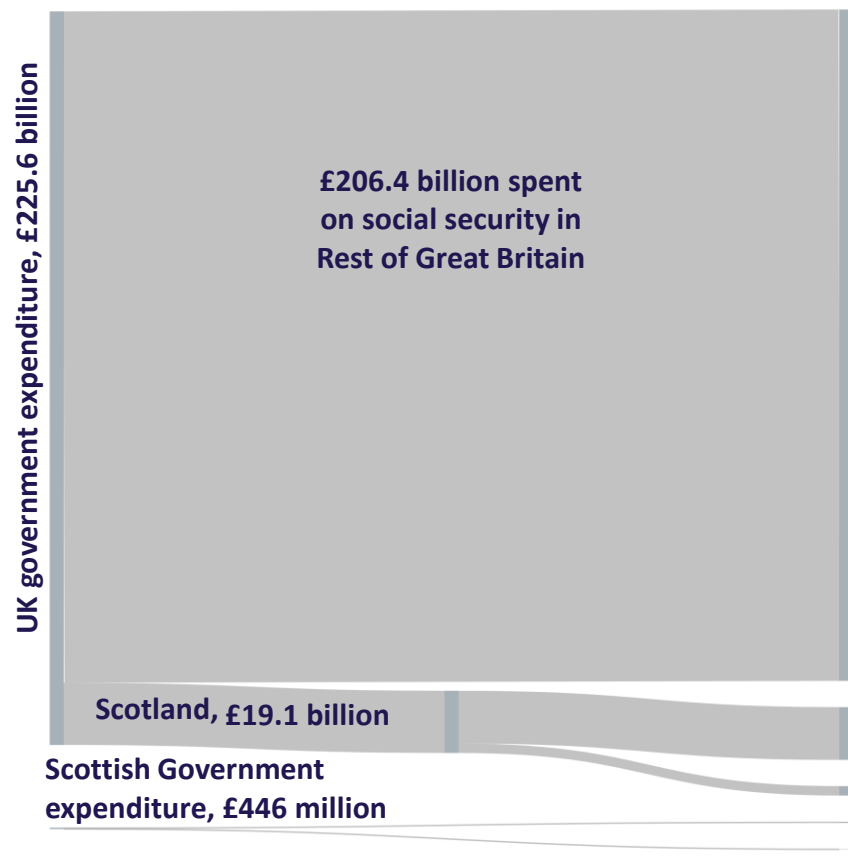


Social Security for Scotland

Updated March 2021

EQUALITY, POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY



Social Security Expenditure in Scotland in 2019/20

In 2019/20, expenditure by UK Government on benefits in Great Britain was **£225.6 billion**. Of this, the estimated amount spent on individuals in Scotland was **£19.1 billion** (8.5%). Of this, around **£16.2 billion** (84.9%) was spent on reserved benefits and **£2.9 billion** (15.1%) was spent on devolved benefits.

In 2019/20 the Scottish Government spent a total of **£446 million** on benefits in Scotland. This included **£347 million** on benefits through Social Security Scotland (Carer's Allowance, Carer's Allowance Supplement, Best Start Grant, Funeral Support Payment and Young Carer Grant), and **£99 million** on benefits administered by local authorities (**£66 million** Discretionary Housing Payments awarded and **£33 million** allocated to the Scottish Welfare Fund).

In total **£19.6 billion** was spent on individuals in Scotland.

Introduction

This slide pack summarises the current social security system in Scotland and how this will change as benefits are devolved to Scotland under the Scotland Act 2016, and as new benefits and top-ups to reserved benefits are introduced.

Contents

[Social security expenditure in Scotland](#)

[Social security in Scotland by recipient group](#)

Devolved and localised benefits – [descriptions](#) and [expenditure](#)

High-level statistics (e.g. caseload, expenditure, key characteristics of claimants) for:

- [Best Start Grant \(SSMG\)](#)
- [Funeral Support Payment \(FSP\)](#)
- [Young Carer Grant \(YCG\)](#)
- [Job Start Payment \(JSP\)](#)
- [Scottish Child Payment \(SCP\)](#)
- [Carer's Allowance \(CA\) and Carer's Allowance Supplement \(CAS\)](#)
- [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#)
- [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#)
- [Attendance Allowance \(AA\)](#)
- [Severe Disablement Allowance \(SDA\)](#)
- [Industrial Injuries Disablement Allowance \(IIDB\)](#)
- [Winter Fuel Payment \(WFP\)](#)
- [Cold Weather Payments \(CWP\)](#)
- [Discretionary Housing Payment \(DHP\)](#)
- [Scottish Welfare Fund \(SWF\)](#)
- [Reserved benefits and UC Scottish choices](#)

[Sources and abbreviations](#)

Background

Following the Scottish independence referendum in 2014, the **Smith Commission** recommended that the Scottish Parliament be given autonomy to determine the structure and value of a range of powers over disability, as well as the power to make administrative changes to Universal Credit and to vary the housing cost element. It also recommended that Scottish Parliament be given powers to create new benefits in areas of devolved responsibility, and top-up reserved ones. These recommendations were made law by the **Scotland Act 2016**.

A summary of the benefits that have been devolved or that remain reserved is available on the Scottish Government website at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/responsibility-for-benefits-overview/>.

Currently, **Social Security Scotland** (an executive agency of the Scottish Government) is administering Carer's Allowance Supplement, Best Start Grant, Funeral Support Payment, Young Carer's Grant, Job Start Payment, Child Winter Heating Assistance and Scottish Child Payment. The Scottish Government also allocates funding to local authorities to administer Discretionary Housing Payments and the Scottish Welfare Fund. Further changes to benefits have also been announced for 2020 and 2021.

Sources: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

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For general enquiries, complaints or suggestions about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Social security in Scotland by recipient group

The benefit system currently in place in Scotland is distributed across a number of recipient groups. Benefits that are devolved, localised, new Scottish benefits, and top-ups to reserved benefits are highlighted in **bold** and described on the [next page](#). Further changes to benefits have also been announced for 2020 and 2021.

Benefits for people out of work	Benefits for elderly people	Benefits for people who are ill or disabled	Benefits for families with children	Benefits for people on low incomes	Other
Income Support	Winter Fuel Payments	Attendance Allowance	Child Benefit	Discretionary Housing Payments	Universal Credit, inc. Universal Credit Scottish Choices
In Work Credit & Return to Work Credit	Financial Assistance Scheme	Carer's Allowance	Child Tax Credit	Scottish Welfare Fund	Bereavement Benefits
Jobseekers Allowance	Pension Credit	Carer's Allowance Supplement	Guardians Allowance	Cold Weather Payments	Christmas Bonus
	State Pension	Young Carer Grant	Maternity Allowance	Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods	Other small benefits
	State Pension Transfers	Disability Living Allowance	Statutory Maternity Pay	Funeral Support Payment	
	TV Licences	Personal Independence Payment		Scottish Child Payment	
		Severe Disablement Allowance		Job Start Payment	
		Industrial Injuries benefits Inc. Industrial Injury Disablement Benefit		New Deal & Employment Programme Allowances	
		Child Winter Heating Assistance		New Enterprise Allowance	
		Employment & Support Allowance		Working Tax Credit	
		Incapacity Benefit		Housing Benefit	
		Specialised Vehicles fund			
		Statutory Sick Pay			
		Vaccine Damage Payments			

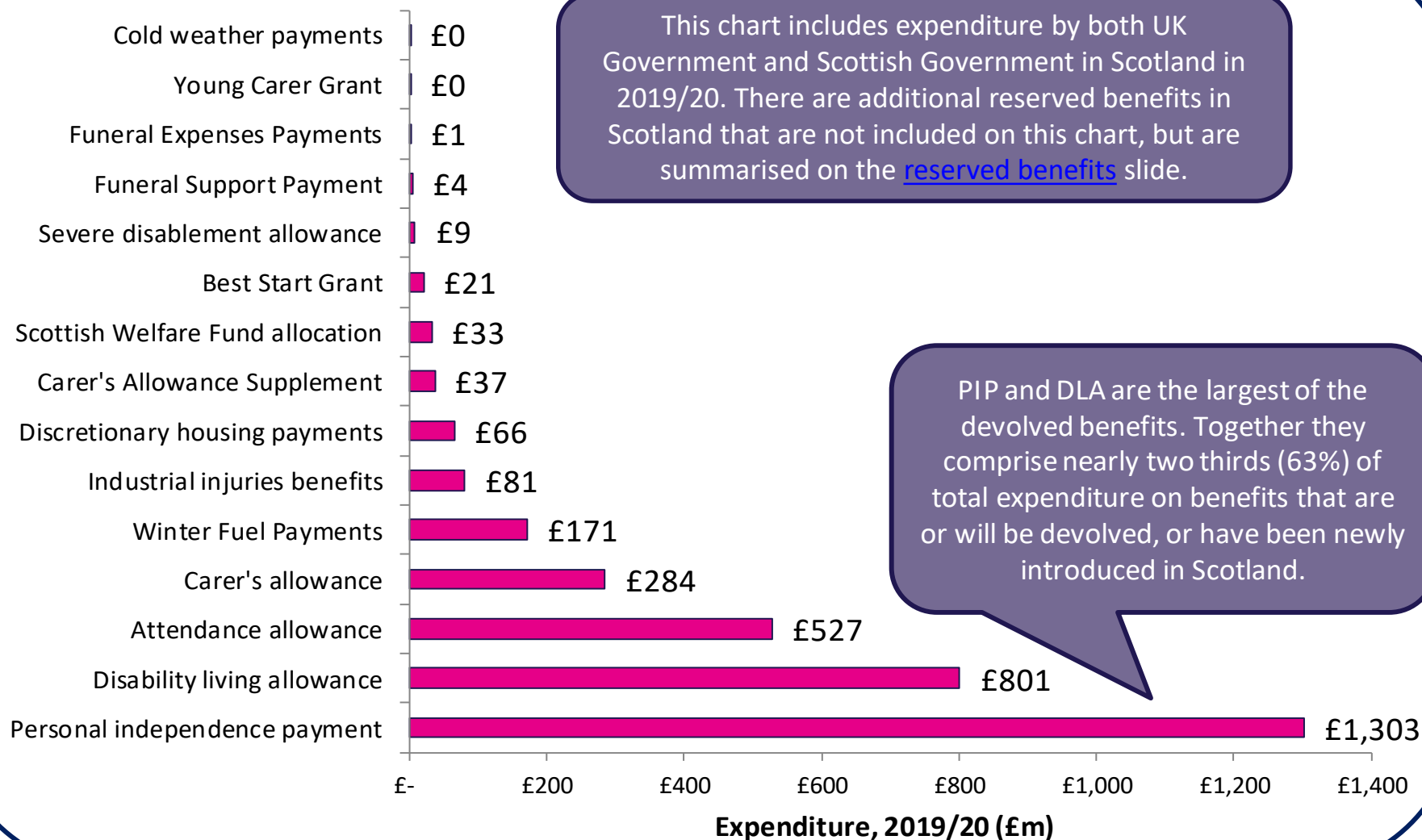
Social security in Scotland - benefits with published data

	Benefits*	Primary purpose of current benefit and devolved status.	Devolved/delivered status
For carers, disabled people & those who are ill	Attendance allowance	To help with personal care for individuals aged 65 or over with a physical or mental disability.	To be replaced with Pension Age Disability Payment
	Carer's Allowance	To help an individual look after someone with substantial caring needs. To be eligible the individual must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for them.	Devolved September 2018 and currently administrated by DWP – to be replaced with Scottish Carer's Assistance.
	Carer's Allowance Supplement	Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment to increase the level of Carer's Allowance to that of Jobseeker's Allowance. First payments were made in September 2018.	Introduced by Social Security Scotland from September 2018.
	Young Carer Grant	Yearly payment for young people aged 16 to 18 who care for someone 16 hours or more each week.	Introduced by Social Security Scotland from October 2019.
	Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment	Help if your disability or health condition means one or both of the following are true: You need help looking after yourself or you have walking difficulties. PIP replaced working-aged DLA.	To be replaced with Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment.
	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	For individuals who are ill or disabled as a result of an accident or disease caused by work or while you were on an approved employment training scheme or course.	Delivered by DWP using agency agreement April 2020.
	Severe Disablement Allowance	For working age individuals who are unable to work due to illness or disability. Closed to new entrants.	Delivered by DWP using agency agreement April 2020.
Low income benefits	Cold Weather Payments	A payment for individuals on certain benefits when the temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero Degree Celsius or below over seven consecutive days.	To be replaced with Cold Spell Heating Assistance.
	Best Start Grant	Provides lower-income families with financial support during the key early years of a child's life. Pregnancy and Baby, Early Learning and School Age payments are all available.	Delivered by Social Security Scotland since December 2018.
	Funeral Support Payment	For individuals on low income and needing help to pay for a funeral they are arranging.	Delivered by Social Security Scotland since September 2019.
	Job Start Payment	To help young people with the costs associated with the transition into employment, after a period of time out of paid work	Introduced by Social Security Scotland from August 2020.
	Scottish Child Payment	For low-income families with children under six, to help towards the costs of supporting a family.	Applications from November 2020, first payments by end April 2021.
Localised	Discretionary Housing Payments	To help for those in receipt of Housing Benefit and having difficulty meeting their rent payments. Paid at the discretion of the local authority. Also used to mitigate against the bedroom tax in Scotland.	Devolved April 2017.
	Scottish Welfare Fund	Crisis Grants provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency. Community Care Grants enable people to live independently, preventing the need for institutional care.	Localised April 2013.
Other	Winter Fuel Payment	A tax-free payment to help pay for heating bills if you were born on or before 5 July 1952 (current state pension age for women).	To be replaced with Winter Heating Assistance.
	Universal Credit (Scottish Choices)	Universal Credit (Scottish Choices) give recipients of UC in Scotland a choice to have their UC award paid either monthly or twice monthly, and have the housing costs in their award of UC paid direct to their landlord.	Delivered by DWP on behalf of Scottish Government since October 2017
	Reserved Benefits	Benefits that remain reserved to the UK government (e.g. Universal Credit, State Pension). Statistics are available from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and via StatXplore and Nomis .	

*Benefits are summarised in the slide pack where there is available published data. Therefore, the slide pack does not yet include information on new benefits. Sources: www.gov.uk, www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/, <https://www.gov.scot/news/1>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/2>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/3>

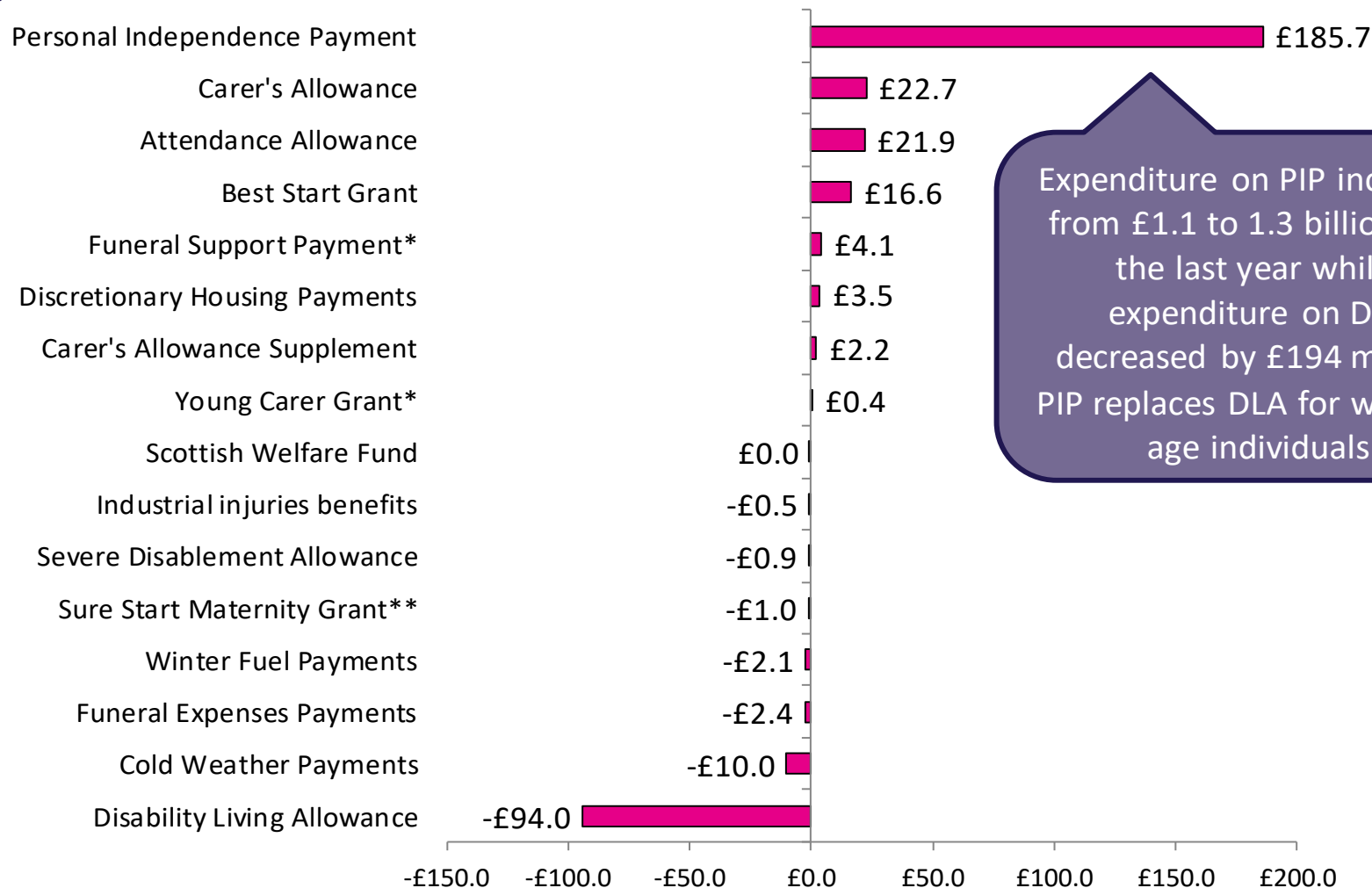
Expenditure in Scotland on devolved and new benefits – 2019/20

This chart includes expenditure by both UK Government and Scottish Government in Scotland in 2019/20. There are additional reserved benefits in Scotland that are not included on this chart, but are summarised on the [reserved benefits](#) slide.



Funeral Expenses Payment was replaced with Funeral Support Payment in September 2019, and expenditure on Funeral Expenses Payment is an estimate based on a proportion of 2019/20 spend at GB level. Source: DWP benefit expenditure by region from 1996/97 to 2019/20, DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2020, NRS Mid-Year Population estimates. Industrial Injuries benefits includes IIDB - a further breakdown is unavailable. Additional expenditure on individuals in Scotland is summarised on the 'Reserved benefits and UC Scottish choices' slide.

Change in expenditure in Scotland between 2018/19 & 2019/20



Expenditure on PIP increased from £1.1 to 1.3 billion over the last year whilst expenditure on DLA decreased by £194 million. PIP replaces DLA for working-age individuals

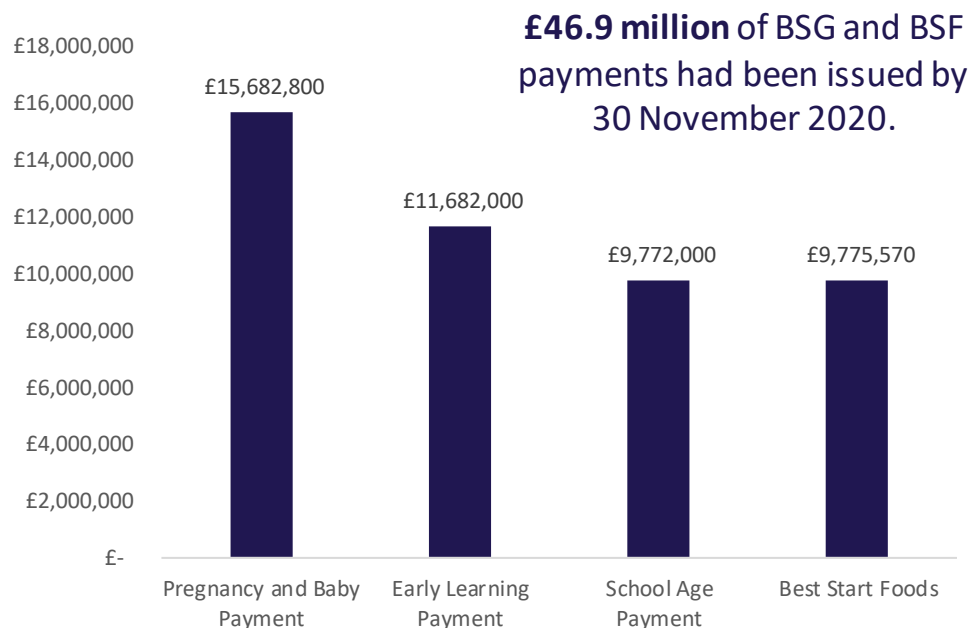
Nominal Change in Benefit Expenditure (£m) between 2018/19 and 2019/20

*New benefits in 2019/20, no expenditure on these in 2018/19. **Sure Start Maternity Grant was completely replaced by Best Start Grant during 2019/20. Source: DWP benefit expenditure by region from 1996/97 to 2019/20 and in DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2020. Industrial Injuries benefits includes IIDB. A further breakdown is unavailable. Funeral Expenses Payment was replaced with Funeral Support Payment in September 2019, and expenditure on Funeral Expenses Payment is an estimate based on a proportion of 2019/20 spend at GB level.

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods – November 2020

Best Start Grant (BSG) includes three types of payment: Pregnancy and Baby Payment (applications taken from 10 December 2018, replacing Sure Start Maternity Grant), Early Learning Payment (29 April 2019) and School Age Payment (3 June 2019). Best Start Foods (BSF) replaced Healthy Start Vouchers for new claims from 12 August 2019.

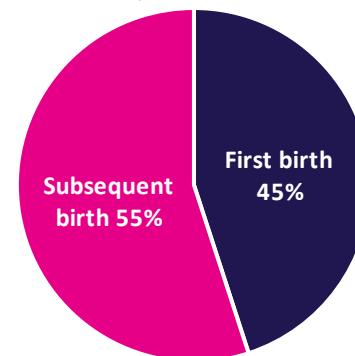
In 2019/20, **£22.5 million** was paid to clients in total, including **£6.6 million** for Pregnancy and Baby Payment, **£8.0 million** for Early Learning Payment, **£4.5 million** for School Age Payment and **£3.3 million** for Best Start Foods.



From 10 December 2018 to 31 November 2020, **230,560** BSG/BSF applications were received, **216,810** applications had been processed and **148,070 (68%** of processed applications) had been authorised for payment.

Of these authorised applications **38,380** included Pregnancy and Baby Payment, **44,475** included Early Learning Payment, **37,565** included School Age Payment and **57,990** included a Best Start Foods Payments.

55% of BSG Pregnancy and Baby applications made were for subsequent births².



Funeral Support Payment – December 2020

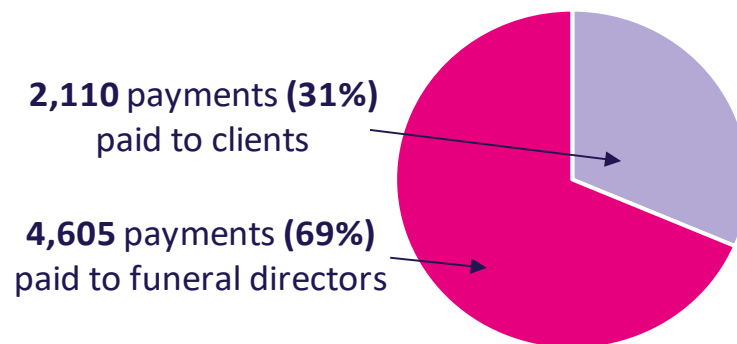
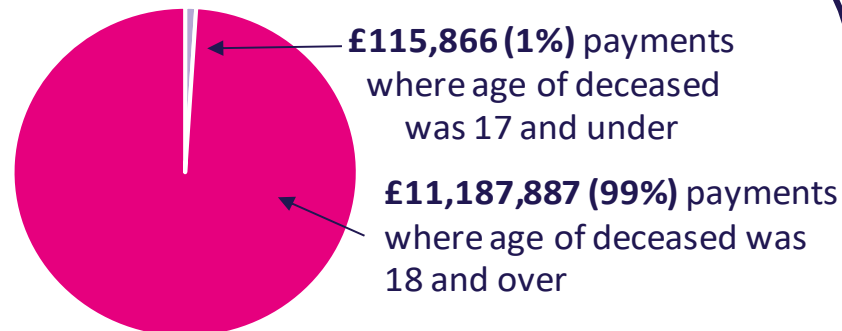
Funeral Support Payment (FSP) is a cash payment to help towards the costs of a funeral. Applications have been taken by Social Security Scotland since 16 September 2019. This replaced the Funeral Expenses Payment (FEP), which DWP ceased to deliver in Scotland on the same day.

£34 million was spent on FEP in 2019/20 at GB level. Based on this we have used an estimate of **around £1 million** for FEP expenditure in Scotland in 2019/20 from April to August 2019. From September 2019 to March 2020, total value of Funeral Support Payments paid to clients by Social Security Scotland was **around £3.5 million**.

From 16 September 2019 to 31 December 2020, Social Security Scotland received **10,215** applications for Funeral Support Payment.

...of these **9,685** had been processed by 31 December 2020 and **7,430 (77%)** authorised.

6,710 payments had been issued, totalling **£11.3 million**. The average payment was around £1500 in 2019/20, and around £1800 so far in 2020/21.



Young Carer Grant – January 2021

Young Carer Grant (YCG) is a cash payment for young carers providing 16 hours or more of care a week to someone in receipt of a qualifying disability benefit. Applications have been taken by Social Security Scotland since 21 October 2019.

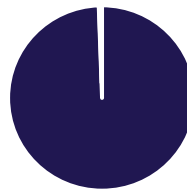
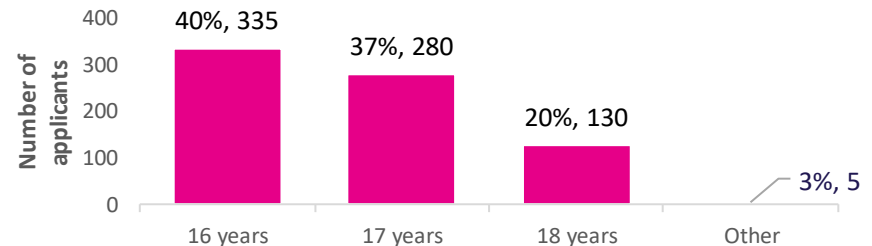
The Young Carer Grant payment is a flat rate of £300 which can be applied for once a year. The payment is in acknowledgement of the young person's carer role and is intended to help them access life opportunities that are the norm for many other young people. Young carers can spend this money as they choose.

From 21 October 2019 to 31 January 2021, Social Security Scotland received **4,455** applications for Young Carer Grant.

...of these **4,120** had been processed by 31 January 2021 and **2,915 (71%)** authorised.

The total value of payments issued was **£861,634**.

Applicants must be 16, 17, or 18 years of age at the time of applying. **1,790** applications (**40%**) were received from applicants aged 16 years, **1,655** applications (**37%**) from applicants aged 17 years and **890** applications (**20%**) from applicants aged 18 years. An additional **3%** of applications came from other age groups.



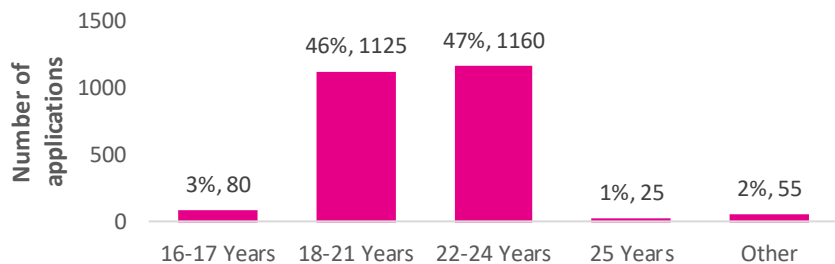
Around **99%** of all applications received were for applicants **caring for one person**. Around **1%** of applications were for applicants **caring for two people**.

Job Start Payment – December 2020

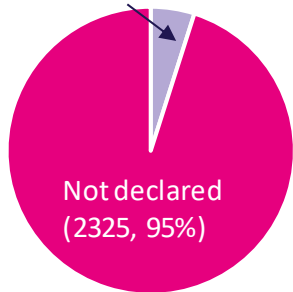
Job Start Payment (JSP) is a new payment to help young people in Scotland with the costs associated with the transition into employment, after a period of time out of paid work. Applications have been taken by Social Security Scotland since 17 August 2020.

The payment is a one-off cash sum of either £250 for those who do not have responsibility for a child or a higher amount of £400 for those who do. The upper age is extended to 25 if the young person is a care leaver.

From 17 August 2020 to 31 December 2020, **2,445** applications were received for Job Start Payment. Approximately 93% applicants were aged 18 to 24.



Care leaver (120, 5%)



Around **5%** of applications received included evidence that the applicant was a care leaver.

The remaining **95%** of applications were from applicants who did not provide evidence of being a care leaver

In total, **2,095** applications were processed by 31 December 2020. Of the processed applications, 33% were authorised, 65% were denied, and 2% were withdrawn.

The total value of payments issued up to 31 December was **£190,250**. Of these payments, **£70,000** were for clients with a child responsibility and **£120,250** were for clients without a child responsibility

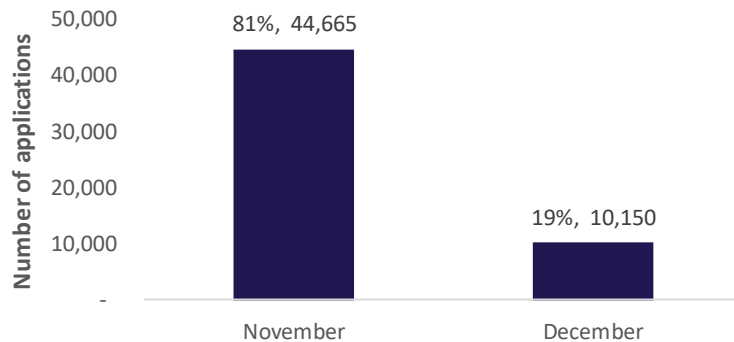


Scottish Child Payment – December 2020

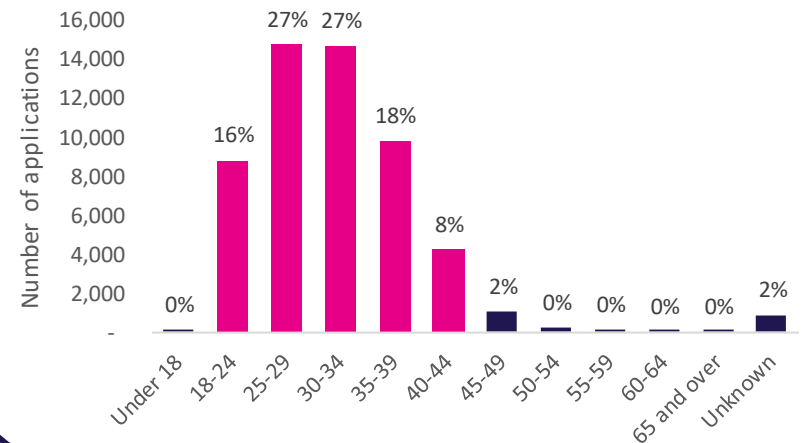
Scottish Child Payment (SCP) is a weekly payment of £10 that people can get for every child they look after under 6 years of age. It is intended to provide regular, additional financial support for families already in receipt of qualifying benefits to assist with the costs of caring for a child.

Social Security Scotland invited clients to **apply in advance** of the benefit being launched to help manage the expected demand, with applications received since 9 November 2020. Applicants will receive a decision from 15 February 2021 onwards, with the **first payments due to be made to clients from the end of February 2021**. Information about applications processed, value of payments and client characteristics will follow when statistics are updated in future.

From 9 November 2020 to 31 December 2020, **54,815 applications** were received for Scottish Child Payment. In November, 44,665 applications for Scottish Child Payment were received, representing **81%** of the total applications received. In December, 10,150 applications were received.



Around **96%** of applications were made by people aged **18 to 44** by end of December 2020. **Less than 1%** of applications were made by people **under 18** and **2%** by people aged **45 or over**. Around 2% of applications received were made by applicants who had not provided information relating to their age.

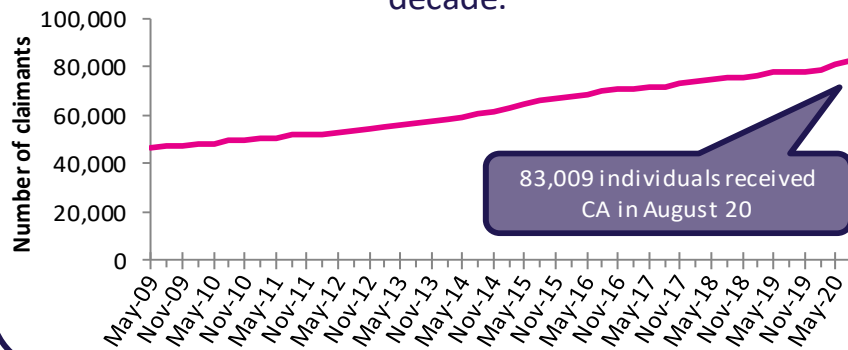


Carer's Allowance (August 2020) & Carer's Allowance Supplement (October 2020)

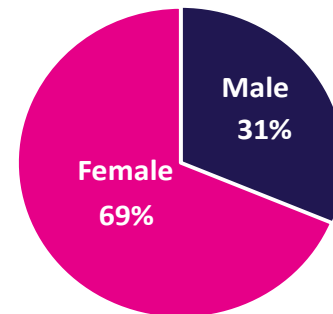
Carer's Allowance (CA) is provided to help an individual look after someone with substantial caring needs. Must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week providing care. Devolved in September 2018. Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) was introduced in September 2018, and is paid twice a year to carers eligible on eligibility dates in April and October.

In 2019/20 **£284 million** was spent on Carer's Allowance in Scotland, with an additional **£37 million** on Carer's Allowance Supplement.

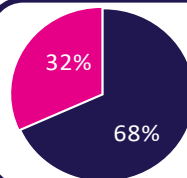
CA caseload has been increasing steadily over the last decade.



Gender split

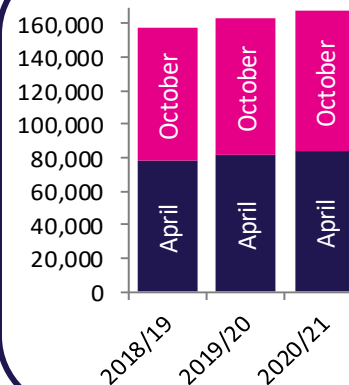
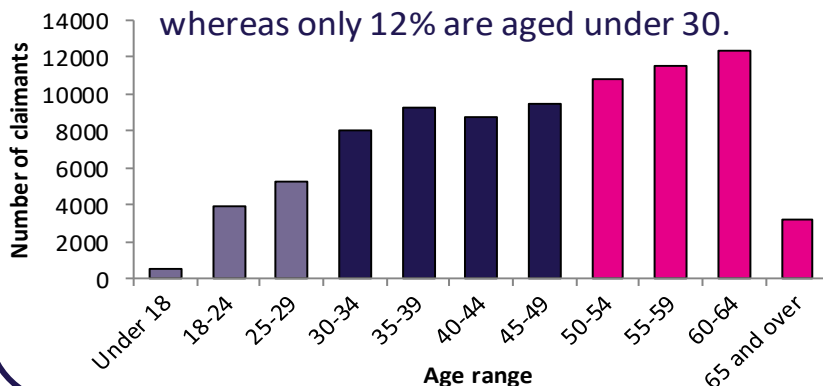


Over two thirds (**70%**) of claimants have been receiving CA for over 2 years, with **40%** receiving CA for 5 years and over.



32% of CA claimants are entitled to CA but do not receive a CA payment. This is because they are also in receipt of another benefit, such as State Pension, JSA or ESA, which provide a higher level of income.

46% of CA claimants are aged 50 or over, whereas only 12% are aged under 30.



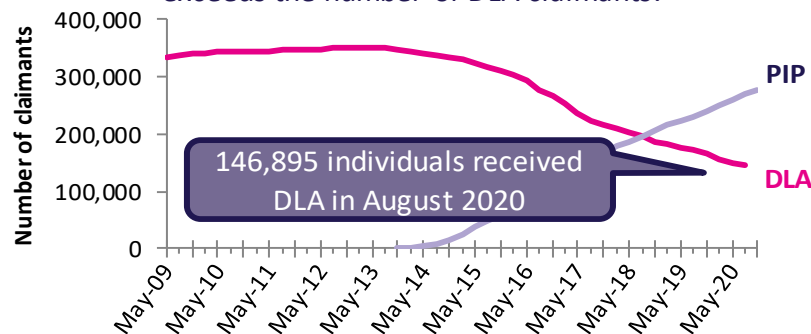
Since launching in September 2018, **489,350** Carer's Allowance Supplement payments totalling **£129.8 million** have been made to **113,750** carers. Carers receiving a payment for the 13 April 2020 eligibility date received a one-off Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement (£230.10) in addition to standard Carer's Allowance Supplement (£230.10).

Disability Living Allowance in Scotland – August 2020

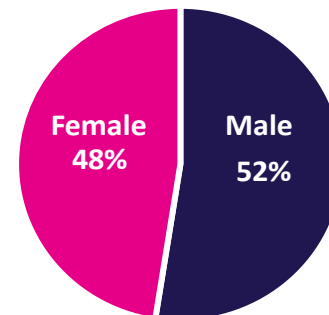
Provides help if health or a disability means a person needs help looking after themselves, or if they have difficulty walking. DLA is being replaced by PIP for working age people.

In 2019/20, £801m was spent on DLA in Scotland, 11% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).

DLA caseload steadily increased but started falling as a result of the introduction of PIP in 2013. The number of PIP claimants now exceeds the number of DLA claimants.



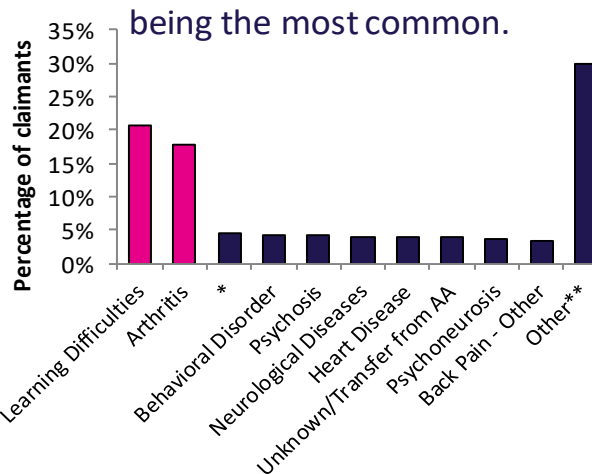
Gender split



The majority (82%) of claimants have been receiving DLA for over 5 years, with 10% receiving DLA for between 2 to 5 years.

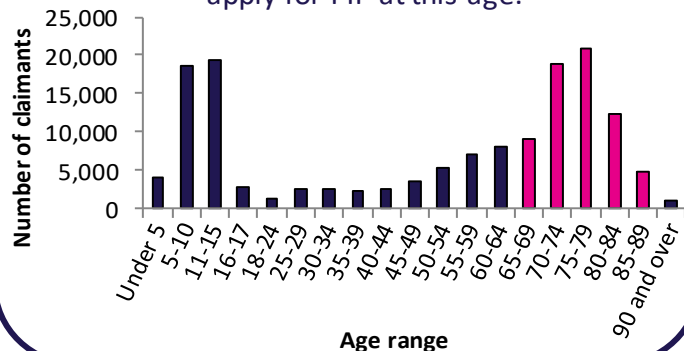
There is a wide range of main disabling conditions for DLA with **arthritis** and **learning difficulties** being the most common.

72% of DLA claimants are in receipt of both the Mobility and Care elements of DLA.



*Disease of the Muscle, bones or joints,
**"Other" = 45 other qualifying conditions

45% of DLA claimants are aged 65 or over. Claimant numbers drop at age 16 as claimants apply for PIP at this age.



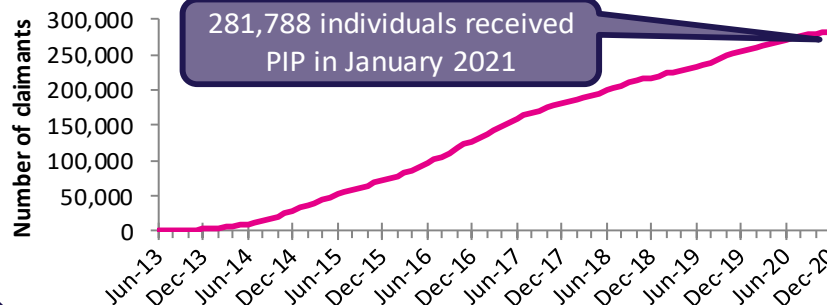
		Mobility Rate		
		Higher	Lower	Nil
Care Award Rate	Highest	17%	9%	3%
	Middle	13%	20%	7%
	Lowest	9%	5%	5%
	Nil	10%	2%	0%

Personal Independence Payments in Scotland – January 2021

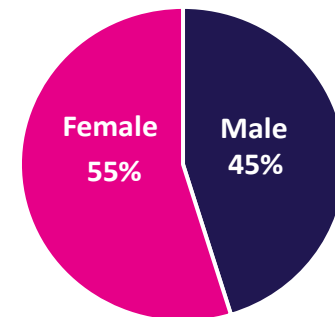
PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or disability for individuals aged 16 to 64. It is also replacing DLA for working age individuals.

In 2019/20, £1303m was spent on PIP in Scotland, 10% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).

Introduced to Scotland in June 2013. PIP caseload increases as DLA claimants are reassessed onto PIP.



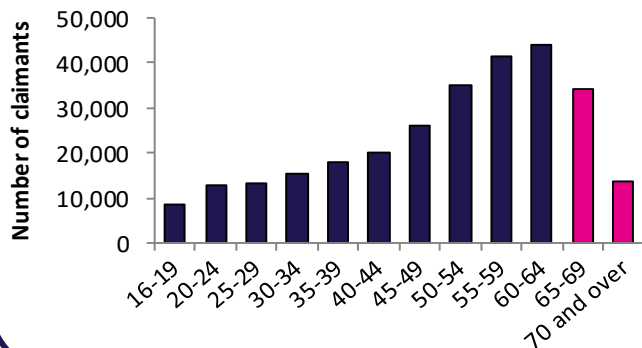
Gender split



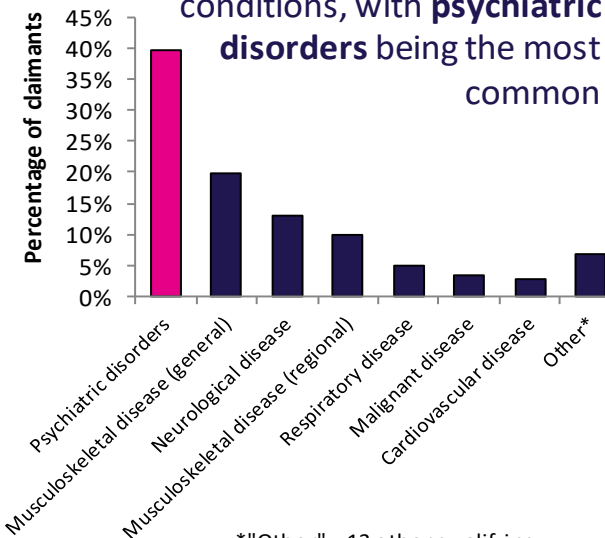
46% of current PIP claimants have been re-assessed from DLA.

1% of current PIP claimants are classed as being terminally ill.

17% of all PIP claimants are aged 65 and over, a much smaller proportion than for DLA



Wide range of main disabling conditions, with **psychiatric disorders** being the most common



**"Other" = 13 other qualifying conditions plus other or unknown

69% of PIP claimants are in receipt of both the mobility and daily living elements of PIP.

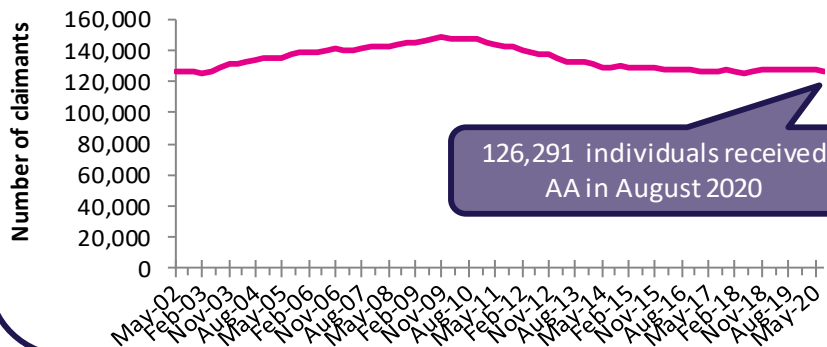
		Mobility Award Rate		
		Enhanced	Standard	Nil
Daily Living Award	Enhanced	31%	10%	6%
	Standard	10%	18%	21%
Nil		1%	2%	0%

Attendance Allowance in Scotland – August 2020

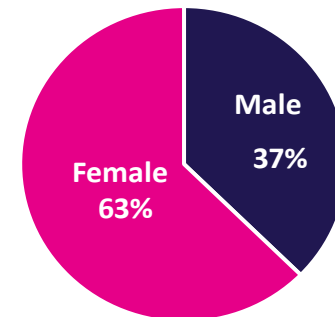
AA provides help with personal care for individuals aged 65 or over with a physical or mental disability.

In 2019/20, £527m was spent on AA in Scotland, 9% of the GB total which is slightly more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).

AA caseload peaked in November 2009 with 147,990 claimants. AA has maintained stable levels in recent years

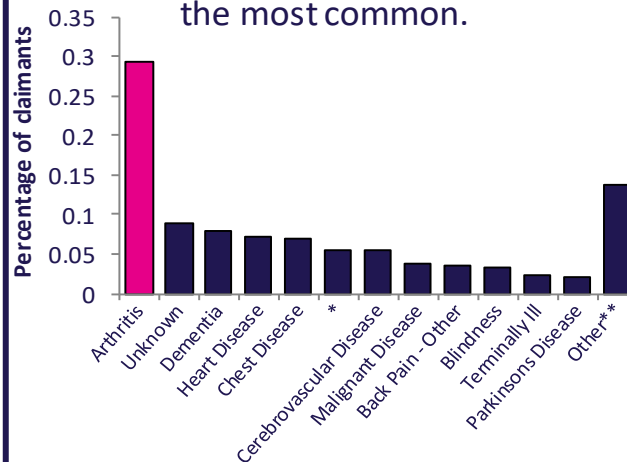


Gender split

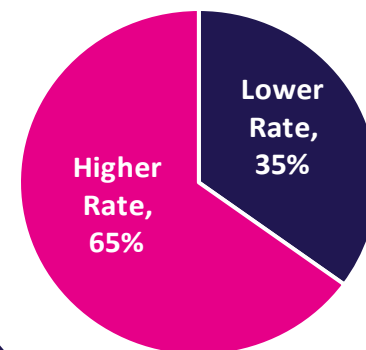


41% of claimants have been receiving AA for over 5 years, and 30% have been receiving AA for between 2 to 5 years.

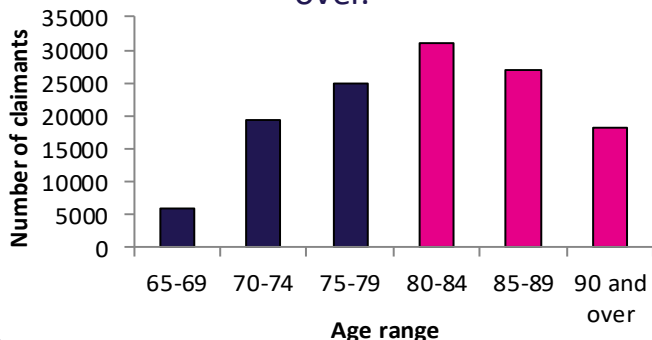
Wide range of main disabling conditions for AA, with arthritis being the most common.



65% of AA claimants receive the higher rate of care, meaning they require both day and night care or are terminally ill.



60% of all AA claimants are aged 80 or over.



*Disease of the Muscle, bones or joints

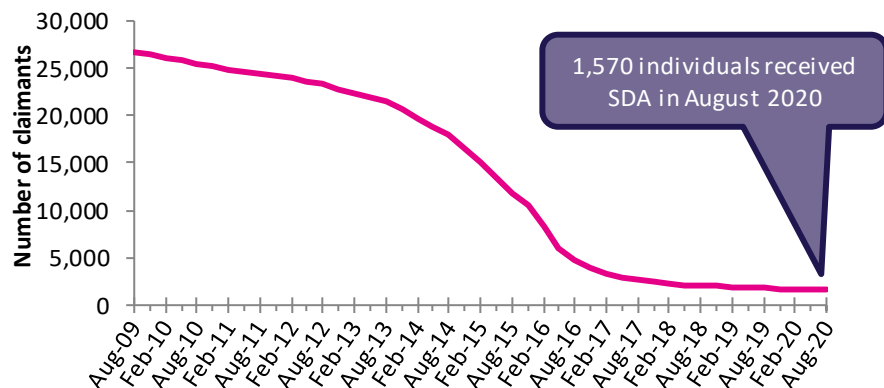
** "Other" = 43 other qualifying conditions

Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland – August 2020

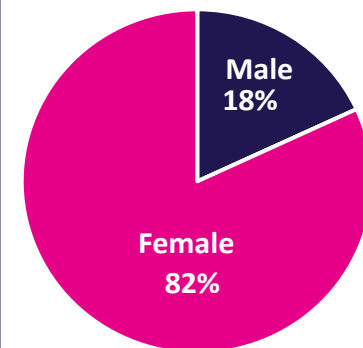
SDA is for working age individuals who are unable to work due to illness or disability. It was closed to new entrants and the provision replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance.

In 2019/20, £9m was spent on SDA in Scotland, 10% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).

SDA caseload is falling as it is closed to new claimants.

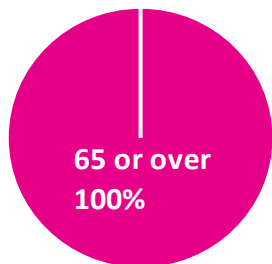


Gender split

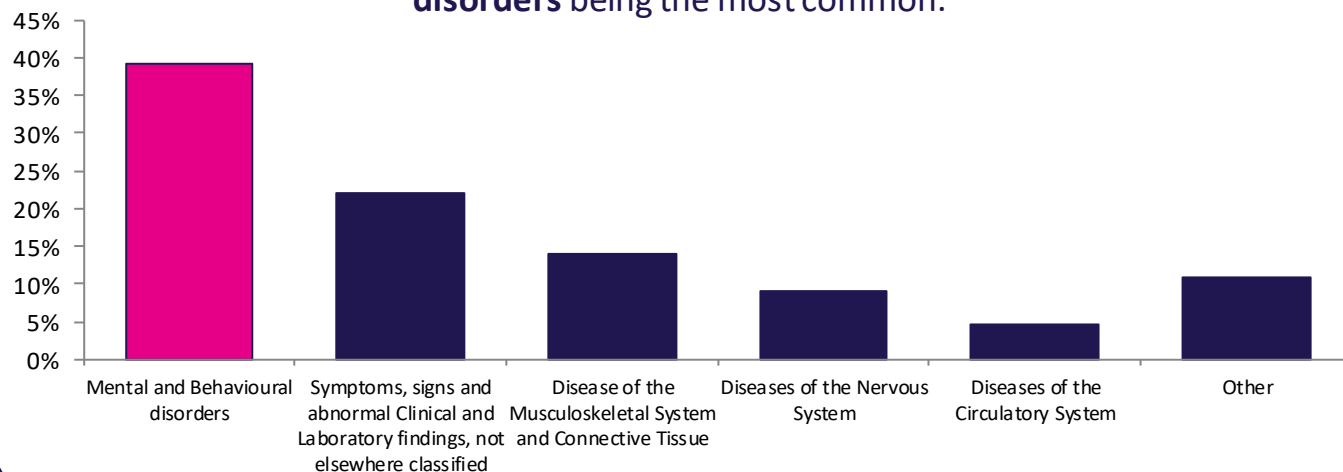


100% of SDA claimants are now aged 65 or over.

This is because the benefit has been closed to new claimants since 2001.



There are a wide range of causes of incapacity for SDA with **mental and behavioural disorders** being the most common.

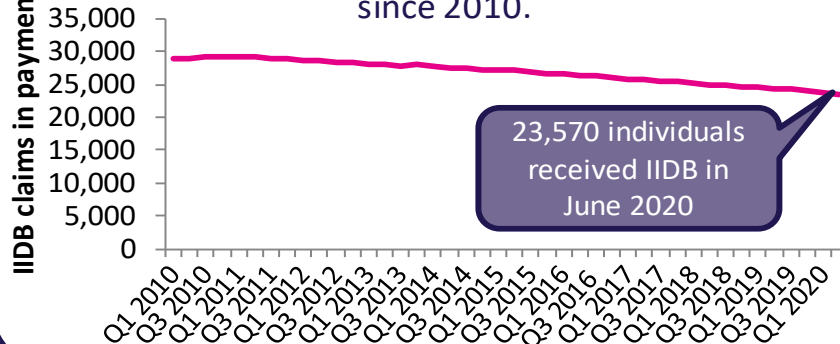


Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit in Scotland – June 2020

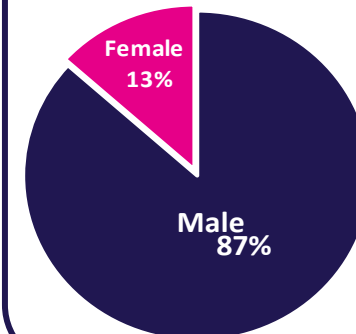
For those who are ill or disabled as a result of an accident or disease caused by work or while they were on an approved employment training scheme or course.

In 2019/20, £81m was spent on IIDB in Scotland, 10% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).

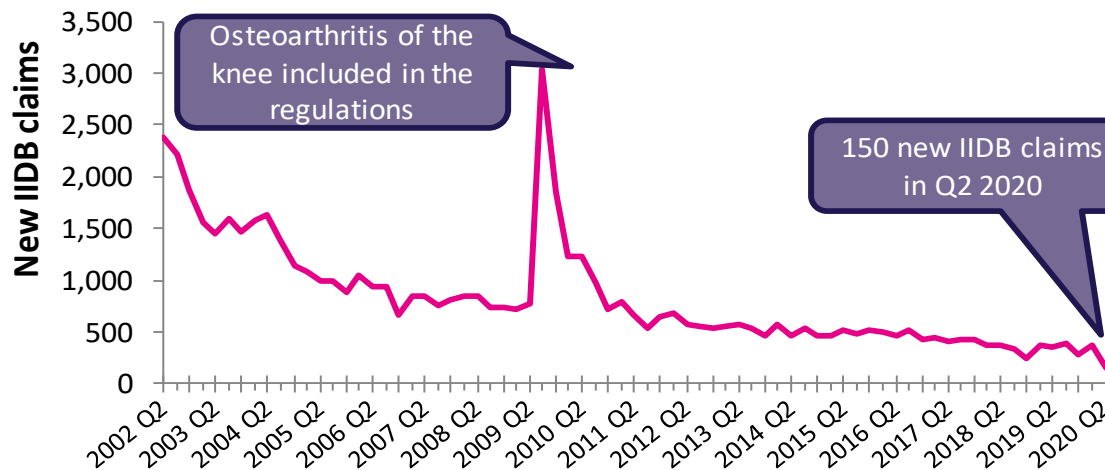
IIDB claims in payment have been slowly decreasing since 2010.



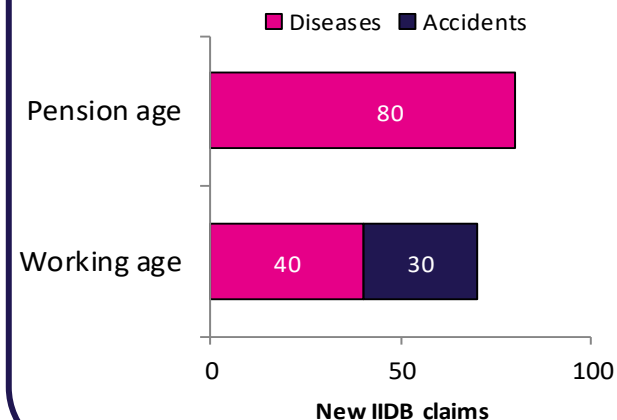
Gender Split of New IIDB Claims



The number of new claimants each quarter has been decreasing since 2002, except for when a new prescribed disease was added.



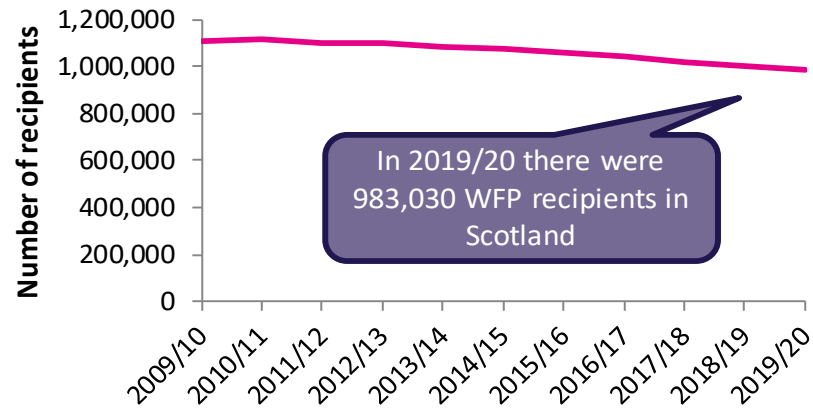
Qualifying conditions for new claims were 80% diseases and 20% accidents in the latest quarter.



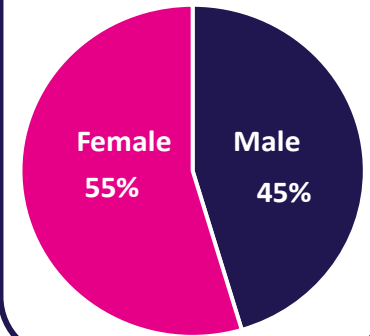
Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland – 2019/20

Tax-free payment to help with heating bills. For those born on or before 5 July 1952 (current State Pension Age for women). Must be UK resident during a specified week in September of that year.

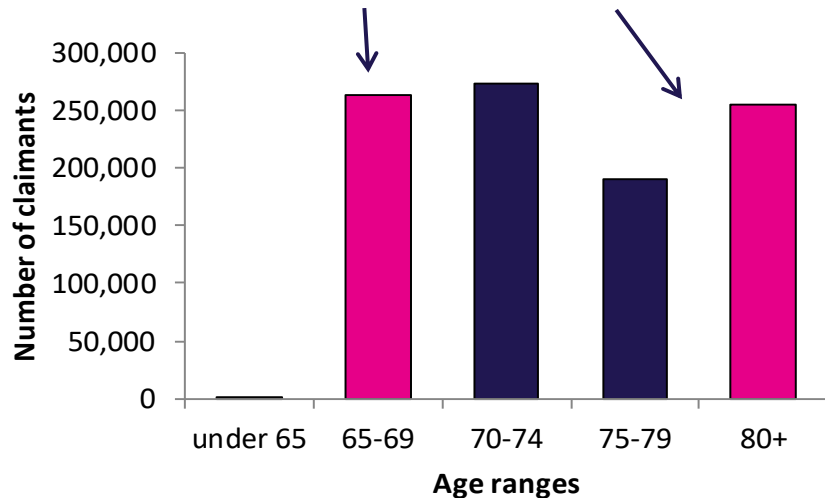
In 2019/20, £171m was spent on WFP in Scotland, 9% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.4%).



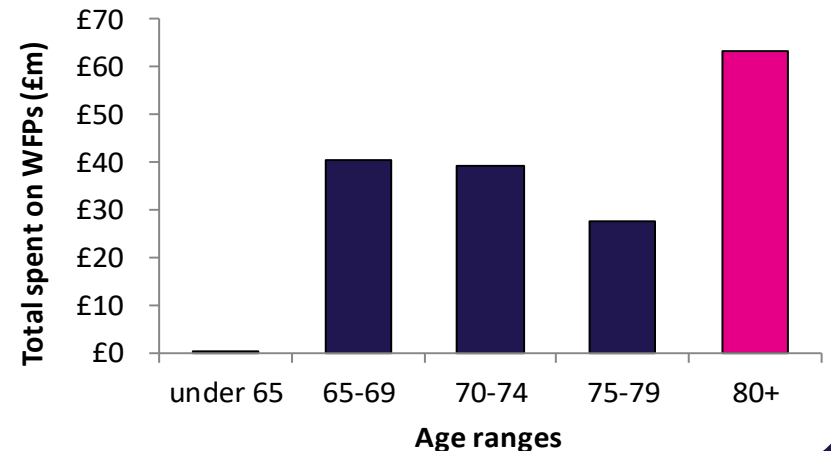
Gender split



27% of claimants are aged 65-69, and a 26% are over 80.



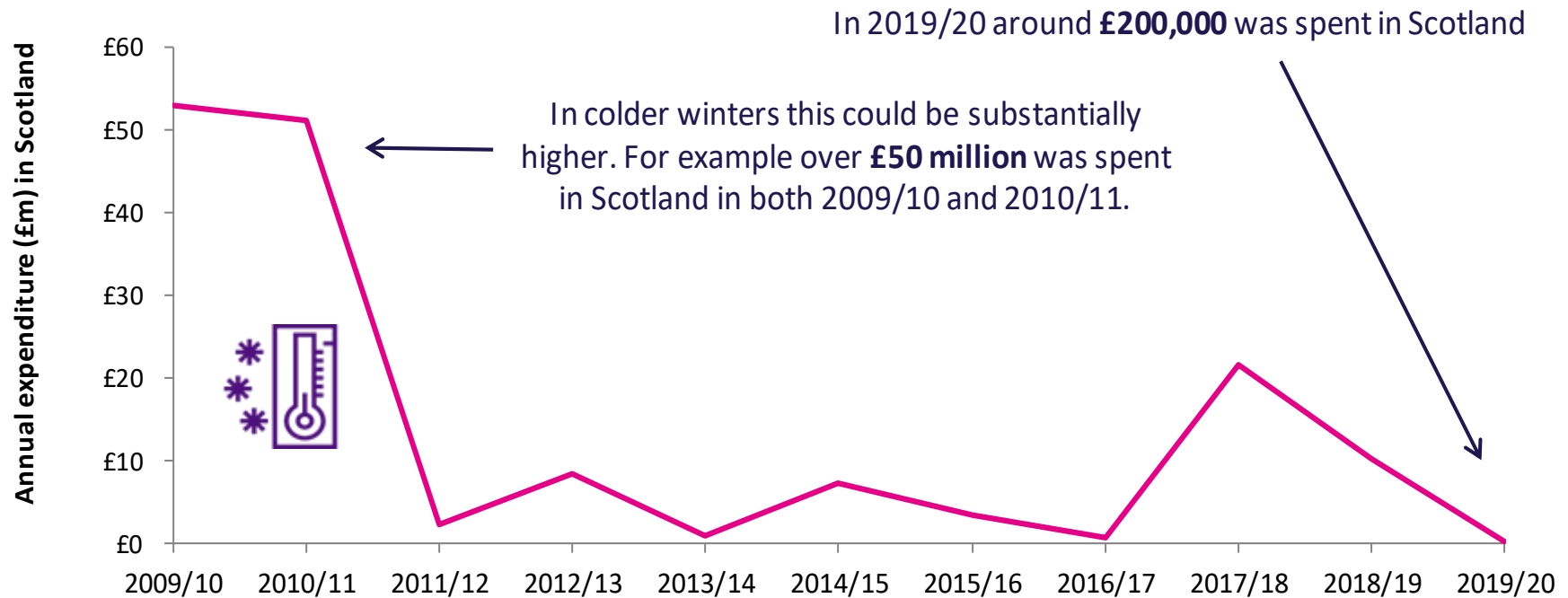
WFPs depend on age and circumstances. Older people receive higher payments on average, so the greatest amount in total is received by the 80+ age group.



Cold Weather Payments in Scotland - 2019/20

Cold Weather Payments are for those receiving certain benefits, for when the temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of 0°C or below over 7 consecutive days. Cold Weather Payments are the last part of the Regulated Social Fund that has not been replaced in Scotland. The Regulated Social Fund also used to include Funeral Expenses Payment (replaced in Scotland by [Funeral Support Payment](#)) and Sure Start Maternity Grant (replaced in Scotland by [Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment](#)).

Expenditure on Cold Weather Payments is variable year to year...



Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland – September 2020

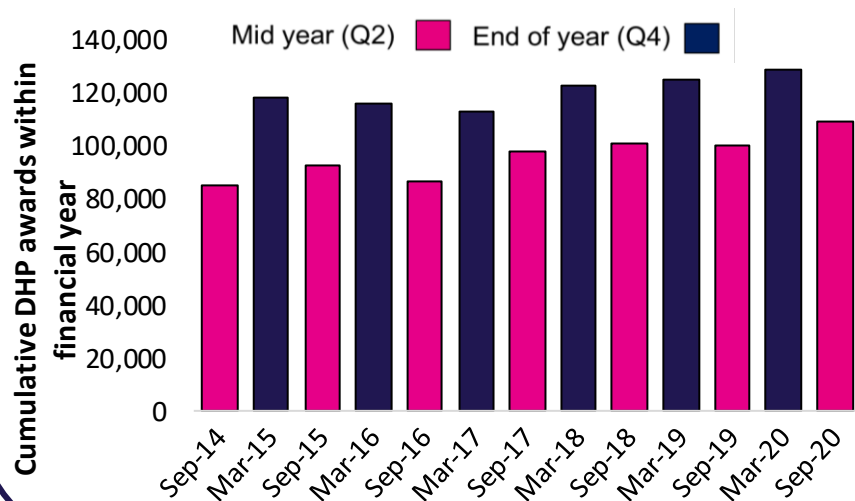
Help to meet rent payments for Housing Benefit recipients.

Paid at Local Authority discretion. As of April 2017, DHPs are fully devolved to Scottish Government.

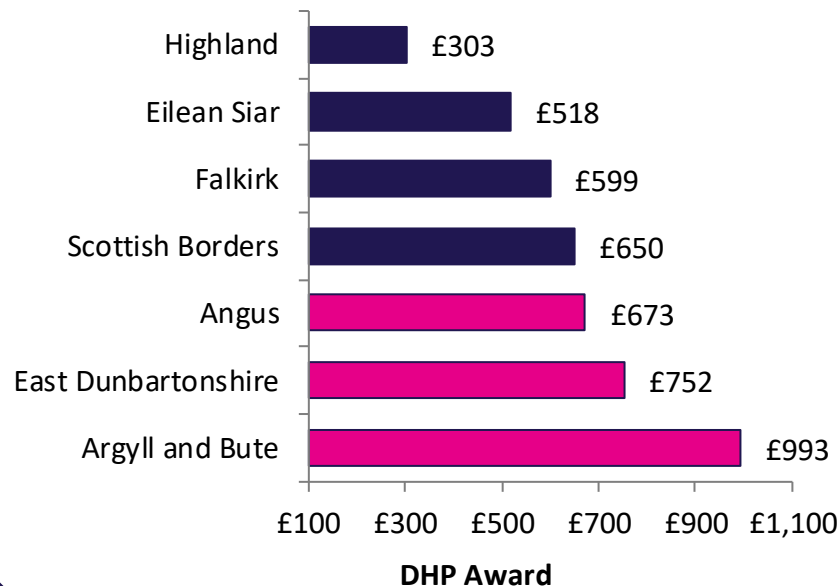
The total value of awards across Scotland in 2019/20 was **£66.0 million**. Monthly statistics show that **£72.0 million** had been committed to be spent in 2020/21 by January 2021, 13% more than by January 2020.

DHP awards include a sizeable number of cases affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy (the 'bedroom tax'), where local authorities have continued to make up their shortfall in weekly rent through the use of DHPs.

In 2019/20 local authorities processed **119,715 applications** and made **128,650 awards**. By September 2020 **108,915 awards** had been made, with committed spend for 2020/21 at **£66.0 million**.



By September 2020 the average DHP award was **£606**. The average award varies between local authorities.

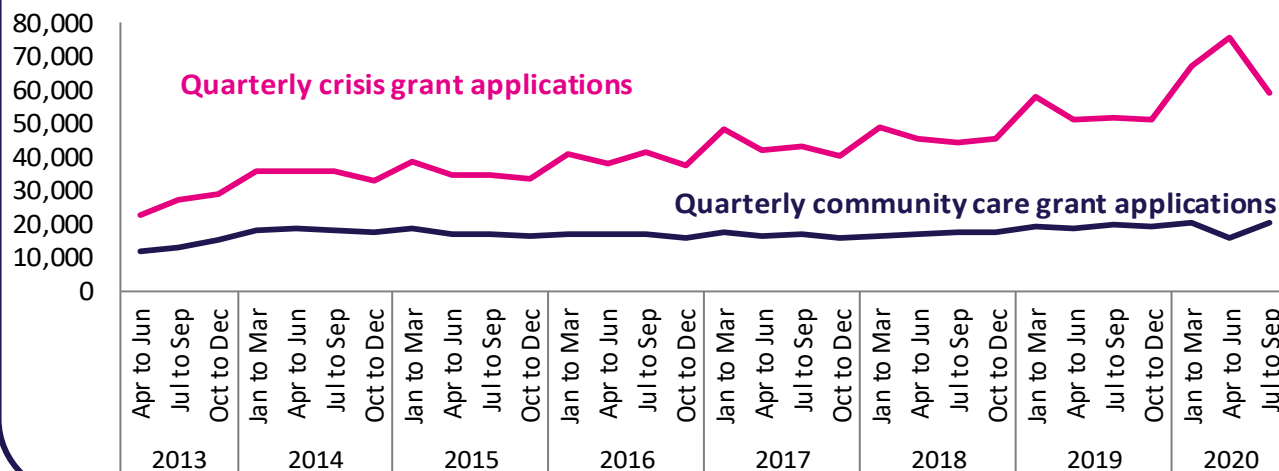


Scottish Welfare Fund – September 2020

National grant scheme run by Local Authorities. Crisis Grants provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency. Community Care Grants (CCGs) enable people to live independently, preventing the need for institutional care.

In 2019/20, a total of **£37.6m** was awarded through the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). This included **£24.7m** on CCGs and **£12.9m** on crisis grants. This was funded by **£33m** allocated to the SWF by Scottish Government, **£1.9m** underspend from 2018/19m, and additional funds from local authorities.

In the quarter from July to September 2020 there were **20,570** applications for CCGs and **58,895** for crisis grants. **10,630** CCGs and **38,565** crisis grants were awarded.



CCGs are most commonly awarded for floor coverings, beds and bedding and kitchen appliances.



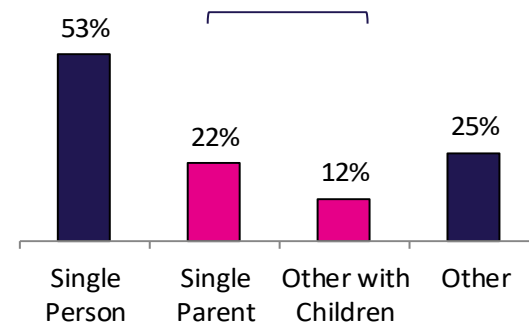
In July to September 2020 the average value of a CCG award was **£592**

Crisis grants are most commonly awarded for food, essential heating expenses and other living expenses.

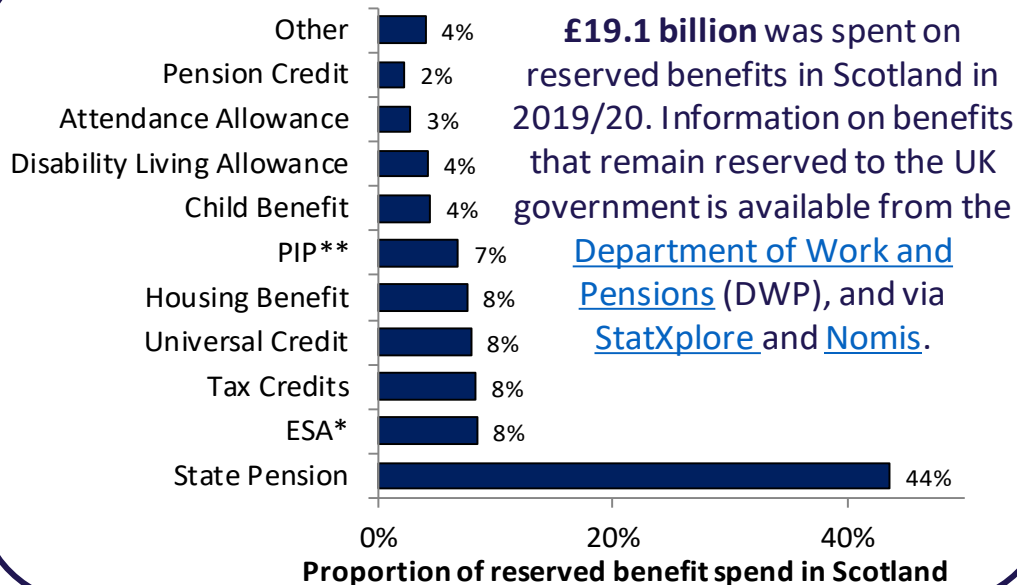


In July to September 2020 the average value of a crisis grant award was **£99**

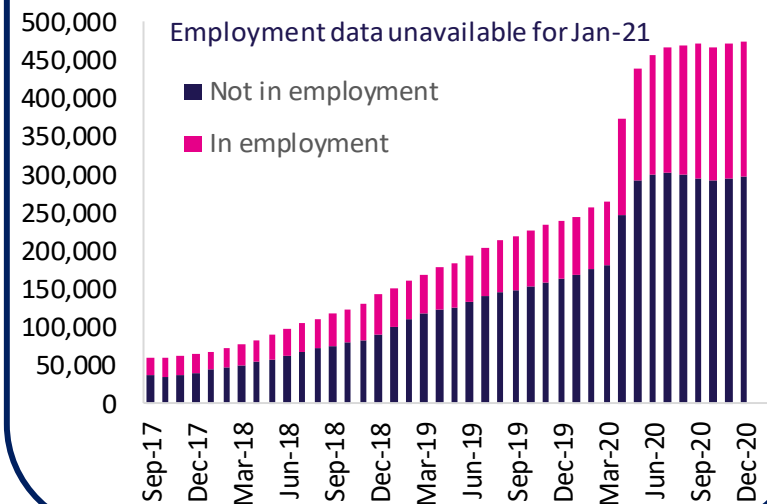
403,510 households have received an award since the SWF scheme began in 2013. Of these, 1 in 3 have been families with children.



Reserved benefits and UC Scottish choices

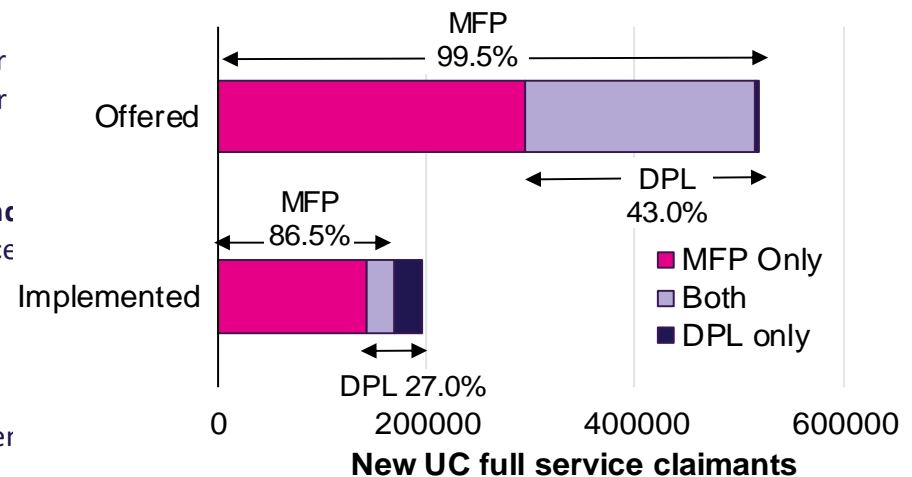


At January 2021 **482,951** people in Scotland received Universal Credit.



Universal Credit (Scottish choices) give recipients of Universal Credit (UC) in full service areas a choice to have their award paid either monthly or twice monthly (MFP) and/or have the housing costs in their award of UC paid direct to their landlord (DPL).

Since October 2017, a total of **195,540** new claimants were offered and took up one or both UC Scottish choices. The rate of new UC full service claimants who took up at least one of the UC Scottish choices offered was **38 per cent** in August 2020. In total up to the end of August 2020, **224,790** people have taken up one or two choices, either with or without an offer (this includes new, existing and live to full transfer claimants). Of those, **184,150** have chosen MFP and **75,030** have chosen DPL.



Sources: DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2020, DWP benefit expenditure by Region 1996/97 to 2019/20, HMRC Tax Receipts between England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland. Stat Xplore. Scottish Universal Credit Choices - management information to end August 2020. *Employment Support Allowance, **Personal Independence Payment.

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Social Security Scotland

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Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics
<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#carer'sallowanceandcarer'sallowancesupplementstatistics>

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Scottish Child Payment statistics <https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#scottishchildpaymentstatistics>

AA	Attendance Allowance	JSA	Jobseeker's Allowance
BSG	Best Start Grant	JSP	Job Start Payment
CA	Carer's Allowance	PC	Pension Credit
CAS	Carer's Allowance Supplement	PIP	Personal Independence Payment
CWP	Cold Weather Payment	SCP	Scottish Child Payment
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payments	SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	SP	State Pension
DWP	Department for Work & Pensions	SPA	State Pension Age
ESA	Employment & Support Allowance	SSMG	Sure Start Maternity Grant
FSP	Funeral Support Payment	UC	Universal Credit
IB	Incapacity Benefit	WA	Widow's Allowance
IIDB	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	WFP	Winter Fuel Payment
IS	Income Support	YCG	Young Carer Grant