (Blindness and low vision)
* H55 - Nystagmus and other irregular eye movement
* H57 - Other disorders of the eye and adnexa

### Acute conditions that have been removed from the Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa category

* Hordeolum and chalazion (these are inflammatory eye disorders)
* Other inflammation of the eyelid
* Conjunctivitis
* Foreign body on external Eye
* Other Inflammation of Eyelid