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Statistical Services
IAD, Information Centre
Department for Work and Pensions

Telephone :
Press Office : 020 7238 0866
Public Enquiries : 020 7712 2171

Website :
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/ndlp.asp

Statistician:
Deborah Pritchard
Statistical Services
Information Centre
Information & Analysis Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
Level 2
Kings Court
80 Hanover Way
SHEFFIELD
S3 7UF

Telephone : 0114 2098 230
Facsimile : 0114 2098 189
Email :
Deborah.Pritchard1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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NEW DEAL FOR LONE PARENTS AND WORK FOCUSED INTERVIEWS: statistics to December 2003

Future Release of New Deal statistics

This Statistical First Release will be the final separate release for New Deal statistics. From the next quarter, New Deal statistics will be released via the quarterly DWP Statistical Summary. The range of statistics (within the tables accompanying this release) will be published on the DWP website in the same detail as currently available. The release dates for Statistical Summary in 2004 are: Wed 16 Jun, Wed 15 Sep, Wed 15 Dec.

Introduction

The full national New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) programme was implemented on 26 October 1998. It had already been operating in eight prototype areas from July 1997, and for new and repeat claimants from 6 May 1998.

Key points

All figures relate to the period from October 1998 when NDLP was fully implemented nationally, to the end of December 2003:

- Agreements to start on the NDLP caseload reached 577,710 at the end of December, representing 83% of initial interviews;
- Some 276,100 jobs have been gained to the end of December, an increase of 23,230 (8%) since September. The number of **individuals** finding employment reached 247,310 at end December;
- 697,340 initial interviews had taken place to the end of December – 49,440 more than at the end of September;
- The number of leavers from NDLP reached 478,290 by end of December;
- 99,450 lone parents were participating on NDLP at the end of December;

- A total of 846,200 lone parents, making new or repeat Income Support claims or already receiving Income Support, have been recorded as having participated in the Work Focused Interview process to December 2003. This figure includes people who have had 6 or 12- month Review meetings but currently excludes people attending Work Focused Interviews at Jobcentre Plus Pathfinder offices. 85% of these lone parents had attended a Work Focused Interview;
- Around nine percent of lone parents finding employment remain on the programme receiving in-work support and around ninety-one percent left the programme into a job;
- 40,920 lone parents have taken up education or training opportunities whilst on NDLP;
- Of 99,450 lone parents participating in NDLP at the end of December, 94% were female, 4% were people with disabilities, and 20% were aged under 25, and 46% had a youngest child under 5. Twelve percent were from minority ethnic groups although ethnic group is only recorded for 97% of clients at present;
- Leavers from the NDLP caseload reached 478,290 by the end of December. Of these leavers, 53% (251,260) left for employment, 1% (3,630) transferred to other benefits, 32% (154,190) withdrew for other reasons but remained on Income Support, 1% (5,870) were no longer eligible, and 13% (63,360) left for unknown destinations.

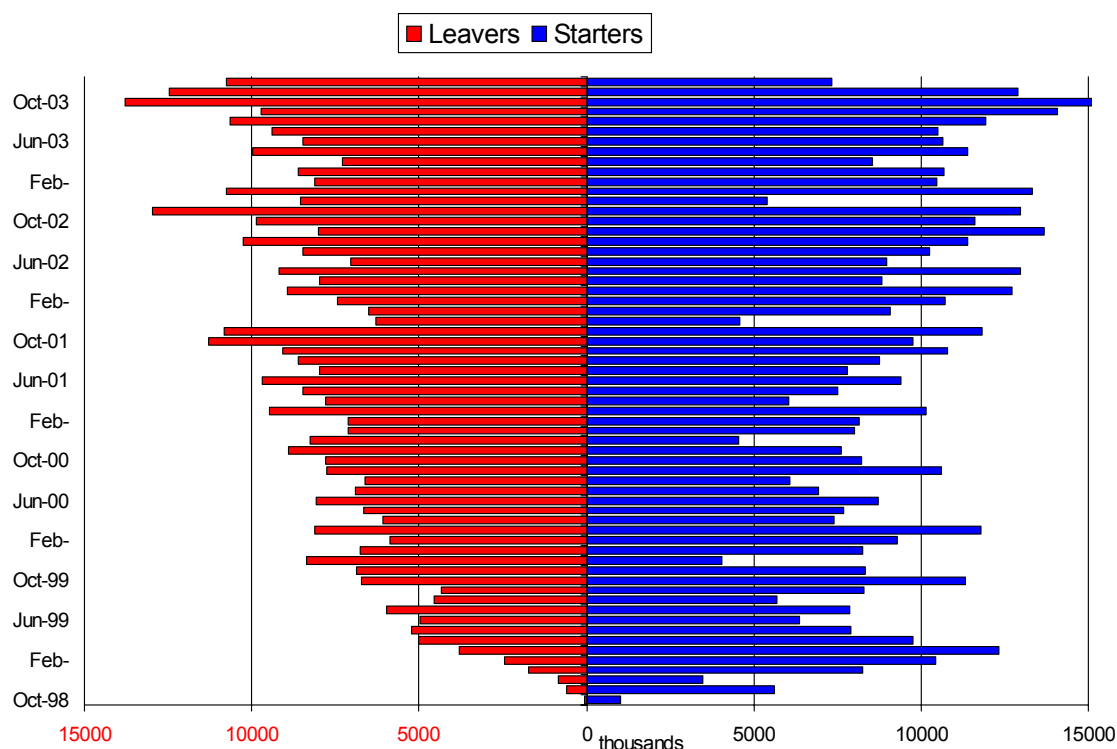
Notes on the Tables

Table 1a summarises the number of initial NDLP interviews, number of starts to caseload, and numbers leaving the NDLP caseload.

A total of 697,340 initial interviews had taken place to December, amongst a total of 540,950 individual lone parents. Overall, 83% of lone parents who have attended an initial interview agree to join the NDLP caseload – some 577,710 starts to the caseload. Lone parents entering NDLP through the Work Focused Interview route have accounted for 137,770 starts to the caseload to December.

The number of leavers from NDLP reached 478,290 at end of December, an increase of 36,990 since end of September.

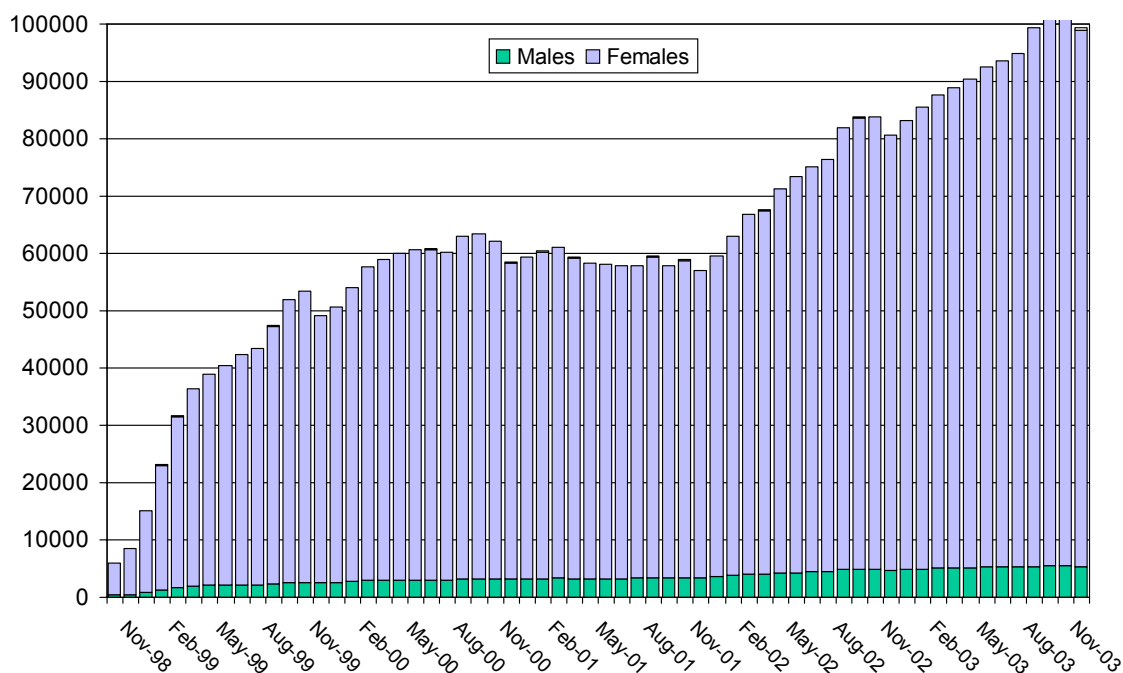
FIG 1: Numbers starting and leaving NDLP caseload



Women are more likely to have agreed to participate than men (83% against 79%). Younger lone parents are more likely to have agreed to participate - 86% of those aged under 25 agreed to join the caseload, compared to 81% of those aged 35-49, and 77% of those aged 50+.

Table 1b shows the number of lone parents participating on NDLP at the end of each month for the past year. Participants increased between September and December, standing at 99,450. Of these participants, 39,240 (39%) had come through the WFI route.

FIG 2: Numbers participating on NDLP at month end



Over three-quarters of participants are aged 25 and over and just under a half have a youngest child aged 5 or under (age of youngest child is currently unknown for 9% of participants).

Over one in ten participants are from an ethnic minority group and one in twenty-five has a disability. London region accounts for about 18% of participants.

Table 2 summarises the job outcomes and education/training provision of lone parents. By the end of December, a total of 276,100 jobs (48% of starts to caseload) had been gained through NDLP, amongst 247,310 individual lone parents.

Of the 276,100 job gains, 9% were still on NDLP receiving in-work support at the end of December, with 91% having left NDLP for employment. 57,470 of the total jobs gained were amongst lone parents coming through the WFI route. Some 40,920 lone parents had started education or training.

FIG 3: Jobs gained through NDLP

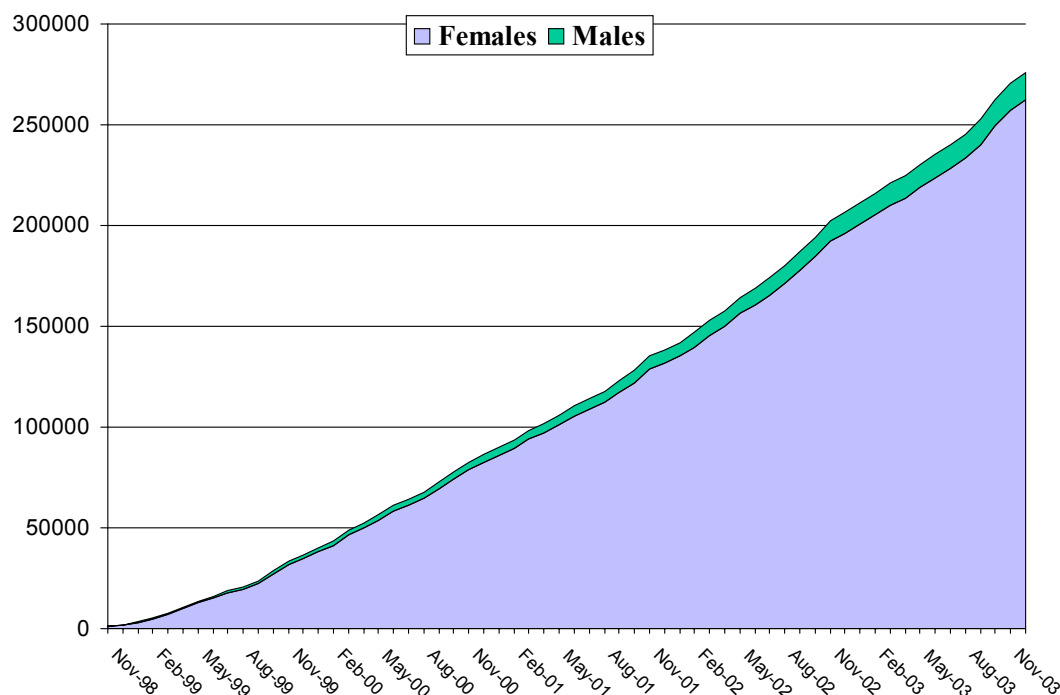


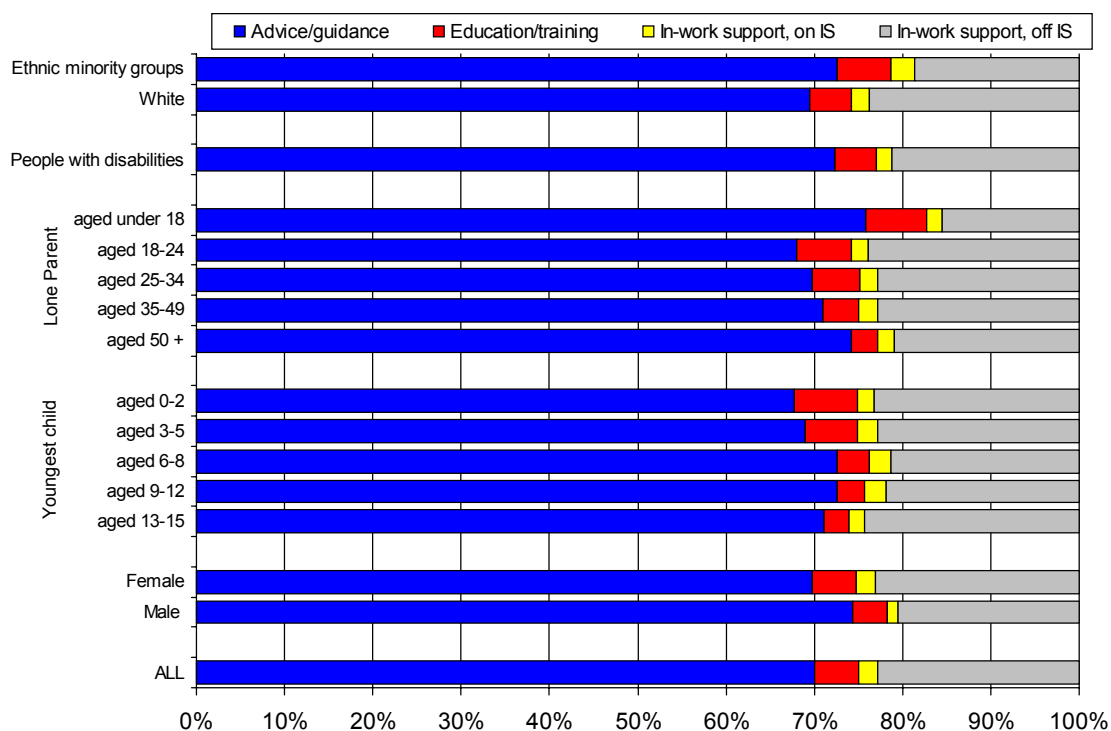
Table 3 shows where those participating at the end of December were in the NDLP process. Of the 99,450 participants, the majority (70%) were receiving advice and guidance from advisers. A further 4,950 (5%) were in education/training provision, and the remaining 24,840 (25%) were receiving in-work support. Of those receiving in-work support, 8% were on Income Support (generally working less than 16 hours per week) but the vast majority (92%) were no longer in receipt of Income Support.

Lone parents aged under 18 were more likely to be receiving advice and guidance (76%) than lone parents who were aged between 18-24 (68%). This group were, in turn, less likely than older lone parents to be receiving advice and guidance.

People from ethnic minority groups are less likely to be receiving in-work support whilst on NDLP (21% against 26% for whites).

About 39% of lone parents participating at end of December came onto NDLP through the WFI process.

FIG 4: Type of participation on NDLP by characteristics, December 2003



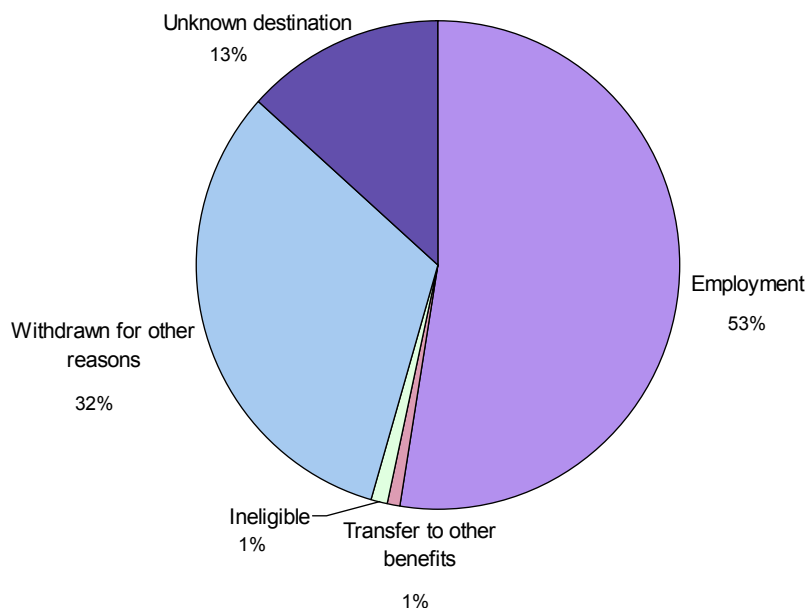
In terms of NDLP participation for Jobcentre Plus regions, London accounts for the largest proportion of participants (18%), North East region the smallest (5%). Wales accounts for 9% and Scotland for 11% of participants. There is some variation between regions in the proportion receiving in-work support.

Table 4 shows the immediate destination of the 478,290 lone parents who have left the NDLP caseload. Of these leavers, 53% (251,260) left for employment, 1% (3,630) transferred to other benefits, 32% (154,190) withdrew for other reasons but remained on Income Support, 1% (5,870) were no longer eligible, and 13% (63,360) left for unknown destinations. Of those who have withdrawn and whose destination is unknown, a proportion will have found work, but will not have been recorded as such on the systems which generate the data. Of the leavers with a known destination, 62% have left Income Support and 38% remained on Income Support.

Men are less likely to have left NDLP for employment than women (46% for men against 53% for women).

Cumulative data to the end of December 2003 is shown for people with disabilities, and people from ethnic minority groups. People with disabilities are less likely to have left for employment, and people from ethnic minority groups are much less likely to have left for employment.

FIG 5: Leavers from the NDLP caseload by destination, to December 2003



Yorkshire & Humberside have the highest proportion leaving for employment (58%) and London the lowest proportion (40%).

Table 5 shows the number of lone parents participating in the Work Focused Interview (WFI) process and includes the number of lone parents who have had 6 or 12-month Review meetings. It currently excludes people attending WFI's at Jobcentre Plus Pathfinder offices. Estimates to December 2003 show 846,200 lone parents had participated in the process – 379,950 of these were lone parents making new/repeat Income Support claims, 320,090 were already claiming Income Support and 146,160 were lone parents with Review meetings. Overall, 85% have attended a WFI meeting. Around 1% of lone parents had the WFI deferred and a further 1% had the interview waived. Of the remaining 13% of lone parents, the majority had been booked for a WFI but not yet attended.

Of the 722,320 lone parents attending a Work Focused Interview, 197,140 (27%) agreed to attend an NDLP initial interview.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

'New Deal for Lone Parents and Work Focused Interviews : statistics to December 2003' is a National Statistics publication and is produced to the high professional standards outlined in the National Statistics Code of Practice. National Statistics publications undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

- 1 **Introduction:** The statistics in this First Release cover participants in Phase 3 of the New Deal for Lone Parents (NDLP) in Great Britain, Phase 3 being the full national programme which was implemented on 26 October 1998. This programme is aimed at all lone parents on Income Support, but is open to all lone parents not in full-time employment (with a child under 16). Previously, Phase 1 began on 21 July 1997 in 8 prototype areas, and Phase 2, which ran from 6 May 1998, extended NDLP services to all lone parents nationally making new or repeat claims for Income Support (but excluded lone parents who were already benefit recipients.)
- 2 **Objectives of the NDLP Programme:** The objective of the NDLP programme is for lone parents to be offered advice by the Jobcentre Plus to develop a package of job search, training and after-school care to help them off benefit and into work. The service is delivered through Jobcentres, and Personal Advisers will deliver a tailored package of advice and support to meet the needs of individual lone parents. Participation in the NDLP is on a voluntary basis.
- 3 **Eligibility:** The programme is available to all lone parents (aged 16+ and with a child under 16) not in work or working less than 16 hours per week on a voluntary basis. Lone parents in receipt of Income Support, with a youngest child aged 3 years and over, are sent an invitation letter explaining what the service could offer.
- 4 **Work Focused Interviews:** From 30th April 2001 Work Focused Interviews were introduced for lone parents on Income Support. Initially, lone parents making a new/repeat claim had to attend a Work Focused Interview (WFI) if their youngest child was at least 5 years and 3 months old. Those who had ongoing ('stock') claims at 30th April 2001 had to attend a WFI if their youngest child was aged 13 to 15 years and 9 months. On April 1st 2002, WFI's were extended to new/repeat claimants with youngest child of at least 3 years old and to stock claimants with youngest child of 9 years or over. Since April 1st 2003, WFI's have been extended to lone parents with 'stock' claims with youngest child aged 5 years and 3 months and over, and all lone parents making a new/repeat claim to Income Support regardless of age of youngest child. By April 2004, WFI's will finally have been rolled out to all 'stock' lone parents. All lone parents who continue to claim Income Support a year after attending their initial WFI have to attend an annual review meeting. The first of these took place in April 2002. Lone parents making a new/repeat claim since April 1st 2002, and who continue to claim IS 6 months after attending their initial WFI, have to attend a 6-month review meeting. The first of these took place in October 2002.

- 5 **Outline of NDLP process:** Following the initial adviser interview, lone parents may either agree or decline to join the NDLP caseload. Whilst on the caseload participants will receive a package of support and guidance to help them into jobs. The support is wide-ranging, from encouraging lone parents to identify their skills and develop confidence to seek work, to the more practical aspects of applying for jobs, finding childcare, identifying training opportunities, calculating how much better off they can be in work and sorting out in-work benefits. Personal advisers can also provide an in-work support service to help lone parents with any difficulties encountered while making the transition into employment.
- 6 The NDLP can also help arrange places on Jobcentre Plus programmes and Work Based Learning for Adults, or advise and support lone parents who need to undertake other training that will lead into work. Where, in discussion, advisers agree that a particular course is needed, they may award financial assistance, (where the course is not provided free of charge, and within agreed limits), to cover necessary fees and fares, and childcare costs to support periods of training.
- 7 **Source of the data:** The original source of most of the data in this Statistical First Release is the Labour Market System (LMS) installed in the Jobcentre Plus local offices. This is an IT system that is used to record the Jobcentre Plus contacts with clients. It maintains a basic client record; allows the preferred occupations stated by clients to be matched against suitable vacancies; records actions such as interviews, referrals to training opportunities, placings in jobs etc. In particular, it has been significantly enhanced to record New Deal-specific actions.
- 8 The relevant data are extracted from the main system each month and added to a New Deal Evaluation Database maintained by DWP's Information and Analysis Directorate. This Evaluation Database also incorporates data from other sources: data on claimant unemployment extracted from the Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System (JUVOS) maintained by the Office for National Statistics, which is the primary source of published statistics on claimant unemployment; data from the Work Based Learning for Adults (WBLA) Database maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions, and data on age of youngest child of lone parents from the ISCS system again maintained by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 9 **Definitions:** the following notes explain the definitions underlying the data presented here, except where these are self-explanatory - e.g. gender, age on entry.
- 10 **Date of entry:** an individual is generally deemed as starting NDLP from the date they join the caseload.

- 11 **Leaving the New Deal for Lone Parents:** when an individual leaves NDLP they are recorded according to their destination on leaving, as follows: -
- to employment* (either on or off Income Support);
 - transferred to other benefits.* Refers to lone parents making a claim for a more appropriate benefit e.g. Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA);
 - no longer eligible* due to a change in circumstances. For example, lone parents who re-partner;
 - withdrawn for other reasons.* Lone parents who remain on Income Support but withdraw from the caseload for reasons other than 'found employment'.
 - unknown destinations.* Lone parents who leave for reasons other than those listed above or with a leaving code of 'not known'. It should be noted that these cases are 'not known' as far as the statistical reporting systems are concerned - in some cases, staff in Jobcentres may know the reason for the individual ceasing to claim, but this is not captured systematically by LMS.
- 12 **People with a disability:** this entry is based on the individual's own assessment and signed confirmation given to Jobcentre Plus staff, that the person believes themselves to be disabled in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act definition. That is, they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. (Note that this will not necessarily be consistent with sources such as the Labour Force Survey, which rely entirely on self-assessment, without further discussion or endorsement.)
- 13 **Ethnic origin:** The basis of the data is self-assessment by the individual client. The categories are consistent with those used by the Office for National Statistics for the 2002 Census.
- 14 **Region:** This Statistical First Release includes a summary breakdown for Scotland, Wales and the regions of England. The regions are Jobcentre Plus regions, rather than Government Office regions. The Jobcentre Plus regions are: Scotland; Wales; London; South East; East; East Midlands; West Midlands; South West; Yorkshire and the Humber; North East; North West.

Further Information

- 1 More detailed information on NDLP can be found on the Internet at: www.newdeal.gov.uk

Enquiries

- 2 Public enquiries about the information in this Statistical First Release should be addressed to: Deborah Pritchard, Statistical Services, IAD Information Centre, DWP on 0114-2098-230.
- 3 Press enquiries should be addressed to Press Office 0207-238-0866.