



# *Open Lines*

**No. 6**

**Letters sent to Members of Parliament in January 1992  
by Government executive agencies  
in reply to Parliamentary Questions**

**with an introduction by**

**Paul Flynn MP**

**Edited and published by Tony Lynes, 92 Grove Park, London SE5 8LE**

**February 1992**



# Introduction

by Paul Flynn, M.P.

Nearly 200 letters from officials of Government agencies to M.P.s, replying to parliamentary questions, have been published in OPEN LINES since the first issue appeared in July 1991. It remains the only practical means by which members of the public, particularly those working for local authorities and voluntary bodies, can gain access to the information given in these letters - information which in the past would have been freely available in the pages of Hansard.

The demand for copies of OPEN LINES continues to grow and messages of appreciation come from many quarters. Particularly gratifying was the recent Freedom of Information Award conferred on Tony Lynes and myself by the Campaign for Freedom of Information. But a publication of this kind ought not to be necessary and cannot be more than a temporary makeshift.

Nearly three months have passed since the Lord President, Mr John MacGregor, conceded that there had

been "some practical difficulties" with the official arrangements for making the letters available to the public by placing copies in the House of Commons Library. The main "practical difficulty" is that without actually seeing a particular letter (a privilege reserved for Members of Parliament and their staff), it is impossible to know whether it is worth asking the Library for a copy.

The Government's proposed alternative is not much better: the letters would be published, but not in Hansard - a neat way of evading ministerial responsibility while ensuring that the information continues to reach as few people as possible.

Publication in Hansard is the only sensible solution and should be adopted without further delay.

February 1992

Paul Flynn, M.P.  
House of Commons

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## Editorial note

This is the fourth issue of *OPEN LINES* for which generous financial support has been received from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.

As in previous issues, the letters reproduced are those from executive agencies in the social security and employment fields. There were 32 of these in the month of January 1992. Letters on other subjects are listed in the Appendix.

*In every case, the main body of the letter and any attached tables are reproduced in full, only the formal opening and closing paragraphs being omitted.*



# BENEFITS AGENCY

## Numbers of benefit claimants

**Mr Jim Callaghan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people claim each benefit payable (a) at each of the Heywood and Middleton social security offices and (b) in the United Kingdom.

**Letter from Mr Michael Bichard,** Chief Executive, 30 January 1992:

The information available covers Great Britain but does not include Northern Ireland. Mr Alex Wylie, Chief Executive of the Social Security Agency, is responsible for answering operational questions for Northern Ireland.

A complete answer to your question concerning the Heywood and Middleton Social Security offices is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. This is because statistics for some benefits are not collated on a local basis. To obtain the information for those benefits it would be necessary to examine all claims made nationally. Attached at Annex A are the available figures showing the number of recipients of each benefit type as at 30 November 1991. This information has been taken from the Agency's Management Information Statistics.

The latest figures showing the number of recipients of Social Security Benefits in Great Britain have been obtained from "Social Security Statistics 1990" and are attached at Annex B. A copy of this publication is available in the Library.

### Annex A: Number of recipients of each benefit type in the social security offices covering Heywood and Middleton at 30 November 1991

Benefit type	Bury	Middleton	Rochdale
Income Support	13,589	8,744	12,935
Invalidity Benefit	5,408	2,832	4,184
Maternity Benefit	70	33	41
Severe Disablement Allowance	847	434	629
Sickness Benefit	1,676	858	1,312

### Annex B: Number of recipients of each benefit type in Great Britain in 1989

Benefit	Number of recipients
Attendance Allowance	763,000
Child Benefit	6,695,000
Childs Special Allowance	346
Family Credit	286,000
Guardians Allowance	2,000
Income Support	4,161,000
Industrial Death Benefit	28,000
Industrial Disablement Benefit	185,000
Invalid Care Allowance	121,000
Invalidity Benefit	1,126,000
Maternity Allowance	42,000
Mobility Allowance	599,000
One Parent Benefit	722,000
Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis & Miscellaneous Diseases	1,000
Reduced Earnings Allowance	147,000
Retirement Pension (inc. Old Persons Pension)	9,817,000
Severe Disablement Allowance	275,000
Sickness Benefit	109,000
Unemployment Benefit	289,000
War Pension	252,000
Widows Benefit	373,000
Workmen's Compensation Supplementation Scheme	2,000

## Social fund: Merseyside

**Mr Terry Fields:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how much was left in each of the local office social fund budgets on Merseyside in November and December; and whether any offices received or applied for additional resources.

**Letter from Mr David Riggs,** Finance Director, 24 January 1992: The budget information you request is attached at Annex A.

Requests were put forward by Liverpool Central, Wirral and South West Lancashire Districts for additional resources. In December 1991, the following additions were made to their Loans Budgets:-

Liverpool Central	£4,000
Wirral	£82,950
South West Lancashire	£33,500

An addition of £28,100 was also made to Wirral District's Community Care Grant Budget in December 1991. The figures for December 1991, given at Annex A, include the additional resources referred to above.

### Annex A: Amounts left in the Social Fund Budgets for Merseyside Districts

District *	Loans Budget	Community Care Grant Budget
<b>At 30 November 1991</b>		
Knowsley	£468,219	£249,449
Liverpool Central	£419,442	£149,407
Liverpool North	£441,421	£214,204
Liverpool South	£547,381	£213,070
Sefton	£427,530	£143,898
Wirral	£568,099	£238,946
S.W. Lancashire	£391,205	£200,670
<b>At 31 December 1991</b>		
Knowsley	£313,161	£200,715
Liverpool Central	£305,707	£114,365
Liverpool North	£312,096	£170,717
Liverpool South	£368,792	£166,365
Sefton	£290,967	£118,552
Wirral	£491,149	£213,713
S.W. Lancashire	£327,642	£159,490

* District	Offices included in District
Knowsley	Huyton, Kirby
Liverpool Central	Edgehill, Liverpool (City)
Liverpool North	Breckfield, Norris Green, West Derby
Liverpool South	Belle Vale, Garston, Toxteth
Sefton	Bootle, Crosby, Southport
Wirral	Birkenhead North, Birkenhead South, Wallasey
S.W. Lancashire	St Helens, Skelmersdale

## Take-up campaign: Merseyside

**Mr Terry Fields:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many claimants on Merseyside have requested a review of their supplementary benefit entitlement under the recent regulation 72 take-up campaign; how many have had their requests for review refused; how many have received payments; and how many are pending; (2) how many cases have been identified by his Department's offices on Merseyside for eligibility for an ex gratia compensation payment due to delays in paying benefit; (3) how many additional staff and how much additional resources have been allocated to each office on Merseyside to cope with work arising from the regulation 72 take-up campaign for arrears of benefit.



**Letter from Mrs Ann Robinson, Director of Policy and Planning, 24 January 1992:**

The Merseyside area is covered by seven District Offices. The figures below represent the total number of Regulation 72 cases received in those offices at 31 December 1991:-

Requests for review received	16,727
Requests for review refused	13,228
Requests for review paid	1,420
Requests for review pending	2,079

These figures may include a small number of claims from West Lancashire as this area is covered by one of the Districts.

To date, 221 cases have been identified as possibly being entitled to an ex gratia compensation payment. Some Districts on Merseyside are looking at the eligibility for compensation as a separate exercise. It is therefore expected that further cases are yet to be identified.

You also asked about the additional resources allocated to District Offices on Merseyside to assist with the processing of work arising from the Regulation 72 take-up campaign. Additional money was issued in August 1991 to the following Districts:-

Knowsley	£165,211
Liverpool Central	£145,045
Liverpool North	£136,780
Liverpool South	£148,244
Sefton	£45,067
South West Lancashire	£7,544
Wirral	£8,594

It is the responsibility of the District Managers concerned to decide how best to use the additional resources in order to clear the claims as quickly as possible and in the most efficient and economical way.

#### **Social fund: Leaflet FB31**

**Mr Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will arrange for the Benefits Agency to amend the statement in leaflet FB31 that social fund payments do not usually have to be paid back.

**Letter from Mr Michael Bichard, Chief Executive, 15 January 1992:**

When a new leaflet is devised, the preliminary drafts are circulated within the Department and to various outside organisations who may have an interest. There is then opportunity at each stage for comment and amendment.

In the case of this particular leaflet, the usual procedures were followed and any points raised, acted upon. The point you have mentioned was not drawn to our attention before publication but I am most grateful to you for highlighting this now. This leaflet will be reprinted as part of our current leaflet revision programme in April 1992. The paragraph will be amended in the new edition and it will be made clear which of the Social Fund Payments are repayable and which are not.

#### **Benefit payments: Christmas**

**Mr Paul Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what modifications of benefit payment arrangements are made during the Christmas period; and what evidence he has of the extent to which the modified arrangements meet the wishes of claimants.

**Letter from Mr Michael Bichard, Chief Executive, 16 January 1992:**

The arrangements for payment of benefit which apply when Post Offices are closed on days or part days, other than Bank

Holidays, are the subject of a special dispensation by HM Treasury. Under these arrangements, the Post Office is permitted to pay benefits early in the following circumstances:

where benefit is normally due in the week in which Christmas falls, the Post Office is permitted to pay one week in advance;

where benefit is normally due on New Year Bank Holidays, or any other day at the New Year on which Post Offices are closed for a full or half day, the Post Office is permitted to pay on or after the first day on which Post Offices open after the Christmas holiday.

These arrangements are intended to allow the Post Office to manage the likely pattern of business conducted during the Christmas/New Year pressure period in such a way as to provide customers with the best quality of service, in terms of customer waiting times, that the prevailing pressure of business will allow.

The arrangements for Christmas and New Year 1991/92 are as set out on the attached sheet. The objective, as in previous years, was to keep customer waiting times to a minimum - a matter on which we would rely on advice from the Post Office, who are in the best position to make a judgement about the likely flow of business in the weeks immediately before and during the Christmas period.

I am not aware of any particular difficulties caused to individuals by the operation of these arrangements during the recent Christmas period. In raising the question, however, if you have a particular case or cases in mind where difficulties were experienced, I would be grateful to know about them so that we can learn any lessons for future years.

#### **Early payment of pensions and allowances: Christmas and New Year 1991-92**

##### **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

<i>Payment due on</i>	<i>Payable on or after</i>
Tue 24 December	Tue 17 December
Wed 25 December	Wed 18 December
Thu 26 December	Thu 19 December
Fri 27 December	Fri 20 December
Wed 1 January	Fri 27 December

##### **Scotland**

<i>Payment due on</i>	<i>Payable on or after</i>
Tue 24 December	Tue 17 December
Wed 25 December	Wed 18 December
Thu 26 December	Thu 19 December
Fri 27 December	Fri 20 December
Tue 31 December	Fri 27 December
Wed 1 January	Fri 27 December
Thu 2 January	Fri 27 December

#### **Early payment of 4-weekly child benefit payments**

##### **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

<i>Payment due on</i>	<i>Payable on or after</i>
Tue 24 December	Tue 17 December

##### **Scotland**

<i>Payment due on</i>	<i>Payable on or after</i>
Tue 31 December	Fri 27 December

#### **Social fund: Southwark**

**Mr Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many applications to the social fund from applicants in London SE1 and London SE16 were (a) made and (b) successful between 1 July 1991 and 31 December 1991.



**Letter from Mr David Riggs, Finance Director, 27 January 1992:**

Between 1 July 1991 and 31 December 1991 there were 3,716 applications to the Social Fund in those areas, of which 1,485 were successful. This information is provided by Southwark Branch Office which covers only SE1 and SE16 exclusively. Other offices may not cover entire postal districts exclusively and may not retain this information.

### Special Medical Boards

**Mr Roger King:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will give the names of all the medical practitioners appointed to serve on special medical boards at each medical boarding centre, respiratory diseases; and whether they are full time or part time.

**Letter from Mr Michael Bichard, Chief Executive, 28 January 1992:**

At present six Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and twelve Medical Officers (MOs) from the full-time staff of the Benefits Agency Medical Services are appointed to do this work. In addition, a further 29 doctors are also appointed, these doctors working on a part-time sessional basis. Their names and locations are at Annex A.

### Annex A: Medical Boarding Centre (Respiratory Disease)

MBC (RD)	Full-time SMOs	Full-time MOs	Part-time MOs
Cardiff	Dr D Jones	Dr J B Harse Dr H B Tinsley	Dr J A Howarth Dr M C Conroy Dr G J Ryder
Glasgow	Dr R S Simpson	Dr B M Williams	Dr K R Patel Dr A G Fennerty
London	Dr F G Ward	Dr C Vinayaga- moorthy	Dr D J Brewer Dr K Browne Dr M A Erooga Dr W R Parkes Dr S Steel
Manchester	Dr A K Chatterjee	Dr M A Ali Dr N S Hadley	Dr R A L Agnew Dr S S Chatterjee Dr A N Dempsey Dr J B Dowler Dr G J Ryder
Newcastle	Dr H S Fulton (also SMO New- castle DBC)	Dr P Sandhu	Dr G N Bates Dr J M Gilmore Dr J Hutchinson Dr V Metcalfe Dr G D Hurrell
Sheffield	Dr B Simpson	Dr J A Cobb Dr Z Rahman Dr Q A Sayed Dr K Selvarajah	Dr R D Lewis Dr V Sherburn
Stoke-on- Trent			Dr P Bartlett Dr E Brazenor Dr J T Hutchinson Dr W H R Smith
Swansea		Dr T J Roy	Dr G J Ryder Dr R L Sadler Dr G C Whyte

### Cold weather payments

**Mr Archy Kirkwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will publish the dates of the periods during which the cold weather payments were triggered since the scheme began in his Department's cold weather scheme areas served by the metering stations at (a) Boulmer and (b) Eskdalemuir.

**Letter from Mr Michael Bichard, Chief Executive, 20 January 1992:**

The Cold Weather Payment Scheme has been linked to weather stations since its introduction in December 1986. Annex A Shows the periods for which cold weather payments have been made in the areas linked to Boulmer and Eskdalemuir.

### Annex A: Cold weather payment periods for areas linked to Boulmer and Eskdalemuir weather stations since December 1986

	Eskdalemuir	Boulmer
1986/87	7/12/86 - 13/12/86 5/1/87 - 11/1/87 12/1/87 - 18/1/87 26/1/87 - 1/2/87	12/1/87 - 18/1/87
1987/88	None	None
1988/89	19/11/88 - 25/11/88	None
1989/90	None	None
1990/91	7/1/91 - 13/1/91 14/1/91 - 20/1/91 28/1/91 - 3/2/91 4/2/91 - 10/2/91	None
1991/92	3/12/91 - 9/12/91 9/1/92 - 15/1/92	None

### Industrial Services Consortium

**Mr Max Madden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many contracts the Industrial Services Consortium of Bradford has been awarded by his Department in the last two years, to date; if he will review a decision taken by the purchasing and supply directorate to concentrate leaflet work at Canons Park; what reduction in employment of disabled people will result at ISCO 5 if this decision is approved; and if he will make a statement.

**Letter from Mrs Ann Robinson, Director of Policy and Planning, 23 January 1992:**

By way of background, may I explain that Canons Park has always dealt with leaflet distribution to the general public and outside organisations. ISCO 5 stores and distributes supplies internally within the Agency.

In mid 1989, a substantial backlog of work had built up at Canons Park and ISCO 5 agreed to take on some of the orders until the backlog was at a more manageable level. The situation was to be closely monitored to ensure that the resources available were used most efficiently.

ISCO 5 has only had one contract with the Department, which has been running for the last two years, for internal storage and distribution, at a cost of £1.5m. A contract was not drawn up at the time they agreed to take on some Canons Park work temporarily, although a verbal agreement was made to take on a small percentage of orders which could be dealt with using their existing resources. It was agreed that a close eye would be kept on the situation, to adjust the amount as and when it became necessary.

The situation has gradually improved at Canons Park. ISCO 5 were consulted and accepted that all the outside work should once more be undertaken by Canons Park.

There are no plans to review the decision to return work to Canons Park but the transfer has been delayed until June 1992, in order to allow ISCO 5 to secure additional work. There is no indication at this stage that there will be any reduction in employment for disabled people as a result of this action.



### Cold weather payments: Bradford

**Mr Max Madden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many times, in the last three months, to date the weather stations in Leeds and Wilsden have triggered cold weather payments to people living in Bradford; which Bradford postcode areas were not covered by the payments triggered by Leeds between 6 and 13 December; when the local office in Bradford was notified of the payments; when recipients were informed; and if he will make a statement;

(2) what action he is taking to ensure cold weather payments are made to the maximum number of eligible people living in Bradford on a predicted temperature basis; and what arrangements are being made to ensure that local offices and the public are given prior notice of when payments are to be made.

**Letter from Mr David Riggs,** Finance Director, 24 January 1992:

From 1 November 1991 cold weather payments have been linked, by postcode areas, to weather stations. All eligible customers living in the Bradford postcode areas, linked to the Leeds weather centre, have received a cold weather payment for the period 7 December 1991 to 13 December 1991. To date, Wilsden weather station has not recorded or predicted a period of cold weather (as defined by the Cold Weather scheme). As a result the following Bradford postcode areas have not triggered for payment:

BD13, BD15-18, BD20-24

The Agency aims to make the payments due speedily. On 16 December 1991 District Managers linked to the Leeds centre were advised, via a computer linked communication, that a period of cold weather had triggered in their area. On 20 December 1991, the manager for Bradford District, part of which is covered by that centre, issued information posters to all voluntary and statutory organisations informing them of the period triggered, a press statement was also issued on the same day. On 23 December 1991 payments were issued to all those customers identified as being eligible for a cold weather payment.

Predicted cold weather spells are treated in the same manner as recorded ones. Once a forecast period has been announced, an urgent communication is issued to relevant District Managers who then take appropriate action to inform customers.

### Social fund: restrictions on payments

**Mr Rhodri Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list how many Benefits Agency area offices are, in the last and the current financial year, restricting community care grants and other social fund assistance to (a) high priority cases, (b) both low and high priority areas and (c) have money left over after meeting all legitimate applications for such assistance.

**Letter from Mr Michael Richard,** Chief Executive, 20 January 1992:

Information on the level of priority being met by the Benefits Agency Districts is not currently collected regularly.

Details of budget underspends at the end of 1990/91 are available in the House of Commons Library. As far as 1991/92 is concerned, all Districts still have money in their Social Fund budgets.

### Poll tax deductions

**Mr Dave Nellist:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the cost to public funds of employing staff in 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively, in the posts allocated to making poll tax deductions from benefits.

**Letter from Mr Michael Richard,** Chief Executive, 28 January 1992:

The following allocations were made to districts for this work:

	Staff years	Cost (£'000s)
1989-90	68	668 *
1990-91	519	6,067
1991-92	2,155	28,543

\* In 1989-90 the community charge applied only to Scotland.

It is, of course, for District Managers to deploy their resources in the way they consider will enable them to deal with the work in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

### Cold weather payments

**Mr Edward O'Hara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people have received the £6 cold weather payment during the month of January; how this figure differs from departmental estimates of take-up for the same period; and how many such payments, during this same period, were made in Merseyside.

**Letter from Mr George Bardwell,** Personnel Director, 31 January 1992:

Figures showing the total number of cold weather payments made automatically by the Income Support Computer System are not available until the end of the month in question. However, based on statistical information available for December, it is estimated that 360,000 payments will be made for cold weather spells triggered in January. This figure does not include payments for those customers living in areas linked to weather stations that have triggered in week commencing 27/1/92.

Prior to the automation of the Cold Weather Payment scheme entitlement was only established following a claim. The automation of the scheme now guarantees full take-up in those areas that trigger a cold weather spell.

So far in January there have been no payments made to customers in Merseyside in respect of cold weather. However, the main weather station covering the Merseyside region, at Augton, has recorded temperatures that will trigger cold weather payments during week commencing 27/1/92. Those customers eligible for payment will be identified by the Income Support Computer System during the weekend of 1/2/92 and 2/2/92.

**Mr David Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the weather stations which have recorded temperatures triggering cold weather payments in each week in 1992.

**Letter from Mrs Ann Robinson,** Director of Policy and Planning, 17 January 1992:

So far in 1992, there have been no recorded periods of cold weather as defined in the legislation. However, the weather stations listed in Annex A have forecast that the daily temperature will be 0°C or below for the periods stated.

Cold weather payments will be made in respect of these forecast periods.

### Annex A

Weather stations	Forecast period
Bedford RAE	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Coningsby	10/1/92 - 16/1/92
Cwmbargoed	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Easthampstead	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Eskdalemuir	9/1/92 - 15/1/92
Finningley	10/1/92 - 16/1/92



<i>Weather stations</i>	<i>Forecast period</i>
Gatwick AP	12/1/92 - 18/1/92
Herstmonceux	12/1/92 - 18/1/92
Honington	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Lyneham	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Trawsfynydd	11/1/92 - 17/1/92
Waddington	10/1/92 - 16/1/92
Wattisham	12/1/92 - 18/1/92
Wyton	11/1/92 - 17/1/92

## SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (NORTHERN IRELAND)

### Attendance allowance

**Mr Eddie McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the current length of time taken to process attendance allowance application forms; and what action will be taken to reduce the time.

**Letter from Mr J A Wylie,** Chief Executive, 30 January 1992: Between April and November 1991 the average time taken to deal with an Attendance Allowance claim was 48 days. A number of changes were made recently, however, in Attendance Allowance Branch including the setting up of a special payments section and the recruitment of extra doctors to undertake medical examinations. This has resulted in a significant improvement and in December 1991 the average time taken to process a new claim was 35 days.

**Mr Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been in receipt of attendance allowance; and what has been the cost of the provision in each of the last five years.

**Letter from Mr J A Wylie,** Chief Executive, 24 January 1992: The number of people in Northern Ireland in receipt of Attendance Allowance and the cost of the provision in each of the last 5 years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (£'000s)</i>
1986/87	22,600	30,896
1987/88	25,100	36,183
1988/89	28,700	40,847
1989/90	31,600	47,952
1990/91	35,700	59,583

### Mobility allowance

**Mr Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been in receipt of mobility allowance; and what has been the cost of this provision in each of the last five years.

**Letter from Mr J A Wylie,** Chief Executive, 24 January 1992: The number of people in receipt of Mobility Allowance and the cost of the provision in each of the last 5 years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cost (£'000s)</i>
1986/87	10,300	10,587
1987/88	11,300	11,999
1988/89	12,500	14,466
1989/90	14,100	16,072
1990/91	15,800	20,866

**Mr Peter Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for mobility allowance in Northern Ireland have been (a) turned down and (b) granted upon appeal after initially being refused, in each of the last five years.

**Letter from Mr J A Wylie,** Chief Executive, 24 January 1992: The numbers of Mobility Allowance applications in Northern Ireland that were (a) turned down and (b) granted upon appeal after initially being refused for each of the last 5 years were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Turned down</i>	<i>Allowed on appeal</i>
1987	2,620	232
1988	3,612	327
1989	4,497	367
1990	4,354	539
1991	5,128	503

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

### Unemployment benefit disqualification

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, to Mr Paul Flynn, 30 January 1992:

I wrote to you on 21 October and 17 December (*see Open Lines No. 3, page 8, and No. 5, page 10*) in response to your questions about unemployment benefit disqualifications, under Section 20(1) of the Social Security Act, in Newport and Gwent. The information for the quarter ending September 1991 is now available.

As I explained at the time we are only able to provide information on disqualifications for the whole of Wales and for quarters rather than individual months. During the quarter ending 30 September 1991 the number of people disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit under Section 20(1) of the Social Security Act in Wales was as follows:

• Leaving employment voluntarily without just cause	1,321
• Employment lost due to misconduct	519
• Refusal of employment without just cause	5
• Neglect to avail oneself of an offer of employment	2
• Refusal to comply with written instructions	NIL

Although voluntary termination of approved training without just cause, misconduct whilst on approved training, refusal of an offer of approved training without just cause and neglect to avail oneself of approved training are also disqualifications under Section 20(1) no record is kept of the number of disqualifications under these sub-heads.

### New facilities for staff

**Mr John McAllion:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list those new facilities for staff, including nurseries and health care schemes, which have been introduced in each of his Department's executive agencies since their establishment.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:

At present, four Regions have access to inter-departmental nursery facilities. These are in the London & South East, West Midlands, Yorkshire & Humberside and Wales Regions. A business case is currently under consideration for a joint nursery in Sheffield to be shared by the ES and Training, Enterprise and



Education Directorate (TEED) of the Employment Department.

It is our policy to encourage Regional Directors to develop local healthcare initiatives to local circumstances. Many Regions have arranged the following initiatives which were available before we became an agency and are still ongoing:

- "Look After Your Heart" campaign promotions
- Lifestyle screening checks (including individual advice on diet, smoking, alcohol consumption). These checks involve blood pressure, cholesterol and weight readings.
- Cervical cancer screening
- Discounted membership for Fitness Clubs
- Installation of exercise equipment (in some offices)
- Smoking policies (with encouragement to attend smoking cessation classes)

Stress counselling has also been introduced as an initiative since the agency was established.

#### Alternative working patterns

**Mr John McAllion:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list the new forms of alternative working patterns introduced into each of his Department's executive agencies since their establishment and provide a breakdown by grade of the numbers of staff taking up each new working pattern for each agency.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:

Unfortunately, we do not hold the information you asked for centrally, as the decision to adopt certain patterns of work are taken at local level to suit local needs. However, we will shortly be collating national figures at the request of the Treasury which will identify the number of appointments for each pattern of working. I will send these to you as soon as they are available.

I encourage my managers to view alternative working patterns positively as a means of balancing our business needs with the needs of our people who may wish to have the opportunity to work more flexible patterns such as jobshare and school hours working.

#### Staff numbers

**Mr John McAllion:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many staff were in post on the date that each of his Department's executive agencies were established; and how many are in post now, in each case.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:

On 1 April 1990, when the Employment Service was established, there were some 33,800 permanent and some 1,100 casual staff, making a total of some 34,000 in all. On 1 January 1992, there were some 40,500 permanent and some 3,800 casual staff, making a total of some 44,300 in all.

The three main reasons for this increase in staffing are:-

- rises in business volumes i.e. new claims to benefit and registered unemployment levels;
- reorganisation within the Employment Department Group and the consequent transfer of staff (e.g. the Employment Service took over responsibility for its own finance and audit work and the Employment Rehabilitation Service was transferred to the Employment Service); and
- the introduction/expansion of initiatives to help the unemployed back into work (e.g. the 13 week review procedures and the Job Interview Guarantee Scheme).

#### Appointments at grade 7 or above

**Mr John McAllion:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list the post, grade and maximum salary payable, including performance-related elements, in each case where appointments have been made to his Department's executive agencies at grade 7 or above, since their establishment.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:

Since April 1990, when the Employment Service was established as an Executive Agency, the following 11 additional appointments at Grade 7 and above have been made:

- a Grade 5 to lead a new Branch responsible for the development and implementation of the Service's local office and information technology network;
- two Grade 6s - one responsible for the development of the Service's information technology strategy; the other responsible for the implementation of the new unemployment benefit payment system (NUBSII).
- eight Grade 7s - three regionally based City Action Team leaders; two other regional posts to support City Action Teams; one post to handle new delegations for the Service's estate; one post to support the development of the Service's business strategy; and one post to assist the implementation of the Service's staff training requirements.

All of these posts have been established under the standard Civil Service pay arrangements for the grade concerned.

#### Group bonus scheme

**Mr John McAllion:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list each of his Department's executive agencies that operates a group bonus scheme and state the cash amount per person awarded in the last year for which figures are available, and the conditions attached to its award.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:

The last full year for which figures are available is the year ending 5 April 1991. The amount of the awards varied between £10 and £500 per person, the average award was £71.62.

Special Bonuses are awarded to recognise exceptional achievement; maintenance of operational effectiveness in exceptionally difficult circumstances; and particularly commendable enterprise or initiative.

#### Jobcentres

**Mrs Alice Mahon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list the number of jobcentres in England and Wales for each year since 1980.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 20 January 1992:

Before the Employment Service (ES) was established in 1987, Jobcentres were the responsibility of the Employment and Enterprise Group, part of the then Manpower Services Commission, and it was not their practice to collect information on the number of offices. However, I can give you the figures from April 1988 for England and Wales which are as follows:

April 1988	912
April 1989	906
April 1990	892
April 1991	820
December 1991	837

In addition to the offices which offer full Jobcentre services



many of our Unemployment Benefit Offices now also offer vacancy displays, submission and advisory services.

I should explain that it may be misleading to make comparisons between the past and present positions. Local office networks have to be kept under review to take account of changing business demands, particularly the levels of unemployment, and to reflect the needs of local labour markets.

There have also been changes made to the way services are organised and delivered since 1988. The major one affecting the ES local network was the decision by the Government in December 1989 to work progressively to bring Jobcentre and Benefit Offices together under one roof to provide new and improved one stop offices. The figures for 1990 and 1991 include both these new integrated offices and traditional Jobcentres.

The ES is reviewing the way it delivers services to its clients. By the mid 1990s we will have a national network of between 1100 and 1200 offices (including Scotland) all offering the complete range of services to help people back to work.

### Bridging allowance: Coventry

**Mr Dave Nellist:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will produce a table to show, for each of his Department's offices in Coventry, and for the city as a whole, how many young people, and how many of each sex, were receiving bridging allowance; and how many had their allowance terminated in each month since October 1988.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 13 January 1992:**

The information you have requested is provided in the attached table together with some explanatory notes.

Terminations of bridging allowance may occur for a number of reasons, for example, a young person may no longer qualify for bridging allowance if they find a Youth Training place or a job; their eight week entitlement is exhausted; or if they are sick.

### Numbers in receipt of bridging allowance - Coventry, Oct 1988 - Nov 1991

*T* = total in receipt of BA

*M;F* = males; females in receipt of BA

*Ter* = number of terminations of BA

	Coventry A				Coventry B				Coventry C				Coventry D				Total for Coventry			
	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Ter</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Ter</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Ter</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Ter</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Ter</i>
Oct 88	86	50	36	27	69	41	28	40	74	45	29	42	89	49	40	14	318	185	133	123
Nov 88	21	11	10	66	11	2	9	56	6	4	2	64	17	9	8	83	55	33	22	269
Dec 88	10	7	3	16	8	5	3	5	12	6	6	3	12	8	4	10	42	26	16	34
Jan 89	21	17	4	9	13	9	4	4	18	13	5	8	18	13	5	9	70	52	18	30
Feb 89	27	17	10	8	23	16	7	8	18	8	10	11	22	11	11	7	90	52	38	34
Mar 89	16	8	8	14	19	12	7	12	24	16	8	7	25	12	13	14	84	48	36	47
Apr 89	15	9	6	13	18	13	5	15	13	9	4	21	20	8	12	15	66	39	27	64
May 89	17	9	8	11	14	8	6	8	13	4	9	10	18	6	12	14	62	27	35	43
Jun 89	11	5	6	11	10	7	3	8	12	5	7	7	16	4	12	8	49	21	28	33
Jul 89	16	7	9	10	10	7	3	11	14	5	9	13	17	6	11	10	57	25	32	44
Aug 89	16	8	8	8	11	5	6	9	19	9	10	9	12	8	4	12	58	30	28	38
Sep 89	6	3	3	11	15	10	5	8	6	2	4	12	1	1	0	10	28	16	12	41
Oct 89	0	0	0	6	16	9	7	8	10	4	6	4	2	2	0	1	28	15	13	19
Nov 89	4	3	1	1	12	5	7	7	7	4	3	6	7	6	1	2	30	18	12	16
Dec 89	8	2	6	4	21	10	11	21	0	0	0	0	7	6	1	4	36	18	18	25
Jan 90	7	2	5	4	20	9	11	8	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	6	31	12	19	54
Feb 90	25	17	8	13	27	15	12	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	32	20	29
Mar 90	33	20	13	11	41	23	18	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	43	31	21
Apr 90	27	11	16	28	41	25	16	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	36	32	52
May 90	19	11	8	17	35	20	15	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	31	23	46
Jun 90	24	19	5	16	26	10	16	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	29	21	37
Jul 90	24	15	9	16	35	16	19	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	31	28	28
Aug 90	27	15	12	15	29	15	14	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	30	26	37
Sep 90	29	12	17	20	33	24	9	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	36	26	42
Oct 90	29	19	10	17	35	19	16	15									64	38	26	32
Nov 90	31	17	14	13	35	21	14	21									66	38	28	34
Dec 90	28	12	16	21	25	16	9	23									53	28	25	44
Jan 91	34	18	16	16	38	21	17	16									72	39	33	32
Feb 91	40	19	21	15	52	31	21	13									92	50	42	28
Mar 91	48	30	18	25	68	41	27	27									116	71	45	52
Apr 91	50	38	12	22	70	46	24	27									120	84	36	49
May 91	42	36	6	32	61	43	18	35									103	79	24	67
Jun 91	26	18	8	30	47	26	21	38									73	44	29	68
Jul 91	16	12	4	8	51	30	21	29	8	5	3	5					75	47	28	42
Aug 91	25	17	8	6	55	34	21	21	7	3	4	4					87	54	33	31
Sep 91	28	18	10	16	59	36	23	32	7	4	3	7					94	58	36	55
Oct 91	27	16	11	10	43	29	14	28	8	5	3	4					78	50	28	42
Nov 91	25	15	10	18	30	17	13	34	11	5	6	8					66	37	29	60



*Explanatory note:* Initially there were four offices in Coventry, these combined to become two from January 1990 - Coventry (Cheylesmore) - Office A and Coventry (Park Court) - Office B. During this period of transition, offices C and D appeared on the computer printouts with nil returns. From October 1990 the offices ceased to appear on the computer returns therefore these are blank on the table. Coventry UBO (Office C) has been operational since July 1991.

### Travel to interview scheme

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will give for each region and for Great Britain as a whole for each year since the introduction of the scheme (a) the number of people who were helped by the travel to interview scheme, (b) the number of people whose applications for help were turned down and (c) the amount of expenditure on the travel to interview scheme; if he will give the latest information he has on whether those helped were successful in getting the jobs, and on the reasons for their applications being rejected; and if he will make a statement.

**Table 1**

		Northern	Yorkshire & Humber- side	East Mids Eastern	London & South East	South West	Wales	West Midlands	North West	Scotland	Total
1986-87	Applications	3,535	3,648	2,859	1,902	2,230	2,194	2,083	5,690	4,797	28,938
	Rejections	758	1,021	822	679	788	631	546	1,409	1,220	7,874
1987-88	Applications	5,916	5,524	4,128	2,600	2,956	3,408	2,929	8,917	9,215	45,593
	Rejections	1,107	1,421	1,377	904	981	853	743	1,921	2,150	11,457
1988-89	Applications	6,463	4,841	2,734	1,687	2,165	2,814	2,083	9,731	8,598	41,116
	Rejections	1,065	1,018	640	389	631	646	486	1,644	1,764	8,283
1989-90	Applications	4,517	3,792	2,257	2,152	2,017	2,339	1,587	7,162	7,130	32,953
	Rejections	793	818	601	563	567	562	384	1,294	1,635	7,217
1990-91	Applications	3,352	3,138	2,762	2,487	2,453	2,166	1,812	5,552	5,456	29,178
	Rejections	786	716	686	681	670	471	477	1,285	1,294	7,066
Totals	Applications	23,783	20,943	14,740	10,828	11,821	12,921	10,494	37,052	35,196	177,778
1986-91	Rejections	4,509	4,994	4,126	3,216	3,637	3,163	2,636	7,553	8,063	41,897

**Table 2: Travel to Interview Scheme statistics**  
Numbers assisted by year/cost

	Number assisted	Cost per year	Average assisted cost
1986-87	21,064	£455,000	£21.60
1987-88	34,136	£946,000	£27.71
1988-89	32,833	£920,000	£28.02
1989-90	25,736	£682,000	£26.50
1990-91	22,112	£623,000	£28.17
Totals 1986-91	135,881	£3,626,000	£26.69

### Restart interviewees

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment for the latest available period for Great Britain and for each region how many Restart interviewees fell within the guarantee group and how many fell within the aim group; how many of each group were submitted or placed in either (a) employment training, (b) enterprise allowance scheme, (c) job club, (d) job interview guarantee or (e) employment action; and of those claimants in the guarantee or aim group how many were not made an offer of help because (i) they were already on or about to start on a scheme, (ii) they were about to leave the unemployment register, (iii) an offer could not be made because there was no appropriate scheme place available or (iv) an offer could not be made due to the claimant's attitude, behaviour or severity of their problem.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:**

Table 1 attached shows details on the applications which have been made during each financial year since the scheme was introduced. Table 2 gives details of expenditure over the same period.

I am unable to provide you with information on the number of people who were successful in obtaining jobs as a result of assistance from the scheme. However, a survey undertaken during 1987/88 showed that 37% of people helped were offered a job.

The reasons for applications being rejected are varied and no statistical breakdown is available. However, I can assure you that the rules of the scheme are kept under review and I am pleased to say that, as a result, the salary limit applied to TIS has been increased from £16,500 to £25,000 (with effect from 2 January 1992). It is expected that this will significantly increase the number of people helped by the scheme. Other changes may be considered as part of the ongoing review.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 22 January 1992:**

I am sorry that I am unable to supply the information in the format requested. Statistics about contacts with people in the Guarantee and Aim groups are collected monthly from a sample of 82 local offices. This sample gives a representative picture of our performance on a national basis.

The Guarantee and Aim undertaking is that an appropriate offer will be made to a client who is within either group from among the following programmes: Employment Training, Enterprise Allowance Scheme, Employment Action, Jobclub or Job Interview Guarantee. The purpose of this offer is to improve the client's opportunity to return to work as quickly as possible. If the adviser and the client do not believe that one of these programmes best meets the client's needs then referral would be made to a job or another more suitable programme.

The latest available performance information, for the period from April to December 1991, is attached at annex 1. It gives the number of people interviewed estimated from our sampling exercise, details of the offers made, actual referrals and starts. It also provides detailed information when an offer was not appropriate. All outcomes are expressed as percentages.

People in the Guarantee and Aim groups are identified and interviewed as part of the Restart process in all our local offices. This provides a coherent system of help and advice to unemployed people through face to face advisory interviews and access to jobs and programmes. As well as the programmes offered to



clients in the Guarantee and Aim groups we have developed others to help the specific needs of different clients. For example, for longer term unemployed people who need to review their situation and plan their way back to work we have Restart courses. For other unemployed people, who wish to improve their job hunting techniques, we have developed jobsearch seminars. This framework of advisory and programme support enables us to provide effective help in getting people back to work. In the operational year so far Claimant Advisers placed 16,800 longer term unemployed people into jobs and 261,200 on programmes.

#### Annex 1: Aim and Guarantee undertakings - national cumulative performance, April to December 1991

	Guarantee group	Aim group
a. Numbers interviewed (estimated)	285,000	216,000
b. % of those interviewed who were made an offer of a place on ET, EAS, EA, in a Jobclub or on one of the JIG options	70.5	48
c. % of those interviewed who were made a more suitable alternative offer	13.5	36
d. People submitted or placed on a programme (expressed as a percentage of <i>numbers interviewed</i> ):		
ET	23%	17%
EAS	4%	3%
Jobclub	18%	11%
JIG	5%	2%
EA	1%	0.5%
Total	50%	33%

	Guarantee group	Aim group
e. No offer made (expressed as a percentage of numbers interviewed):		
on or about to start a menu item	3%	3.5%
about to leave the register	7%	3.5%
unable to make an offer (most appropriate menu option not available)	3%	3%
unable to make an offer (due to claimant's attitude/behaviour or the severity of their problem)	3%	6%

#### Bridging allowance

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will give for each region and for Great Britain as a whole, separately for male and female, a table showing for each month since October 1988 (a) the number of young people who were receiving bridging allowance, (b) the number who began claiming bridging allowance and (c) the number of young people who ceased claiming bridging allowance; what were the numbers of those young people who exhausted their bridging allowance payments because they had used up their eight week entitlement; and if he will make a statement.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden,** Chief Executive, 23 January 1992:

The information you have requested is provided in the attached tables.

Terminations of bridging allowance may occur for a number of reasons, for example, a young person may no longer qualify for bridging allowance if they find a Youth Training place or a job; their eight week entitlement is exhausted; or if they are sick.

The figures that are collected each month show only the total number of terminations of bridging allowance in that period. There is no further breakdown of the figures to give particular reasons as to why the claims to bridging allowance have ceased.

The only male/female breakdowns available are for the total number of live records for each month.

#### Numbers in receipt of bridging allowance - by ES region, October 1988 - December 1991

	Northern	Yorks & Humberside	East Mids & Eastern	London & South East	South West	Wales	West Mids	North West	Scotland	Total
Oct 88	2,636	4,061	2,690	4,064	1,386	2,149	3,865	6,263	7,184	34,298
Nov 88	1,028	1,836	1,354	1,703	680	845	1,371	2,183	2,158	13,158
Dec 88	693	1,224	988	1,165	510	613	918	1,865	1,757	9,733
Jan 89	930	1,571	1,292	1,515	623	767	1,249	2,234	1,813	11,994
Feb 89	1,088	1,820	1,513	1,863	753	832	1,498	2,602	2,194	14,163
Mar 89	1,124	1,816	1,380	1,812	760	774	1,507	2,600	2,182	13,955
Apr 89	1,021	1,487	1,170	1,617	630	671	1,298	2,235	1,912	12,041
May 89	885	1,376	1,075	1,427	538	569	1,202	1,934	1,978	10,984
Jun 89	868	1,214	942	1,261	436	583	1,159	1,732	2,115	10,310
Jul 89	859	1,151	907	1,223	423	621	1,140	1,794	1,908	10,026
Aug 89	876	1,276	922	1,400	464	630	1,141	1,851	1,701	10,261
Sep 89	640	1,103	878	1,354	466	514	960	1,639	1,556	9,110
Oct 89	625	941	765	1,124	432	526	854	1,444	1,385	8,096
Nov 89	530	833	750	1,143	439	476	788	1,330	1,157	7,446
Dec 89	419	841	822	1,266	499	460	788	1,257	1,086	7,440
Jan 90	602	1,048	1,000	1,423	588	563	927	1,587	1,205	8,943
Feb 90	957	1,481	1,426	1,908	790	763	1,320	2,207	1,718	12,633
Mar 90	972	1,450	1,490	1,990	787	704	1,332	2,179	1,838	12,742
Apr 90	840	1,365	1,275	1,628	653	585	1,268	2,011	1,813	11,438
May 90	834	1,205	1,094	1,462	597	526	1,091	1,772	1,968	10,549
Jun 90	747	1,052	959	1,450	513	577	1,072	1,700	2,109	10,179
Jul 90	755	1,116	951	1,655	563	599	1,009	1,738	1,907	10,293
Aug 90	788	1,248	1,107	1,869	614	585	1,019	1,733	1,718	10,681
Sep 90	699	1,134	1,081	1,882	642	591	937	1,665	1,438	10,069
Oct 90	579	1,023	905	1,737	664	575	886	1,427	1,307	9,103



	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nov 90	530	997	972	1,889	780	582	955	1,427	1,349	9,481
Dec 90	489	917	1,051	2,144	872	550	990	1,432	1,202	9,647
Jan 91	694	1,118	1,197	2,385	985	656	1,186	1,657	1,266	11,144
Feb 91	928	1,502	1,785	3,728	1,424	919	1,716	2,390	1,787	16,179
Mar 91	1,099	1,872	2,155	4,585	1,480	977	2,143	2,690	2,096	19,097
Apr 91	1,052	1,813	1,898	3,980	1,217	890	2,024	2,535	2,537	17,946
May 91	929	1,549	1,644	3,298	977	804	1,729	2,260	2,449	15,639
Jun 91	797	1,286	1,391	2,845	856	703	1,126	2,047	2,092	13,143
Jul 91	797	1,265	1,353	2,927	922	724	1,425	1,999	1,876	13,288
Aug 91	758	1,320	1,460	3,101	943	747	1,489	2,033	1,742	13,593
Sep 91	644	1,108	1,179	2,867	778	613	1,288	1,832	1,470	11,779
Oct 91	566	909	963	2,515	712	562	1,109	1,536	1,272	10,144
Nov 91	474	865	967	2,326	748	564	975	1,456	1,099	9,474
Dec 91	410	777	994	2,186	765	492	919	1,454	1,088	9,085

**Numbers of males and females in receipt of bridging allowance - by ES region, October 1988 - December 1991**

		<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oct 88	M	1,627	2,317	1,549	2,161	741	1,324	2,074	3,773	4,335	19,901
	F	1,009	1,744	1,141	1,903	645	825	1,791	2,490	2,849	14,397
Nov 88	M	551	839	660	763	350	439	608	1,235	1,262	6,707
	F	347	581	481	665	297	323	489	787	840	4,810
Dec 88	M	410	710	594	650	285	378	536	1,111	1,093	5,767
	F	283	514	394	515	225	235	382	754	664	3,966
Jan 89	M	547	863	728	886	318	446	768	1,263	1,029	6,848
	F	383	708	564	629	305	321	481	971	784	5,146
Feb 89	M	606	996	850	1,042	404	458	850	1,468	1,260	7,934
	F	482	824	663	821	349	374	648	1,134	934	6,229
Mar 89	M	648	1,074	781	1,010	421	432	871	1,468	1,321	8,044
	F	476	742	599	802	339	342	636	1,114	861	5,911
Apr 89	M	623	828	679	922	358	407	738	1,317	1,171	7,043
	F	398	659	491	695	272	264	560	918	741	4,998
May 89	M	541	786	629	811	294	334	677	1,157	1,214	6,443
	F	344	590	446	616	244	235	525	777	764	4,541
Jun 89	M	523	733	528	724	234	335	684	1,080	1,275	6,116
	F	345	481	414	537	202	248	475	652	840	4,194
Jul 89	M	513	674	530	685	238	378	630	1,103	1,116	5,867
	F	346	477	377	538	185	243	510	691	792	4,159
Aug 89	M	521	749	518	764	267	408	629	1,109	999	5,964
	F	355	527	404	636	197	222	512	742	702	4,297
Sep 89	M	381	655	499	761	276	331	560	923	943	5,329
	F	259	448	379	611	190	183	400	716	613	3,781
Oct 89	M	374	574	450	629	242	307	503	867	841	4,787
	F	251	367	315	495	190	219	351	577	544	3,309
Nov 89	M	316	525	426	618	251	263	466	791	684	4,339
	F	214	308	324	525	188	213	322	539	473	3,106
Dec 89	M	243	534	516	758	282	264	450	780	658	4,485
	F	176	307	306	510	217	196	338	477	428	2,955
Jan 90	M	375	618	603	877	302	318	544	913	695	5,245
	F	227	430	397	546	286	245	383	674	510	3,698
Feb 90	M	573	853	794	1,092	434	453	783	1,282	1,060	7,324
	F	384	628	632	816	356	310	537	925	721	5,309
Mar 90	M	607	879	871	1,091	427	436	762	1,309	1,099	7,481
	F	365	571	619	899	360	268	570	870	739	5,261
Apr 90	M	530	808	749	902	369	346	705	1,211	1,087	6,707
	F	310	557	526	726	284	239	563	800	726	4,731
May 90	M	522	689	641	825	352	335	630	1,047	1,192	6,233
	F	312	516	453	637	245	191	461	725	776	4,316
Jun 90	M	475	626	547	821	307	372	618	992	1,290	6,048
	F	272	426	412	629	206	205	454	708	819	4,131
Jul 90	M	462	676	539	926	342	382	570	1,033	1,129	6,059
	F	293	440	412	729	221	217	439	705	778	4,234



		<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Aug 90	M	474	756	622	1,097	374	355	568	1,046	983	6,275
	F	314	492	485	772	240	230	451	687	735	4,406
Sep 90	M	453	712	654	1,130	399	363	565	1,025	846	6,147
	F	246	422	427	752	243	228	372	640	592	3,922
Oct 90	M	355	650	541	1,046	380	369	532	878	784	5,535
	F	224	373	364	691	284	206	354	549	523	3,568
Nov 90	M	325	628	574	1,118	462	366	604	888	798	5,763
	F	205	369	398	771	318	216	351	539	551	3,718
Dec 90	M	307	568	659	1,358	521	339	650	927	778	6,107
	F	182	349	392	786	351	211	340	505	424	3,540
Jan 91	M	419	666	736	1,483	580	395	745	988	758	6,770
	F	275	452	461	902	405	261	441	669	508	4,374
Feb 91	M	520	894	1,070	2,263	853	557	1,070	1,401	1,062	9,690
	F	408	608	715	1,465	571	362	646	989	725	6,489
Mar 91	M	695	1,160	1,276	2,807	919	631	1,371	1,669	1,288	11,816
	F	404	712	879	1,778	561	346	772	1,021	808	7,281
Apr 91	M	644	1,152	1,165	2,470	744	557	1,275	1,601	1,602	11,210
	F	408	661	733	1,510	473	333	749	934	935	6,736
May 91	M	565	909	1,032	2,056	632	511	1,085	1,418	1,534	9,742
	F	364	640	612	1,242	345	293	644	842	915	5,897
Jun 91	M	495	771	817	1,780	507	442	909	1,292	1,315	8,328
	F	302	515	574	1,065	349	261	217	755	777	4,815
Jul 91	M	490	802	802	1,801	550	447	861	1,245	1,170	8,168
	F	307	463	551	1,126	372	277	564	754	706	5,120
Aug 91	M	466	827	860	1,890	570	463	913	1,270	1,048	8,307
	F	292	493	600	1,211	373	284	576	763	694	5,286
Sep 91	M	385	704	701	1,704	462	415	811	1,169	918	7,269
	F	259	404	478	1,163	316	198	477	663	552	4,510
Oct 91	M	374	592	599	1,475	442	382	713	996	789	6,362
	F	192	317	364	1,040	270	180	396	540	483	3,782
Nov 91	M	300	575	600	1,434	480	386	614	981	652	6,022
	F	174	290	367	892	268	178	361	475	447	3,452
Dec 91	M	267	489	636	1,413	475	321	603	968	646	5,818
	F	143	288	358	773	290	171	316	486	442	3,282

**Numbers of starts of bridging allowance - by ES region, October 1988 - December 1991**

	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oct 88										48,473
Nov 88										8,131
Dec 88	527	912	706	847	380	453	672	1,380	1,300	7,177
Jan 89	825	1,359	1,093	1,159	537	683	1,034	1,824	1,507	10,021
Feb 89	901	1,479	1,207	1,499	606	661	1,173	2,053	1,845	11,424
Mar 89	796	1,361	969	1,238	520	567	1,021	1,805	1,521	9,798
Apr 89	868	1,253	968	1,285	534	578	1,052	1,833	1,700	10,071
May 89	641	1,060	769	931	376	420	875	1,338	1,474	7,884
Jun 89	601	876	650	824	305	439	794	1,190	1,479	7,158
Jul 89	802	1,100	850	1,025	427	572	1,001	1,595	1,647	9,019
Aug 89	635	978	689	1,015	355	422	812	1,303	1,127	7,336
Sep 89	544	967	817	1,041	442	490	817	1,377	1,469	7,964
Oct 89	572	715	589	800	318	395	607	1,048	990	6,034
Nov 89	392	681	583	781	342	351	547	946	833	5,456
Dec 89	404	841	749	1,071	476	448	701	1,117	985	6,765
Jan 90	492	799	705	881	389	417	629	1,162	851	6,325
Feb 90	843	1,237	1,180	1,499	613	612	1,053	1,785	1,484	10,306
Mar 90	718	1,013	1,038	1,282	556	514	899	1,471	1,313	8,804
Apr 90	737	1,202	1,060	1,303	570	547	1,042	1,709	1,596	9,799
May 90	568	807	711	868	396	352	710	1,166	1,421	6,999
Jun 90	655	972	829	1,188	441	536	864	1,466	1,805	8,756
Jul 90	602	877	741	1,175	432	423	710	1,259	1,242	7,461
Aug 90	549	944	817	1,241	450	418	728	1,204	1,154	7,505
Sep 90	638	1,024	964	1,456	586	564	863	1,451	1,319	8,865



	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oct 90	462	806	683	1,227	525	429	690	1,091	1,021	6,934
Nov 90	381	738	730	1,234	575	407	688	1,004	991	6,748
Dec 90	454	846	941	1,692	741	510	849	1,346	1,076	8,455
Jan 91	521	736	769	1,324	587	412	743	1,067	820	6,979
Feb 91	786	1,278	1,370	2,836	1,127	739	1,356	1,940	1,570	13,002
Mar 91	971	1,629	1,713	3,326	1,151	793	1,753	2,242	1,805	15,383
Apr 91	655	1,090	1,119	2,027	685	519	1,154	1,576	1,895	10,720
May 91	631	1,033	1,029	1,888	622	518	1,103	1,452	1,546	9,822
Jun 91	647	1,064	1,075	2,104	650	574	1,152	1,628	1,715	10,609
Jul 91	575	898	929	1,818	658	516	947	1,357	1,227	8,925
Aug 91	503	919	982	1,837	558	490	932	1,319	1,139	8,679
Sep 91	579	917	949	1,985	615	505	1,015	1,513	1,343	9,421
Oct 91	441	643	665	1,540	492	420	712	996	854	6,763
Nov 91	418	763	862	1,725	639	494	814	1,260	1,010	7,985
Dec 91	304	570	680	1,373	497	346	606	1,042	774	6,192

**Numbers of terminations of bridging allowance - by ES region, October 1988 - December 1991**

	<i>Northern</i>	<i>Yorks &amp; Humberside</i>	<i>East Mids &amp; Eastern</i>	<i>London &amp; South East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Wales</i>	<i>West Mids</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oct 88										14,381
Nov 88	67	184	120	165	30	33	153	64	5	821
Dec 88	643	944	739	885	414	509	724	1,347	1,362	7,567
Jan 89	615	1,077	814	930	416	518	765	1,495	1,391	8,021
Feb 89	669	1,091	834	959	425	549	774	1,526	1,325	8,152
Mar 89	686	1,053	924	1,045	436	552	900	1,567	1,338	8,501
Apr 89	895	1,363	1,023	1,278	577	590	1,057	1,962	1,728	10,473
May 89	678	1,008	766	936	380	440	808	1,382	1,186	7,584
Jun 89	557	823	663	789	328	353	697	1,180	1,183	6,573
Jul 89	756	1,012	759	886	365	498	930	1,343	1,640	8,189
Aug 89	529	764	585	756	253	364	641	1,133	1,186	6,211
Sep 89	643	952	730	866	355	504	795	1,328	1,384	7,557
Oct 89	426	718	558	844	273	338	606	1,076	1,023	5,862
Nov 89	373	640	480	609	251	317	499	843	859	4,871
Dec 89	475	700	604	855	361	452	632	1,057	969	6,105
Jan 90	261	497	443	590	241	242	397	701	619	3,992
Feb 90	484	772	735	881	403	415	654	1,129	930	6,403
Mar 90	603	893	827	986	448	463	725	1,272	1,097	7,314
Apr 90	801	1,142	1,096	1,431	586	591	1,016	1,673	1,413	9,749
May 90	509	841	786	875	384	352	749	1,214	1,124	6,834
Jun 90	638	976	797	972	416	413	768	1,364	1,444	7,788
Jul 90	525	700	602	784	306	350	638	1,012	1,237	6,154
Aug 90	427	679	555	892	339	366	638	1,031	1,125	6,052
Sep 90	637	935	861	1,236	480	510	788	1,302	1,388	8,137
Oct 90	494	719	642	1,046	390	354	585	1,080	972	6,282
Nov 90	379	667	576	961	386	379	535	877	849	5,609
Dec 90	436	773	725	1,248	561	462	720	1,169	1,105	7,199
Jan 91	307	512	563	1,006	444	295	504	799	722	5,152
Feb 91	499	773	667	1,356	593	427	756	1,079	939	7,089
Mar 91	731	1,113	1,278	2,225	971	673	1,220	1,758	1,369	11,338
Apr 91	608	1,011	1,168	2,303	812	538	1,133	1,526	1,255	10,354
May 91	685	1,110	1,118	2,223	688	544	1,191	1,523	1,428	10,510
Jun 91	707	1,131	1,171	2,170	704	599	1,228	1,630	1,825	11,165
Jul 91	511	797	828	1,540	501	410	885	1,224	1,234	7,930
Aug 91	469	742	737	1,531	466	413	749	1,126	1,152	7,385
Sep 91	644	1,005	1,090	2,002	702	564	1,058	1,532	1,400	9,997
Oct 91	439	703	720	1,542	440	381	731	1,059	903	6,918
Nov 91	466	698	748	1,669	507	427	812	1,234	1,022	7,583
Dec 91	313	572	568	1,284	430	354	565	889	666	5,641



## Disabled persons

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what information he has on the number of people registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 for each year since 1987; how many were registered under section 1 or section 2; how many were (a) male or (b) female; how many were aged under 25 or over 50 years of age; and if he will make a statement.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 24 January 1992:**

I am sorry that I am unable to supply all the information you requested. The register of disabled persons established by the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 is maintained at my local Jobcentres. The number registered is counted annually, in April, and local returns are collated to produce totals for Great Britain.

Table 1 attached shows figures for each year since 1987 for the total number of registered disabled at the time of the April count, and for the numbers of men and women within those totals. No records are kept of an age group breakdown of the figures because the value of keeping this information would be very limited in practice and the resource cost would be significant.

There is no distinction within the register itself, between those considered to be capable of open employment and those likely to require employment under sheltered conditions. However, such a distinction is made, for administrative purposes, among people who are currently registered for employment at Jobcentres and career offices - that is those who are on what is referred to as the "Disabled Live File". Those considered suitable, with appropriate help, for open employment are classified for job finding purposes as "section I". Those considered unlikely, because of the nature or severity of their disability, to be able to obtain and keep employment in the ordinary job market are classified as "section II". Vacancies for jobs supported under the Sheltered Employment Programme are open only to people classified as section II and who are registered as disabled.

The number of people with disabilities registered for work at Jobcentres and Career offices, with separate figures for those classified as section I and section II are given in Table 2. The data is from quarterly statistical returns in January, from 1987 to 1990. The 5th January 1990 is the last date for which this information is available. The statistical return which gave us this information was discontinued as part of a review of performance information requirements in the ES.

**Table 1: Numbers of people registered as disabled under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944**

<i>Date of annual account</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
21 April 1987	307,540	75,899	383,439
18 April 1988	297,415	76,823	374,238
17 April 1989	288,936	77,832	366,768
17 April 1990	276,328	79,263	355,591
17 April 1991	283,769	84,507	368,276

**Table 2: Numbers of people with disabilities registered for work at Jobcentres and Careers Offices\***

<i>Date of quarterly count</i>	<i>Section I</i>	<i>Section II</i>	<i>Total</i>
9 January 1987	65,788	6,087	71,875
8 January 1988	53,022	5,905	58,927
6 January 1989	46,963	5,528	52,491
5 January 1990	42,653	5,104	47,757

\* The figures in Table 2 are of people with disabilities (employed and unemployed) registered for work. They do not fully reflect levels of unemployment amongst people with disabilities. Registering for employment at Jobcentres or Careers Offices is not compulsory for unemployed people claiming unemployment benefits.

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if disabled persons who are at an interview to establish whether they are eligible to register under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 can (a) be represented or escorted by a third person, (b) see what is being written about them on an employment registration document and (c) ask for the counsellor to be changed if they feel they are being treated unreasonably; and if he will make a statement.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 24 January 1992:**

People with disabilities who attend my local offices should feel free to bring with them another person who can offer support in the interview. Wherever possible, the Disablement Resettlement Officer would wish to talk directly with the person concerned. However, where this presents difficulties, we welcome the presence of someone from whom the disabled person can draw support, advice and practical help during the interview.

In general, Employment Service internal documents are not usually available to our clients. This would apply to employment registration documents for people with disabilities. However, my people in local offices are instructed that written records should not be made which the interviewing officer would not be willing to show to the client. In terms of looking for work, people with disabilities have an agreed written action plan which records the steps they and the Disablement Resettlement Officer have agreed to take to help them find work.

If people with disabilities are unhappy with the help provided for them, they should discuss the reasons for their dissatisfaction with the local office manager, who will seek to resolve their problems. This may include an interview by another Disablement Resettlement Officer, or another member of the new Placing, Assessment and Counselling Team, where a client feels that they have been treated unreasonably.

**Ms Clare Short:** To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what arrangements he proposes to introduce after re-organisation of services for people with disabilities to enable members of placing, assessment and counselling teams or disablement resettlement officers to make home visits to those people who because of transport difficulties or the severity of their disability are unable to attend a local employment service office.

**Letter from Mr M E G Fogden, Chief Executive, 24 January 1992:**

Placing Assessment and Counselling Teams (PACTs) will have to show that they meet a range of operational criteria determined by my head office.

One of the criteria is that all our clients, whatever their disability must have access to our services preferably by attending Jobcentre or PACT premises, or by using other Employment Service premises, a mobile service or by my people visiting them at home.

At present, my Disablement Resettlement Officers and Disablement Advisory Service teams have written guidance to the effect that, where it is unreasonable to expect a person with a disability to attend one of my local offices for an interview because of the severity of their disability or the inadequacy of public transport, they should arrange to interview the person at their home or at another convenient location. We do not intend that the creation of PACTs will alter this arrangement.