

13 March 2003
IAD130303-QATSSEPT

Coverage: Great Britain
Theme: Social and Welfare

QUARTERLY APPEAL TRIBUNAL STATISTICS- SEPTEMBER 2002

The Quarterly Appeal Tribunal Statistics relating to the third quarter of 2002 are available from today, providing analyses of appeals handled by the Appeals Service (see Notes to Editors for definition), including numbers of new cases, numbers of cases cleared at tribunal and breakdowns of tribunal outcomes.

Following the change of methodology as outlined in the March publication, revised figures are included in this bulletin.

Main findings

- The number of new lodgements of appeals with first tier agencies in the third quarter of 2002 was 57,730. This compares with 62,270 in the same quarter in 2001. The most recent figures are expected to rise due to a number of lodgements yet to be recorded.
- The number of appeals received by the Appeals Service (AS) in the third quarter of 2002 was 57,310. This compares with 56,305 in the same quarter in 2001 and is an increase of 1.8 per cent. These figures are based on the date that the submission was received by AS.

Figure 1: Lodgements and appeals received, quarters ending September 2001 to September 2002.



Issued by:
Information Centre
Information and Analysis Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions

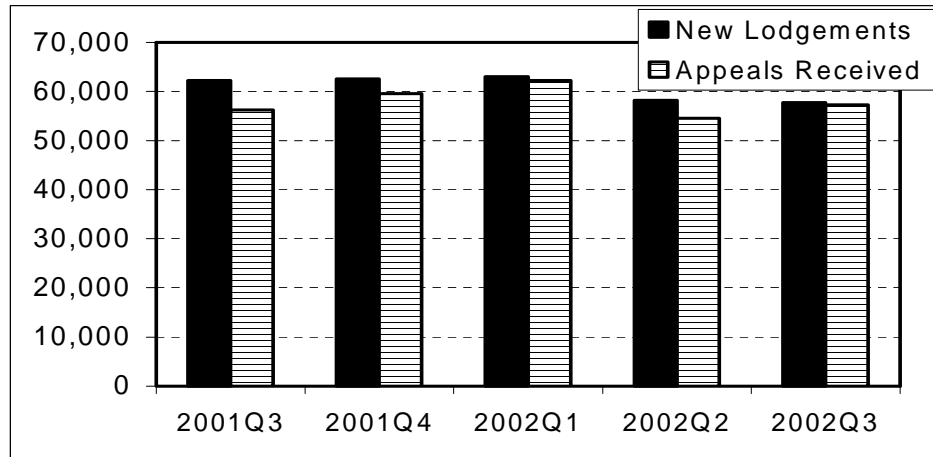
Telephone :
Press Office : 020 7238 0866
Public Enquiries : 020 7712 2171

Website :
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd

Statistician:
Martin McGill
Information Centre
Information and Analysis Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
Room BP 5 2 01
Benton Park View
Benton Park Road
Longbenton
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE98 1YX

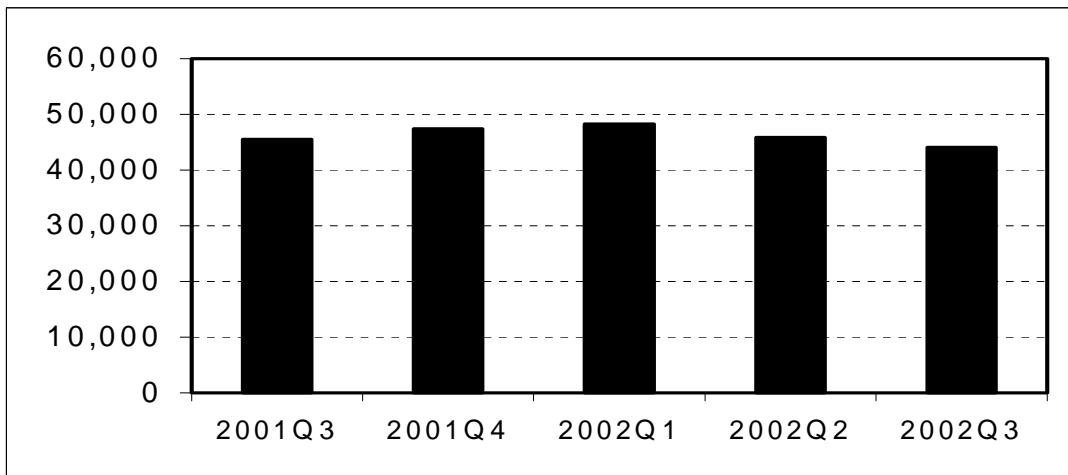
Telephone : 0191 225 7661
Facsimile : 0191 225 3193
email Martin.Mcgill@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Next Publication:
19 June 2003 (See notes to editor)



- The number of appeals cleared at hearing in the third quarter of 2002 was 44,095. This compares with 45,525 in the same quarter in 2001.

Figure 2: Appeals cleared at hearings, quarters ending September 2001 to September 2002.



- Of the 44,095 appeals cleared at hearing in the third quarter of 2002, 73.2 per cent (32,285) were held at oral hearings, 26.4 per cent (11,660) were paper hearings, and the remaining 0.3 per cent (145) were domiciliary hearings. The overall percentage of appeals found in favour of the appellant was 49.3 per cent. The proportion of decisions in favour of the appellant was higher at oral hearings (51.6 per cent) than at paper hearings (22.2 per cent).
- The 51.6 per cent of appeals found in the appellant's favour at oral hearings can be further broken down by whether or not the tribunal was attended by the appellant or their representative:

<u>Oral hearing attended by:</u>	<u>Percentage found in appellant's favour</u>
Appellant only	51.3 per cent
Representative only	59.0 per cent
Both appellant and representative	67.0 per cent
Neither	18.1 per cent

Factors affecting comparisons with historical data.

The Social Security Act 1998 affected the appeals process. Prior to April 1999, AS were notified that an appeal had been received by a first tier agency and the date the appellant lodged the appeal was recorded. Since April 1999, AS are not notified of new appeals until they receive the submission from the first tier agencies. Also since this time, the first tier agency can review its decision before passing the appeal to AS. If they accept the grounds for appeal, the original decision can be amended and the appeal may never reach AS. This has resulted in a marked reduction in appeals lodged with AS since April 1999.

Further details of this can be found in the publication main findings or from the contact point below.

Notes to Editors

The Appeals Service tribunals hear appeals against decisions on Social Security, Child Support, Vaccine Damage, Tax Credit and Compensation Recovery questions throughout Great Britain, and on decisions under the Road Traffic Act in England and Wales. From 2 July 2001, AS took on responsibility for hearing appeals on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

The results contained in this publication are derived from a 100% download of cases contained on the Generic Appeals Processing System (GAPS) on the last working day of the month. These downloads

are provided by the Appeals Service and sent to the DWP Information Centre, Information and Analysis Directorate, for processing and publication.

All analyses are on a GB basis and exclude Northern Ireland. Additional data are collected but not published and are available on request, for example by tribunal venue.

Important Information

This is the last time the Quarterly Appeal Tribunal Statistics will be published in 'hard copy' or as a pdf file. Instead, the Department will be focusing on publishing client group based statistics (Working Age; Children & Families; and Pensioners.)

In future Quarterly Appeal Tribunal Statistics will be published on the DWP internet site (www.dwp.gov.uk/asd) in Microsoft Excel format.

If you have difficulty printing the spreadsheets please contact us on 0191 22 49233.

Glossary of Terms

Appeal

An Appeal provides a person with an impartial re-examination of the decision under appeal.

Appeals Cleared at Hearing

The number of appeals cleared at hearings by the Appeals Service within the reporting period.

Appeals Received

The number of appeal submissions received by the Appeals Service within the reporting period. Appeals are lodged with first tier agencies, prior to being received by the Appeals Service.

Decided in Favour of the Appellant

This is where the outcome of an appeal is more favourable to the appellant than is the original decision.

First Tier Agencies

The Executive Agency from where the appeal originated.

New Lodgement

An appeal lodged by an appellant within the reporting period, usually the latest quarter.

Oral Hearing

A tribunal at which an appellant has expressed an intention to attend or send a representative.

Paper Hearing

A tribunal at which an appellant has opted not to attend or send a representative

To obtain copies of the publication contact:

Electronic copies – Lisa Brown: 0191 224 9233

Paper copies – IAD secretariat: 0207 962 8612