



Access to Work is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work. There are two main types of Access to Work provision: 'Assessments' and 'Elements'. Assessments involve exploring workplace-related barriers to employment and making recommendations on how these can be overcome. Elements are intended to supplement the reasonable adjustments that employers are required to make under the Equality Act 2010.

This is a new series of Access to Work experimental statistics. These statistics are not comparable with those in historical Access to Work official statistics publications. For further details please see the [Access to Work Statistical notice](#).

Main stories

Approvals

Access to Work provision was approved for **32,010 people** in 2018/19.

Payments

Access to Work payments were made for **36,240 people** in 2018/19.

Expenditure

Total expenditure on Access to Work was **£129.1 million** in 2018/19

At a glance

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Comments? Feedback is welcome

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What you need to know

What is Access to Work?

Access to Work is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work. There are two main types of Access to Work provision: 'Assessments' and 'Elements'. Assessments involve exploring workplace-related barriers to employment and making recommendations on how these can be overcome. In some but not all cases the outcome of an Assessment may be to recommend the provision of one or more Elements. Elements are intended to supplement the reasonable adjustments that employers are required to make under the Equality Act 2010. The types of Element that can be provided are categorised as follows:

- Communication Support for Interviews
- Special Aids and Equipment
- Adaptations to Premises
- Adaptations to Vehicles
- Travel to Work (help with the costs of travelling to work)
- Travel in Work (help with the costs of work-related travel)
- Support Worker
- Mental Health Support Service
- Miscellaneous

In some but not all cases an Assessment is required to find out whether a customer is eligible to receive an Element.

What do these statistics show?

These statistics are about a two specific parts of the Access to Work customer journey: the approval of Access to Work provision and payment of Access to Work provision (the key stages of the Access to Work customer journey are summarised overleaf).

The expenditure data in these statistics covers DWP expenditure only. In many cases, the employer will be asked to contribute to the cost of provision under "cost share" arrangements. The employer element of expenditure is not included in these statistics. We use this data to calculate statistics on the number of people in receipt of Access to Work payments in each year.

The Access to Work customer journey

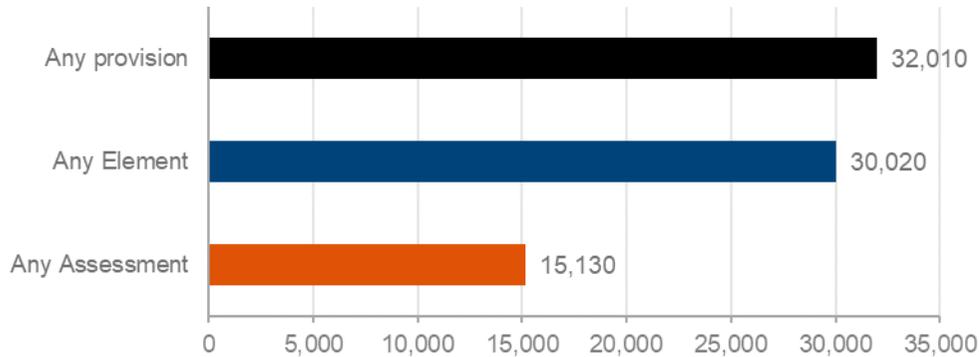
The main stages of a typical Access to Work customer journey are summarised below.

1. Application	The customer applies for Access to Work provision.
2. Approval/Rejection	The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) approves or rejects the provision after considering the customer's eligibility and their employer's duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010. The customer is notified of the decision and a grant may be approved to cover some or all of the costs of the approved provision.
3. Commissioning	The customer or their employer commissions the approved provision and submits invoices relating to approved grants to DWP.
4. Receipt	The customer receives the approved and commissioned provision.
5. Payment	DWP pays the invoices relating to approved grants. In some cases a DWP payment is not required, for example because provision can be provided at no cost or the employer covers the relevant costs.
6. Review	DWP schedules reviews to ensure the provision is still adequate and to check that the customer is still eligible.

Access to Work approvals in 2018/19

Access to Work provision was approved for 32,010 people in 2018/19

The number of people who had any Access to Work provision of each type approved in 2018/19

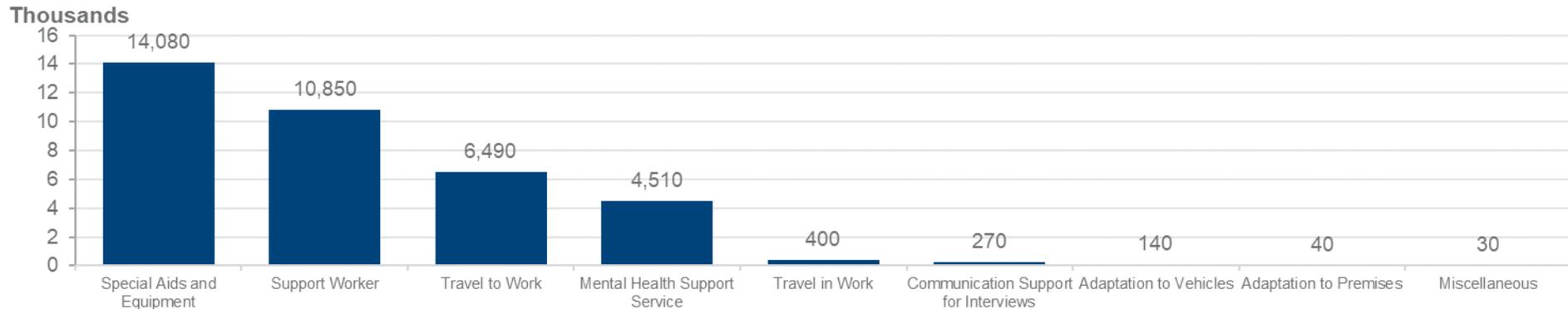


Elements were approved for 30,020 (94%) of the 32,010 people who had any Access to Work provision approved in 2018/19. The remaining 6% had one or more Assessments approved in 2018/19 without having any Elements approved in the same period. This may be because they had one or more Elements approved in a subsequent period or they did not require an Element or were not eligible for one.

See **Table 1** for full data.

Special Aids and Equipment Elements were approved for more people than any other type of Element

The number of people who had any Element of each type approved in 2018/19



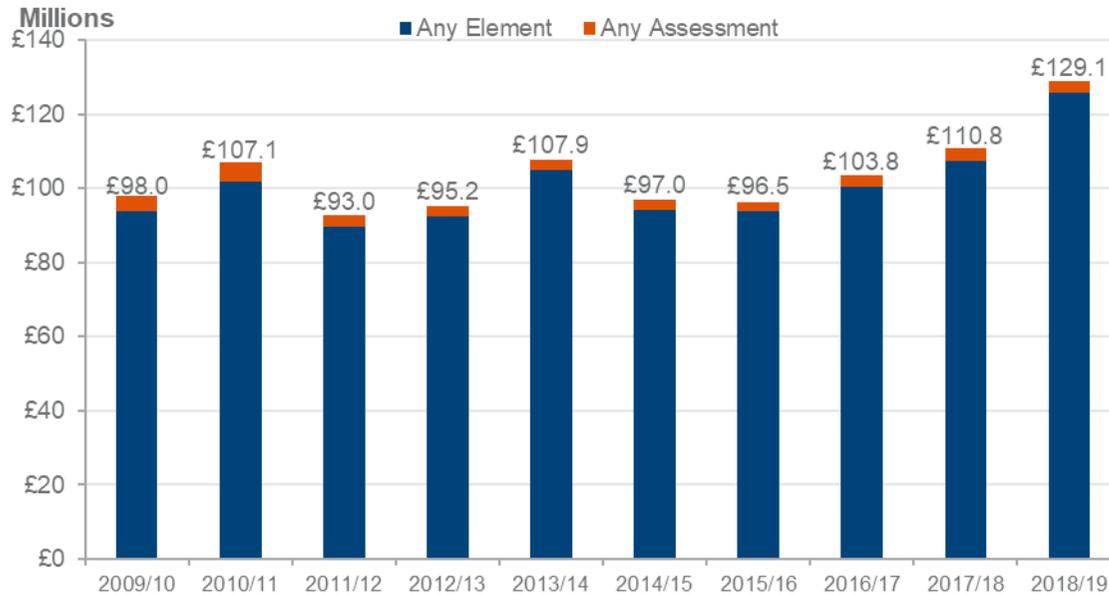
Just under half of the 30,020 people who had any Element approved in 2018/19 had one or more Special Aids and Equipment Elements approved in the same period. The next most frequently approved Element types were Support Worker, Travel to Work and Mental Health Support Service. It should be noted that more than one Element of the same type or of different types can be approved for the same person in a given financial year.

See **Table 2** for full data.

Access to Work expenditure over time

Total nominal expenditure on Access to Work was £129.1 million in 2018/19

Expenditure on Access to Work provision, 2009/10 - 2018/19 (Nominal terms)



Total nominal expenditure on Access to Work provision has increased to £129.1 million in 2018/19. £126 million of this was expenditure on Elements. The remaining £3.1 million was on Assessments.

Assessments account for around 2% of total expenditure. This proportion has remained steady over time.

Nominal expenditure is the amount reflected on financial balance sheets. It does not account for inflation, therefore real terms expenditure should be used for year on year comparisons.

See **Table 11** for full data, and **Table 12** for expenditure on Elements of each type.

Indexed expenditure on Access to Work provision, 2009/10 - 2018/19 (Real terms)

Financial year									
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
100.0	107.3	91.9	92.3	102.7	91.2	90.0	94.6	99.0	113.3

Real terms expenditure removes the effect of inflation to make year on year comparisons possible. Using 2009/10 as the base year, real total expenditure has increased over the time period from 2009/10 to 2018/19. Real total expenditure has been increasing since 2015/16.

See **Table 11a** for full non-indexed data.

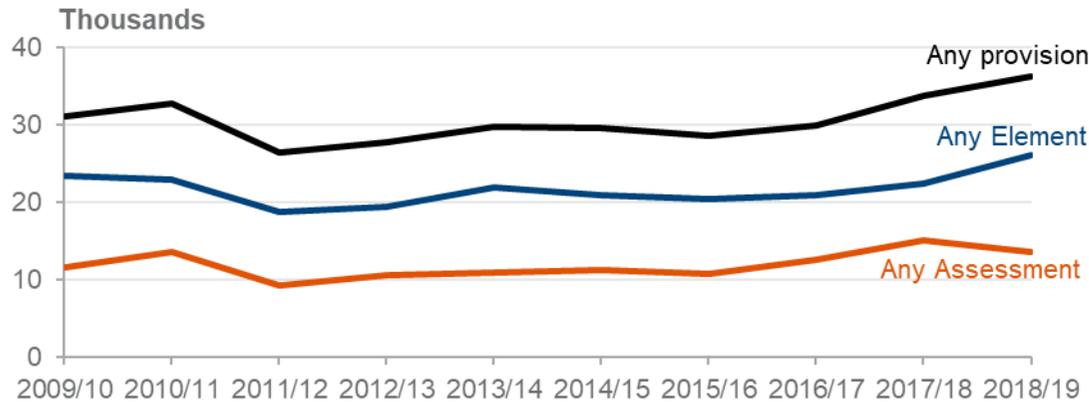
More information

We use expenditure data from DiSC to provide granularity, but reweight this data to match the total expenditure recorded through SOP. Please see the accompanying [Background information and methodology note](#) for more detail.

Number in receipt of payment of Access to Work over time

36,240 people were in receipt of Access to Work payments in 2018/19

The number of people who were in receipt of one or more payments for any Access to Work provision of each type, 2009/10 - 2018/19

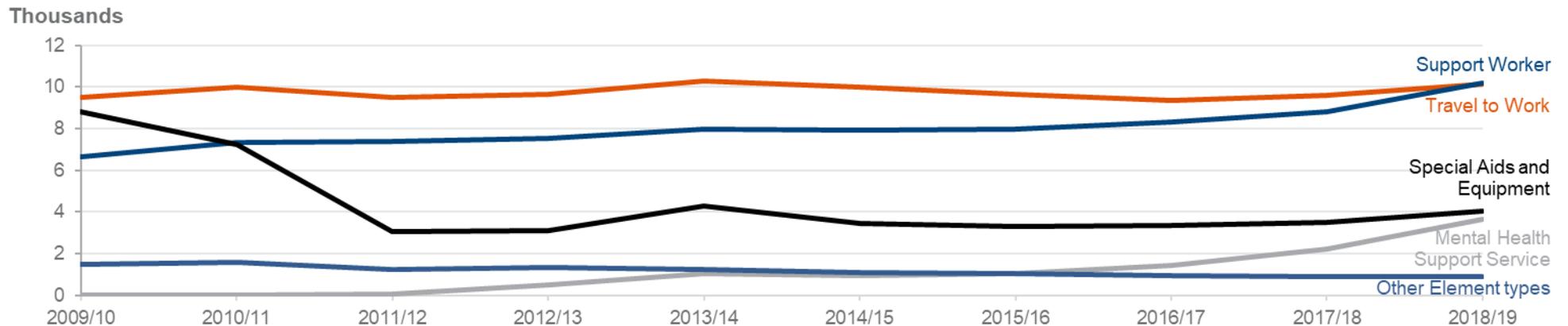


Of the 36,240 people who received a payment for Access to Work provision in 2018/19, 26,070 (72%) received the payment for one or more elements. The remaining 28% received a payment for an Assessment only, without receiving a payment for any Elements in the same period. This may be because they received a payment for one or more Elements in a subsequent period or they did not require an Element or were not eligible for one.

See **Table 6** for full data.

More people were in receipt of a payment for Support Worker than any other type of Element

The number of people who received a payment for any Access to Work Element of each type, 2009/10 - 2018/19



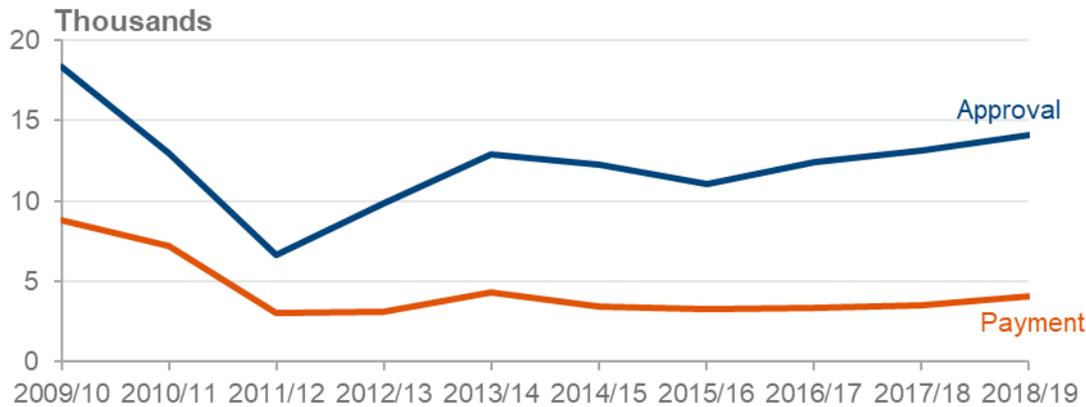
10,170 people received a payment for a Support Worker in 2018/19. In previous years, more people have received a payment for Travel to Work than any other element.

See **Table 7** for full data.

Comparison of approval and payment

Special Aids and Equipment

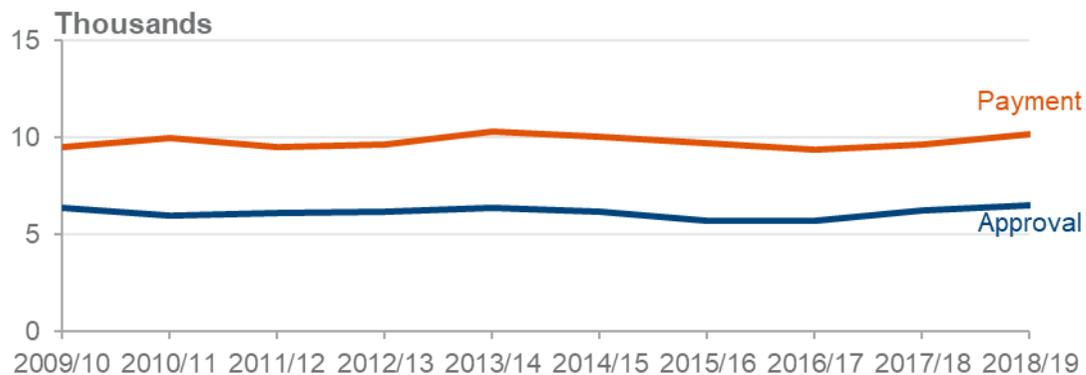
The number of people who received a payment and the number of people who received an approval for a Special Aids and Equipment Element, 2009/10 - 2018/19



14,080 people were approved for a Special Aids and Equipment Element in 2018/19, and 19% of these received a payment for the approved element. For the remaining 81% of people with an approval, they may receive a payment in a subsequent period, their employer pays for the support in full, or they chose not to take up the support.

Travel to Work

The number of people who received a payment and the number of people who received an approval for a Travel to Work Element, 2009/10 - 2018/19



Comparatively more people receive a payment for Travel to Work (10,140) than are approved for the Element (6,490) in a given year, because a person can receive a payment for an Element approved in a previous period.

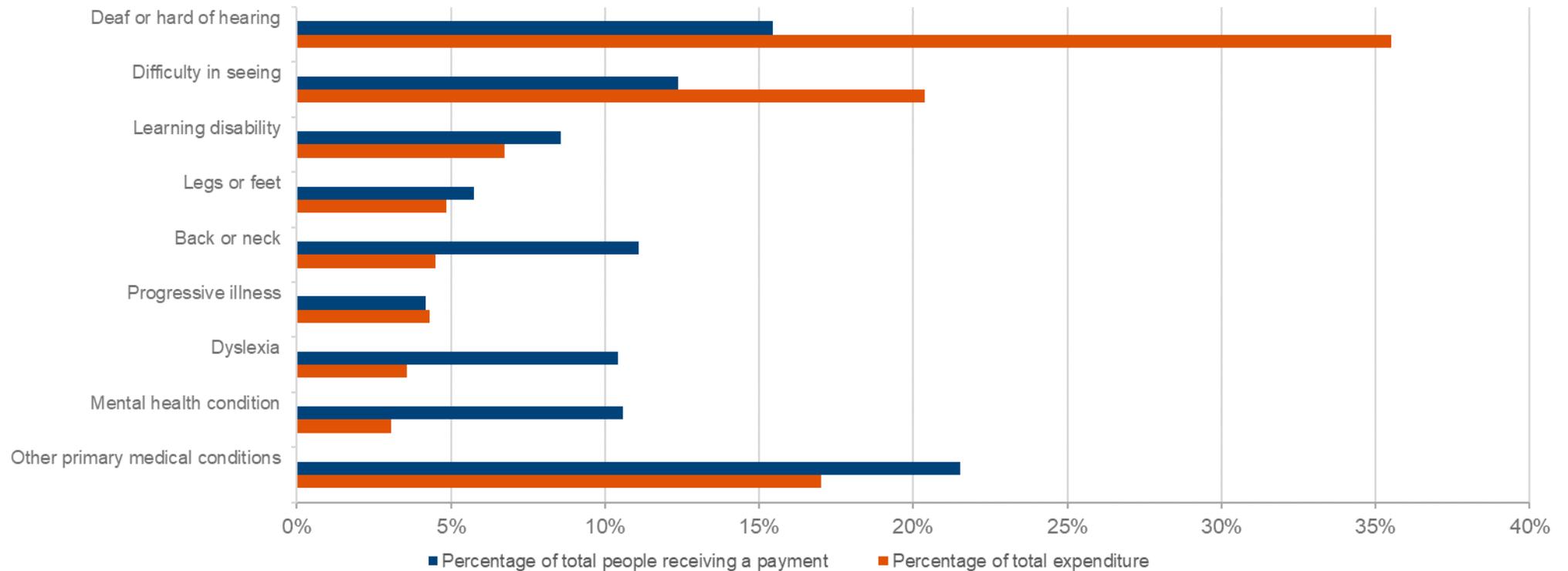
The characteristics of Access to Work customers in 2018/19

The largest Access to Work customer group in terms of number of payments, by primary medical condition are 'Deaf or hard of hearing', who account for 16% of the total number of customers. This group are also in receipt of the highest proportion (36%) of total Access to Work expenditure.

See **Tables 8** and **13** for full data.

People who are Deaf or hard of hearing are the largest group in receipt of Access to Work payment and receive the largest proportion of expenditure

The percentage of total expenditure and numbers in receipt of payment in 2018/19 by primary medical condition¹



¹ The 'Other primary medical conditions' category referred to above is comprised of the following categories: Not recorded; Difficulty in speaking; Stomach, liver, kidney or digestion; Diabetes; Chest or breathing; Spina Bifida; Heart, blood, blood pressure or circulation; Arms or hands; Cerebral Palsy; Epilepsy; Other. Breakdowns of this category are available in the accompanying data tables.

About these statistics

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as [experimental statistics](#). We plan to publish these statistics on an annual basis and will explore the feasibility of expanding their scope to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as applications to Access to Work. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage and can send feedback to: access.toworkstatistics@dwp.gov.uk.

These statistics were obtained from the Department for Work and Pensions' Disability Service Client (DiSC) administrative system. DiSC is a live system and figures may be revised in future publications as records are amended or added to the system. More information about DiSC and revisions to these statistics can be found in the accompanying [Background information and methodology note](#).

Figures in this publication are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages are calculated using figures prior to rounding and are rounded to the nearest integer. Totals may not sum due to rounding or missing data.

Where to find out more

More information about these statistics can be found in the accompanying [Background information and methodology note](#) and [Data tables](#).

More information about Access to Work and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>.

Guidance on Access to Work for employers can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-to-work-guide-for-employers>.

More information about experimental statistics can be found here:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologytopicsandstatisticalconcepts/guidetoexperimentalstatistics>