

New sanctions regime for Jobseeker's Allowance

Failure	Lower level sanction Fixed period sanction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refusal/failure to attend an adviser interview • refusal/failure to participate in an employment programme or training scheme • refusal/failure to comply with a Jobseeker direction • refusal/failure to attend, or loses through misconduct a place on an employment programme or training scheme 	Intermediate level sanction Only applied following a period of disallowance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not being available for work • not actively seeking work 	Higher level sanction Fixed period sanction for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaving a job voluntarily without good reason • losing a job through misconduct • refusal/failure to apply for, or accept if offered a suitable job without good reason • refusal/failure to participate in mandatory work activity without good reason
First failure	4 weeks	4 weeks	13 weeks
Second failure	13 weeks	13 weeks	26 weeks
Third failure	13 weeks	13 weeks	156 weeks When JSA is reclaimed, if the claimant has been in work for 6 months or more and not claiming any income replacement benefits, then any balance remaining on their 156 week sanction will be lifted. The six months does not have to be a consecutive period.

Current sanction regime

Lower level failures	Intermediate level failures	Higher level failures
1,2,4,or 26 weeks	Disallowance for the period they were not available/actively seeking work, but no sanction	Variable 1 to 26 weeks