

# Freedom of Information Request

Date of receipt: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Date of response: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Freedom of Information request regarding Economically Inactive

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### Request

1. What percentage on the 18-64 population is “economically inactive”?
2. Do we have any analysis of the reasons for economic activity?

### Response provided by the Policy & Resources Committee:

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 18.3% of the population aged 18 to 64 were not employed, self-employed or in full time education. We do not hold data on why any specific individual is not participating in the workforce. However, secondary data on their age and benefit receipt does provide some indication of the contributory factors. Of the 18.3%:

57.9% were not in receipt of any benefits i.e. 10.6% of the whole population aged 18 to 64 were not employed, self-employed or in full time education nor in receipt of any benefits.

12.7% were in receipt *only* of family allowance i.e. 2.3% of the whole population aged 18 to 64 were not employed, self-employed or in full time education and were *only* in receipt of family allowance.

29.4% were in receipt of at least one of the following benefits; (carer, medical, unemployment, income support) i.e. 5.4% of the whole population aged 18 to 64 were not employed, self-employed or in full time education and were in receipt of at least one of those benefit types.

Considered by age group the percentage of the population aged 18 to 64 that were not employed, self-employed or in full time education is as follows:

Age group	
18 to 24	9%
25 to 29	8%
30 to 34	9%
35 to 39	9%
40 to 44	8%

45 to 49	9%
50 to 54	12%
55 to 59	16%
60 to 64	21%

Each person who is not active in the workforce or in education will have specific and personal reasons for that choice and we cannot draw firm conclusions on these reasons from the data available. However, the higher levels of non-employment among age groups over the age of 50 does suggest that early retirement is among the most common reasons.