



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement, April eligibility date 2021 and Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2021

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, at May 2021 will be released in November 2021.

Carer's Allowance Supplement, October 2021 eligibility update will be released in February 2022.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2021. This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) to the April eligibility date 2021. This publication also includes an update of Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics for previous eligibility dates in 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Carer's Allowance Supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government. The [Background Note](#) has further detail on eligibility dates.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#benefitsforcarersanddisabilityassistance>

The Scotland Act 2016³ gives Scottish Parliament powers over Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, which had been administered to Scottish claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. From 1 April 2020, executive competency for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance was also transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf.

The statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance are being published as official statistics in accordance with Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics⁴ to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

³ The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

⁴ <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/>

The statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement are being published as experimental statistics, which are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as "new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage." These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics⁵.

⁵ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/experimental-statistics-official-statistics-in-development/>

Carer's Allowance Supplement at April 2021

Eligibility Date

- 82,590 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to carers who were eligible in April 2021 so far **[Table 1, Chart 1]**. Each payment was for £231.40 - giving a total expenditure of £19.1 million. The total expenditure is lower than in April 2020 as in April 2020 each payment was £460.20 – including the standard Carer's Allowance Supplement of £230.10 and a one-off Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement of £230.10 - giving a total expenditure of £38.7 million.
- The number of carers paid so far for April 2021 is around 1,400 lower than for April 2020. However, this is likely to increase as the April 2021 figure does not yet include any backdated payments. The [Background Note](#) shows that for previous eligibility dates, the number of carers receiving payments has increased by around 5% through backdating of payments to carers that are found to have been eligible for past dates in subsequent scans. This suggests that the number of carers receiving payment for April 2021 could increase by around 5%, or 4,000 carers, as the statistics are updated in future.
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to female carers (56,640 payments, 68.6 per cent), while 31.3 per cent of payments were made to male carers (25,875 payments) **[Table 1]**.
- Overall the number of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments increased with age band up to age 64, while relatively few payments were made to those aged 65 and over **[Table 2, Chart 2]**. Around four times as many Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to carers aged over 50 (38,085 payments, 46.1 per cent), compared to those aged under 30 (9,180, 11.1 per cent). Only a small proportion of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to carers aged 65 and over (3,320 payments, 4.0 per cent) or under 18 (420 payments, less than one per cent) **[Chart 2]**.
- The local authorities with the greatest numbers of carers receiving Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were Glasgow City (13,045, 15.8 per cent), North Lanarkshire (6,985, 8.5 per cent), Fife (6,280, 7.6 per cent), South Lanarkshire (5,840, 7.1 per cent) and City of Edinburgh (4,710, 5.7 per cent). **[Table 3, Chart 4]**.

Chart 1: Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by eligibility date - April 2018 to April 2021

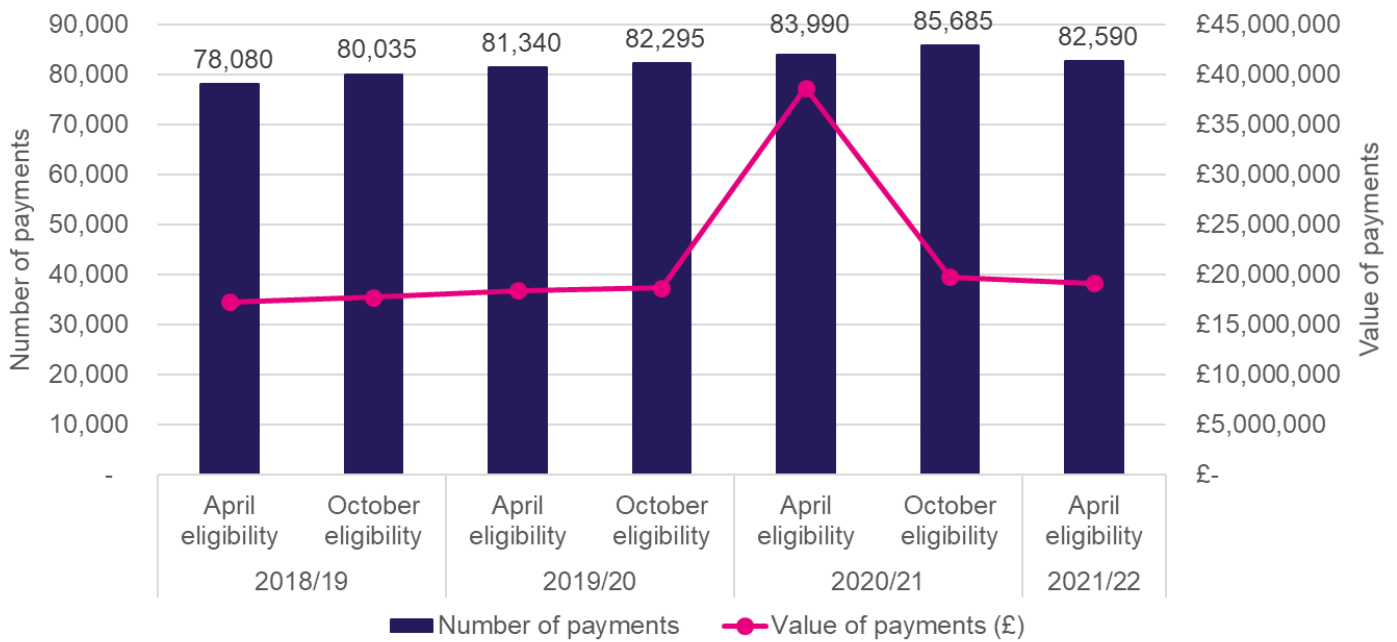


Chart 2: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by age band – April 2021 eligibility date

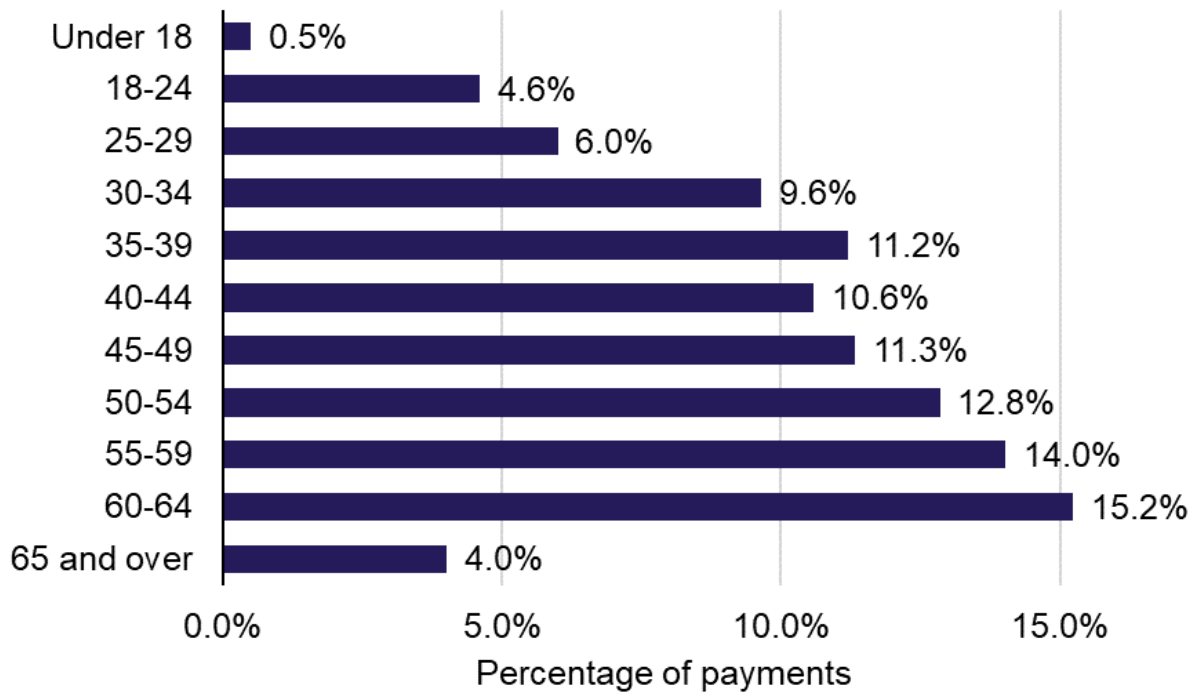


Chart 3: Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by age band – April 2018 eligibility date compared to April 2021 eligibility date

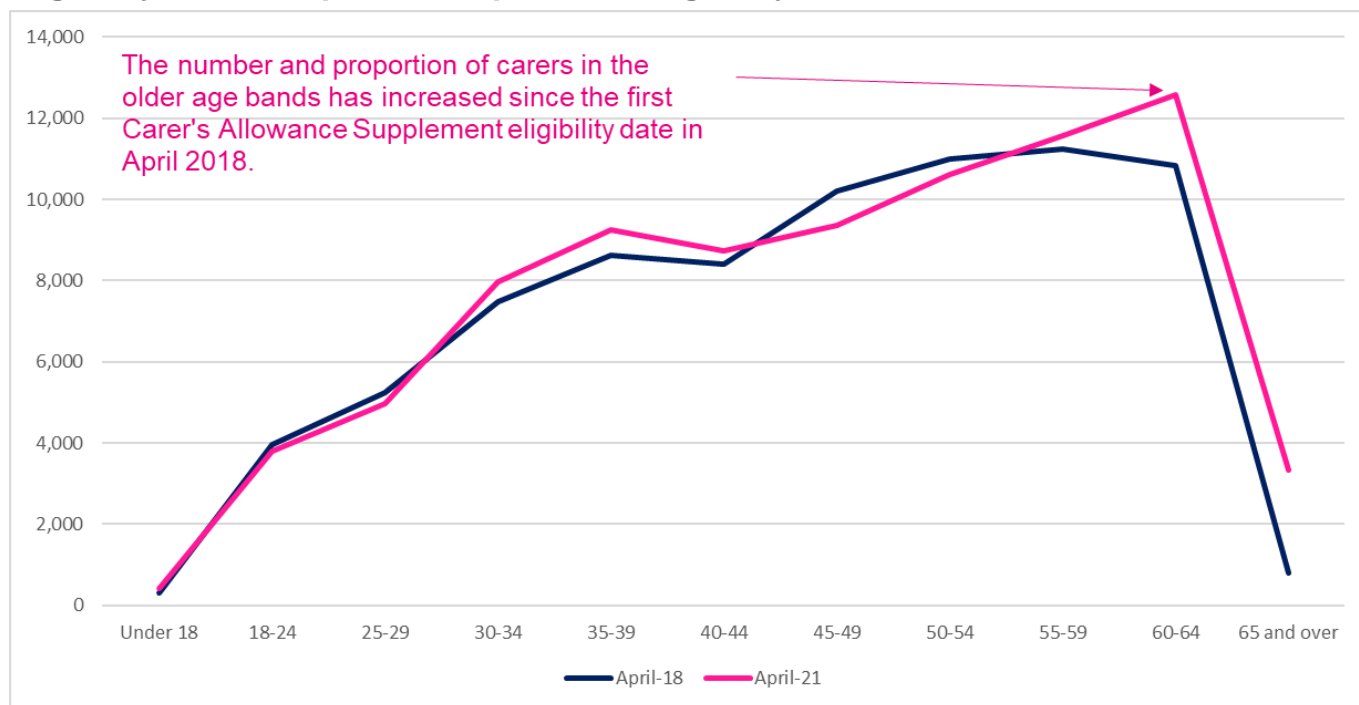
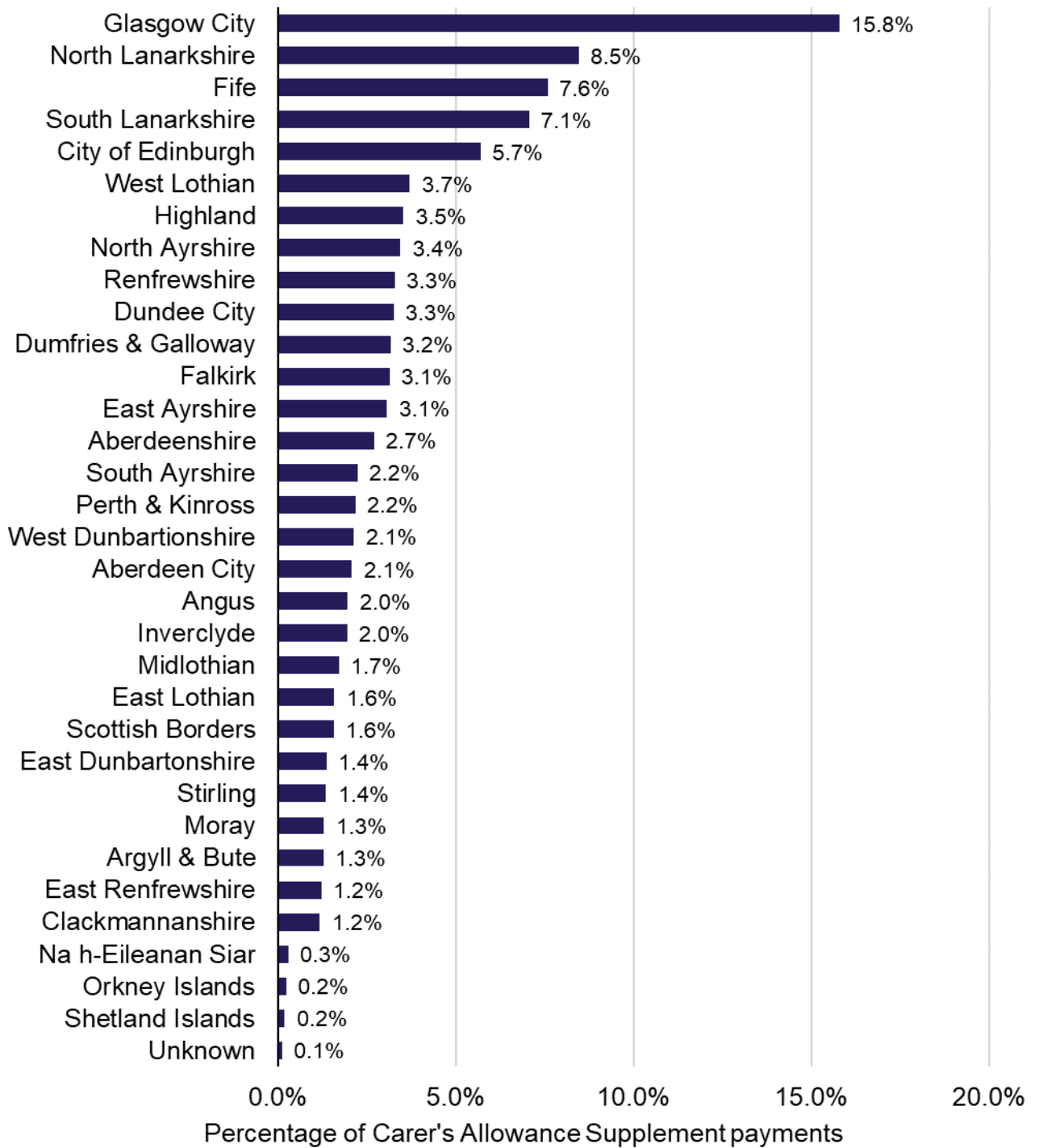


Chart 4: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by Local Authority – April 2021 eligibility date



Carer's Allowance Supplement Payments since September 2018

- Since September 2018, 574,020 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to 119,945 carers [Table 1, Table 4]. The number of carers who have received a payment has increased each financial year excluding 2021/22. This is likely to be due to backdated payments having been made for previous years, but not yet for 2021/22.
- The number of carers receiving payments increased between each eligibility date from April 2018 to October 2020 [Table 1, Chart 1]. The figure for April 2021 is slightly lower, but as explained [above](#) and in the [background note](#), this is likely to be due to backdated payments having been made for April 2018 to October 2020, but not yet for April 2021.
- In total, £149.4 million has been paid to carers since 2018 [Table 1]. Of this, £35 million was for 2018/19 eligibility dates (£221 for each payment), £37 million was for 2019/20 eligibility dates (£226.20 for each payment), £58 million was for 2020/21 eligibility dates, which includes an additional one-off Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement of £230.10 for the April 2020 eligibility date. Due to the Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement, total expenditure for the April 2020 eligibility date is around double the expenditure for the previous eligibility dates. So far £19 million has been paid for the 2021 April eligibility date (£231.40 for each payment) [Chart 1].
- The proportion of carers in each age band has remained relatively stable since the April 2018 eligibility date, with the greatest changes being in the '60-64' and '65 and over age bands'. The number of carers in the '65 and over' category more than quadrupled from 795 at the April 2018 eligibility date to 3,320 at the April 2021 eligibility date. The proportion of carers in this category also increased from 1.0% in April 2018 to 4.0% by April 2021 [Table 2, Chart 3]. This increase is also reflected in the [Carer's Allowance statistics](#). The main reason for this is likely to be increases in State Pension Age for both men and women⁶. Carers stop receiving Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement if they start receiving State Pension and this increases their income over a threshold amount. Therefore as State Pension age rises, the age at which some carers will stop receiving Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement will also rise. This means there will be more carers in the higher age bands remaining in receipt of Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement.
- The percentage of carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance Supplement in each local authority was similar across all eligibility dates (changed by up to 0.2 percentage points between each eligibility date in each local authority) [Table

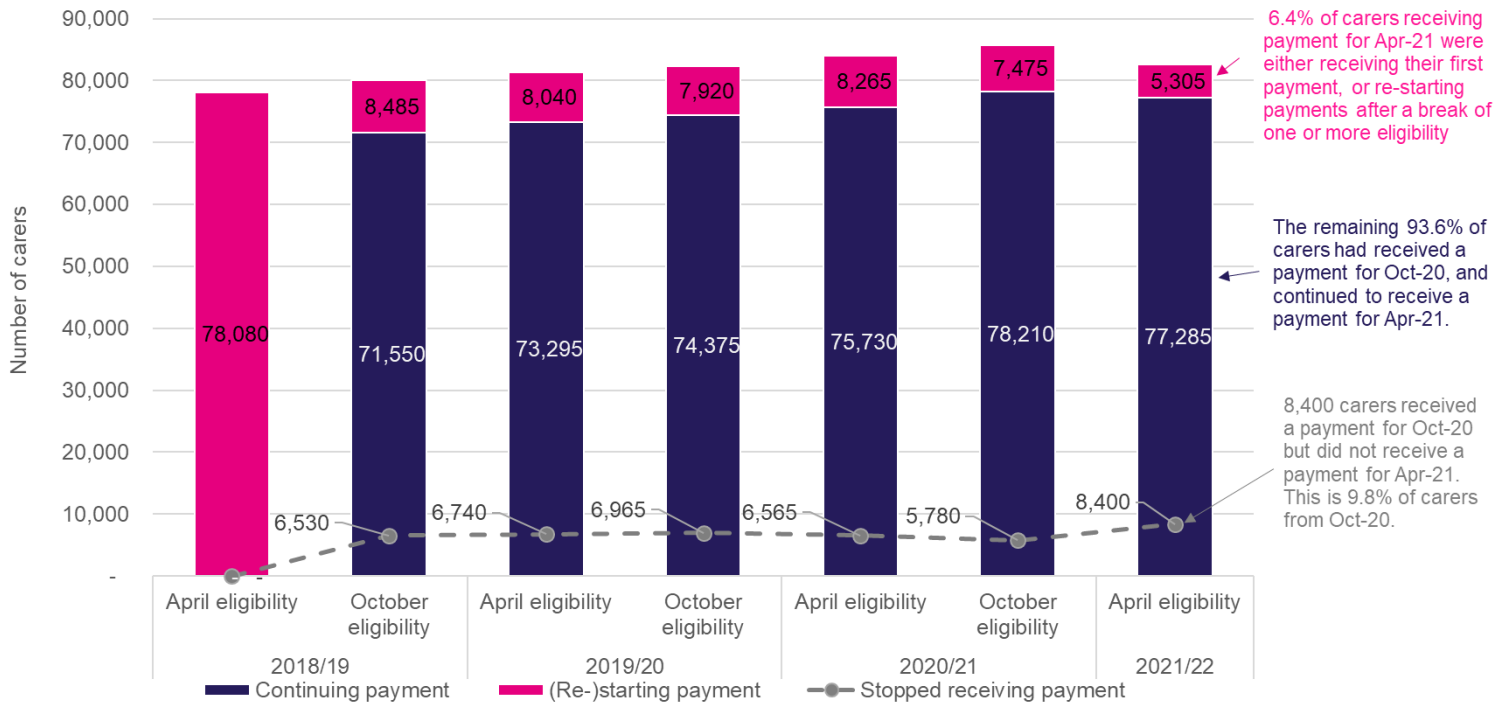
⁶ Women's State Pension age increased to 65 between April 2016 and November 2018. From December 2018 the State Pension age for both men and women started to increase and will reach 67 by 2028:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-pension-age-timetable/state-pension-age-timetable#increase-in-state-pension-age-from-66-to-67-under-the-pensions-act-2014>

3]. The proportion of male and female carers has also remained similar since the April 2018 eligibility date **[Table 1]**.

- At each eligibility date from October 2018 onwards, around 89-94% of carers receiving payments had also received a payment at the previous date, and around 6-11% had not received a payment at the previous date **[Table 5, Chart 5]**. Of the carers that had not received a payment on the previous date, most were receiving a payment for the first time, and a smaller proportion were receiving a payment after a break of one or more eligibility dates. Between each eligibility date, around 7-10% carers stopped receiving a payment (although they may have later gone on to receive a payment at a later date).
- Of those carers eligible in April 2021, the data currently shows that 93.6% (77,285) had received a payment for October 2020 **[Table 4, Table 5]**. An additional 5.7% (4,685) carers were receiving a payment for the first time, and 0.7% (620) were receiving a payment after a break of one or more eligibility dates. Of those eligible in October 2020, 9.8% (8,400) were no longer eligible by April 2021. These figures are likely to change in future updates to the statistics due to backdating. In particular, analysis of previous eligibility dates shows that the number of carers found to have stopped receiving payments for the last eligibility date may decrease, and the number starting or re-starting receiving payments for this date may increase.

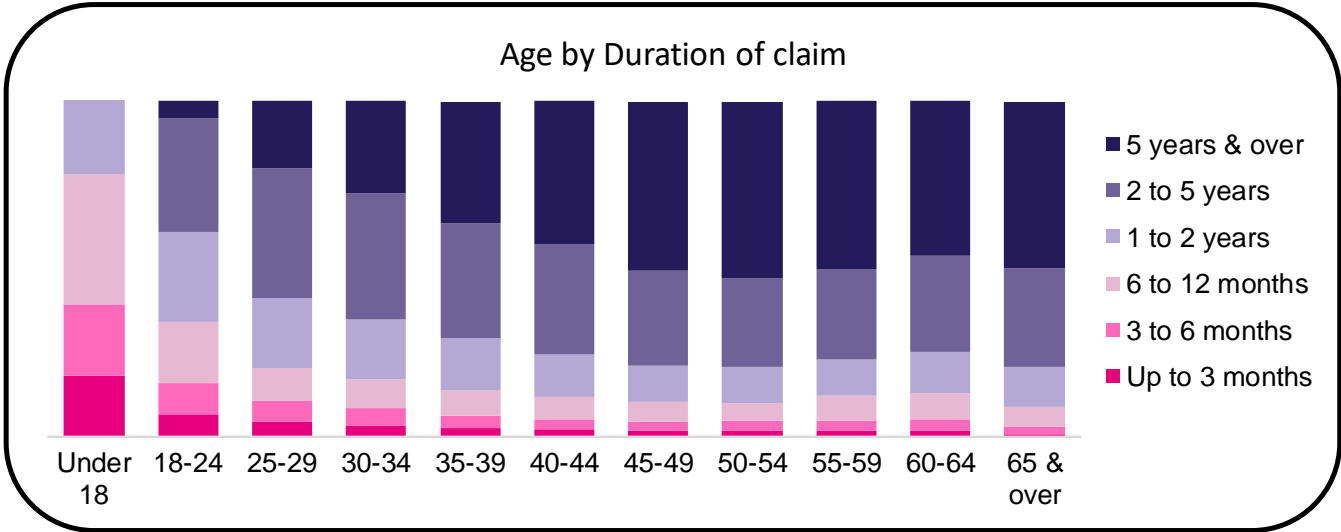
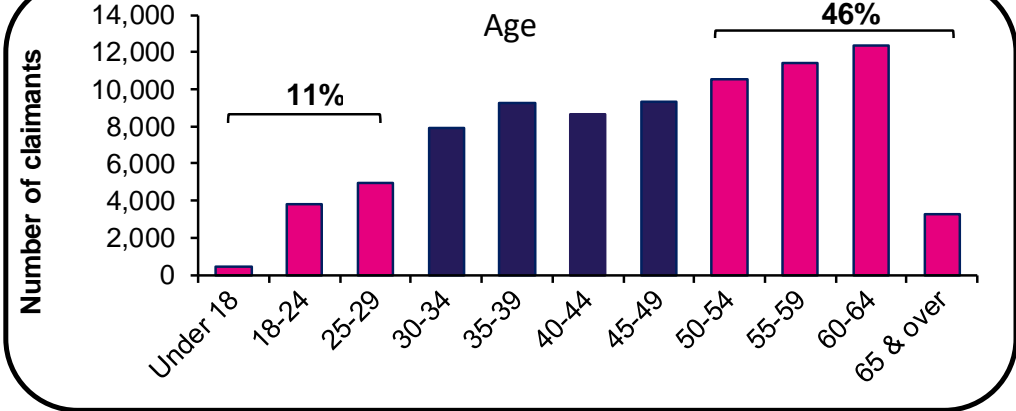
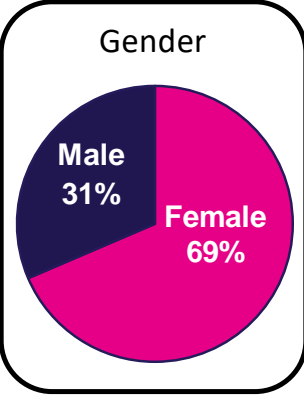
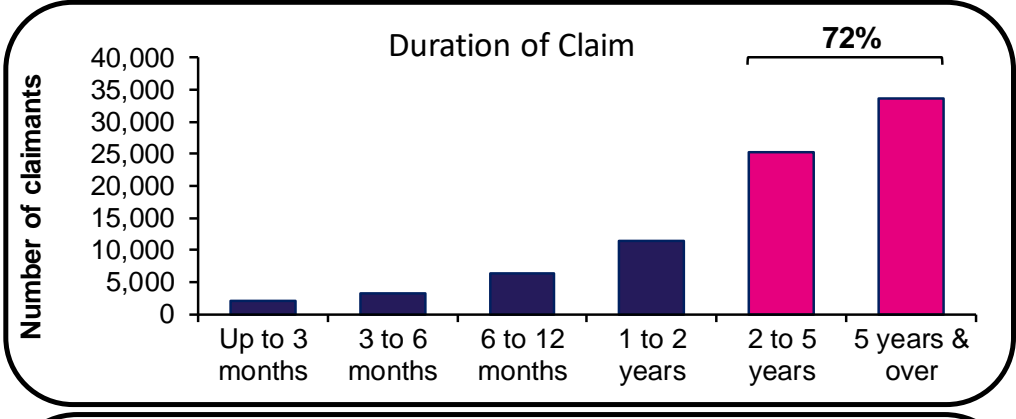
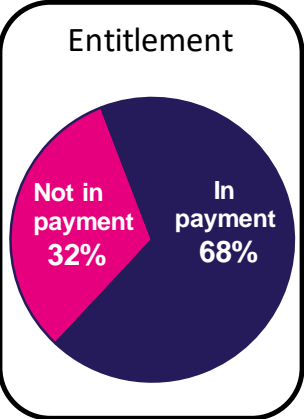
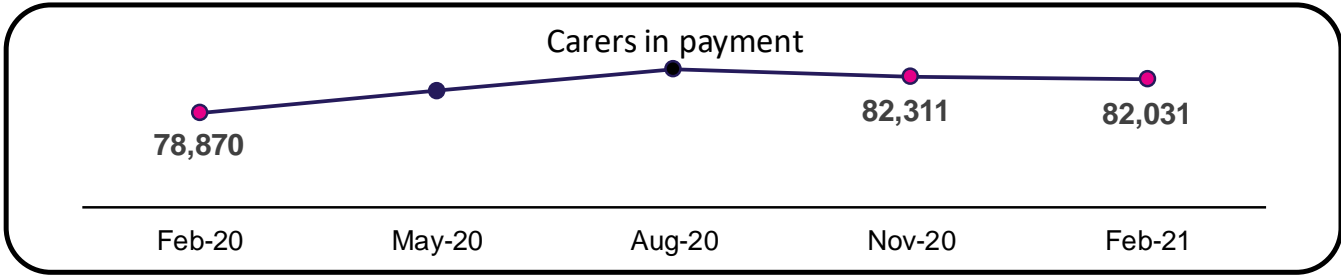
Chart 5: Carers by eligibility date



Carer's Allowance at February 2021

- In February 2021, there were 82,031 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is an increase of 4 per cent since the previous year (78,870 at February 2020) and less than a one per cent decrease since the last quarter (82,311 at November 2020).
- A further 38,978 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive a payment. This may be related to people being eligible for another benefit such as a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance (See [Background Note](#)).
- Over two thirds of claimants (72 per cent) have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for two years or more. In total 41 per cent have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for five years or more.
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance claimants (69 per cent) were female and nearly a third (31 per cent) were male.
- Of the Carer's Allowance claimants in receipt of payments, 46 per cent were aged 50 or over, whereas only 11 per cent were under the age of 30.

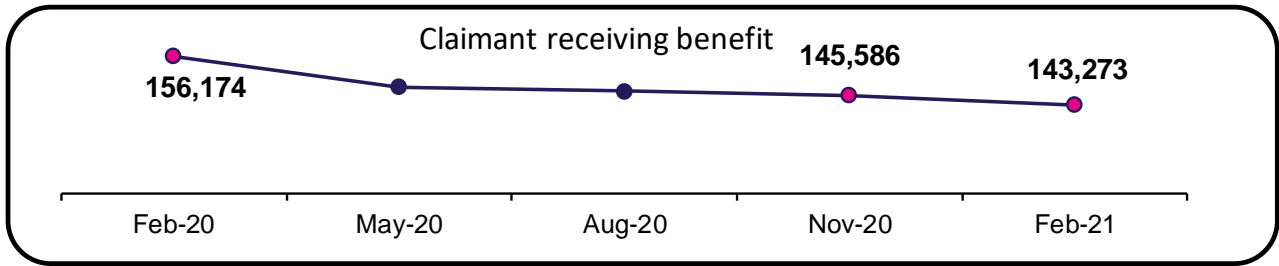
Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance claimants to February 2021



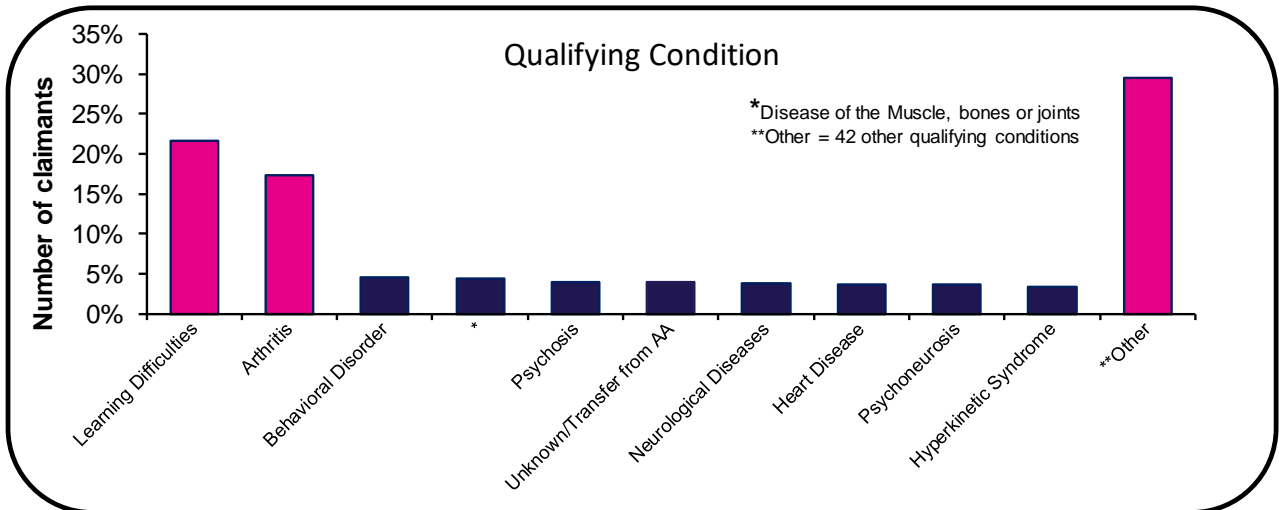
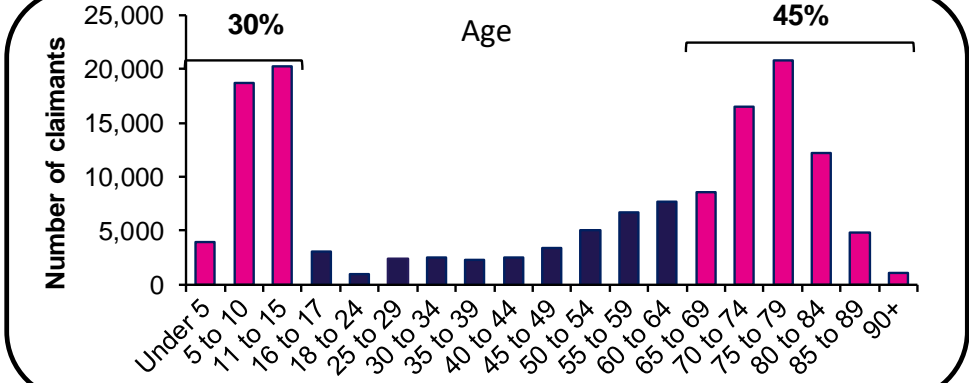
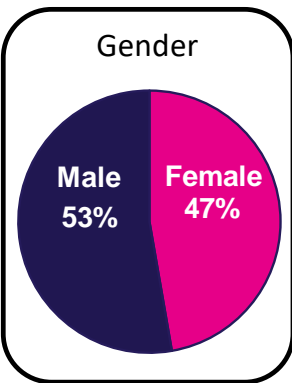
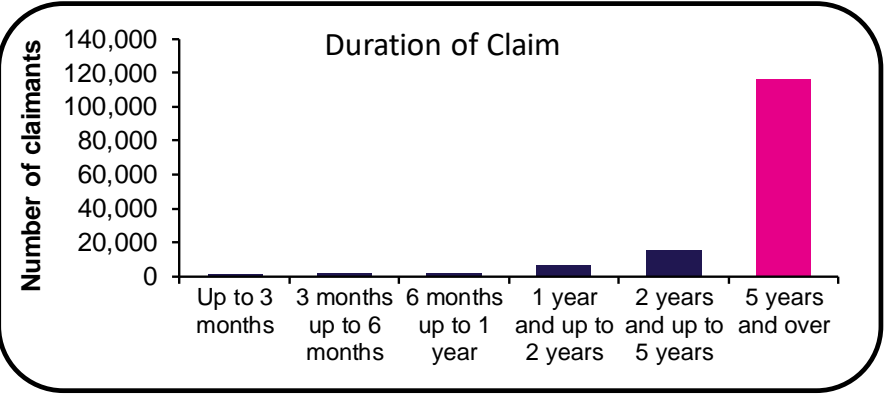
Disability Living Allowance at February 2021

- At February 2021, there were 143,273 people in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a decrease of eight per cent since the previous year (156,174 at February 2020) and a two per cent decrease since the last quarter (145,586 at November 2020). The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over. Additionally, from 26 July 2021 those under 16 from certain local authorities will be asked to apply for Child Disability Payment rather than Disability Living Allowance (See [Background Note](#)).
- Almost three quarters of Disability Living Allowance claimants (72 per cent) received both the mobility and care element. Of those receiving a care award, 46 per cent are on the middle rate, and 32 per cent receive the highest rate. Of those receiving a mobility award, 57 per cent receive the higher rate and 43 per cent receive the lower rate.
- More than nine in ten of the claimants (92 per cent) have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for two years or more. In total 81 per cent have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for five years or more. The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over meaning the duration of claim of each will continue to rise (See [Background Note](#)).
- Nearly half of Disability Living Allowance claimants (47 per cent) were female and just over half (53 per cent) were male.
- Most Disability Living Allowance claimants are aged under 16 (30%), or 65 and over (45%), with relatively few aged 16-64 (25%). This is because Disability Living Allowance is ending for people aged 16 to 64. While under 16s can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance, it is closed for new claims from those over 16. Working aged people aged 16 and over can make new claims for Personal Independence Payment, and those with existing Disability Living Allowance claims are being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. People who have reached State Pension age can apply for Attendance Allowance, although those born on or before 8 April 1948 with an existing Disability Living Allowance claim can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance.
- The most common disabling condition was Learning Difficulties (22 per cent), followed by Arthritis (17 per cent).

Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance claimants to February 2021



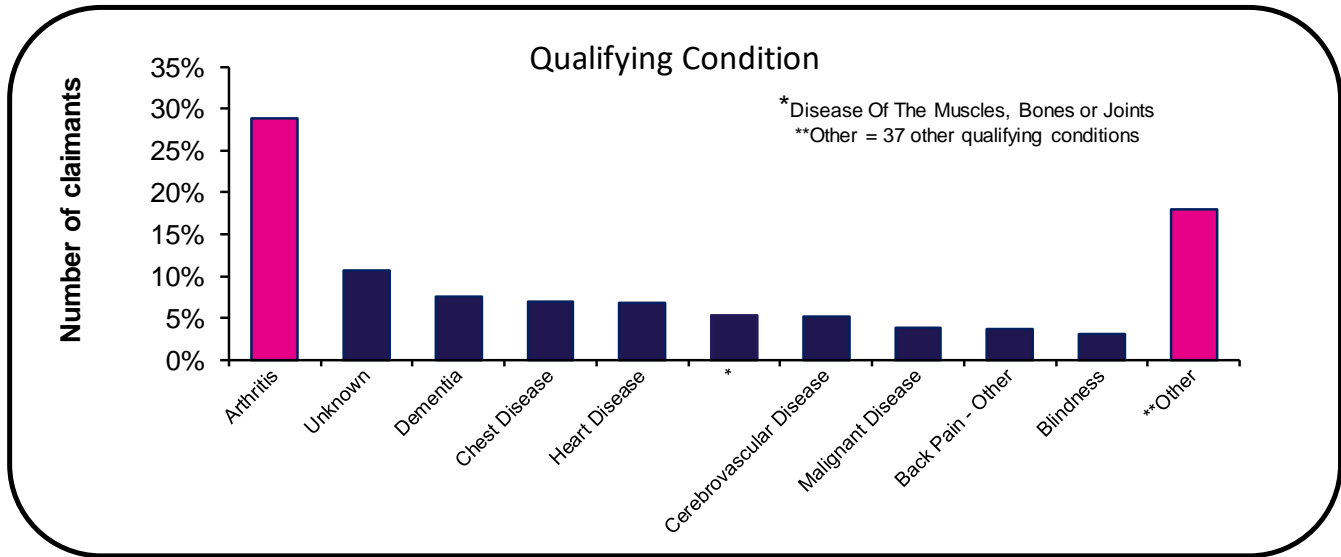
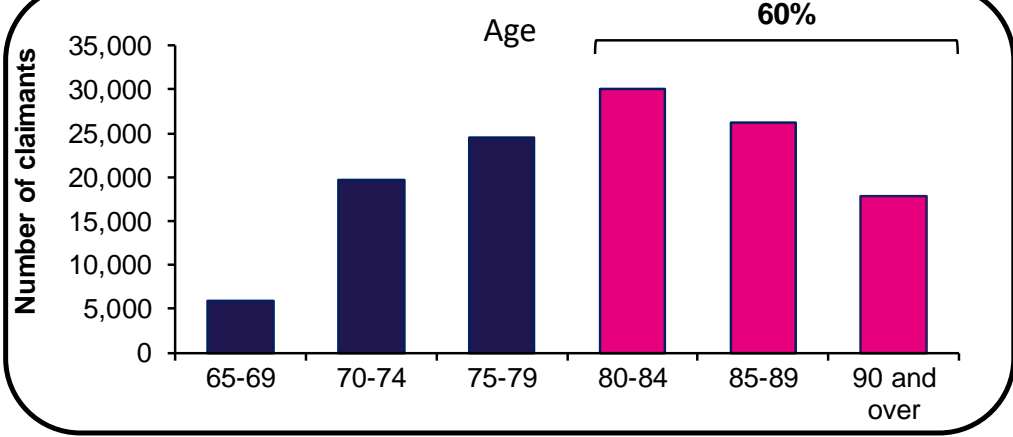
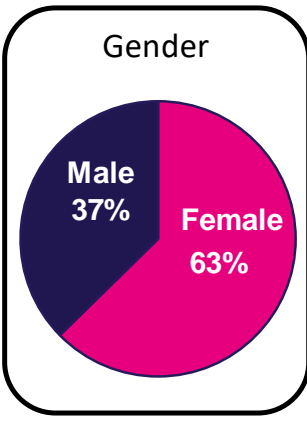
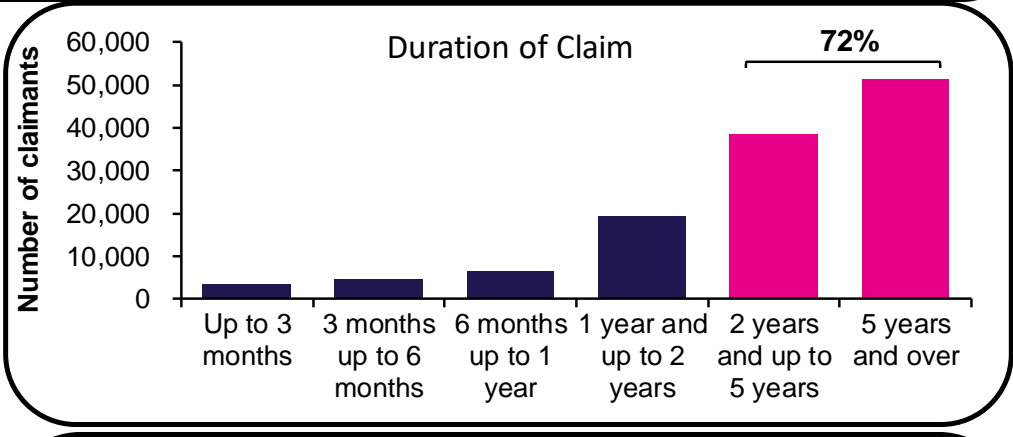
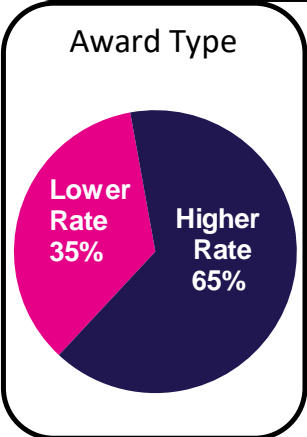
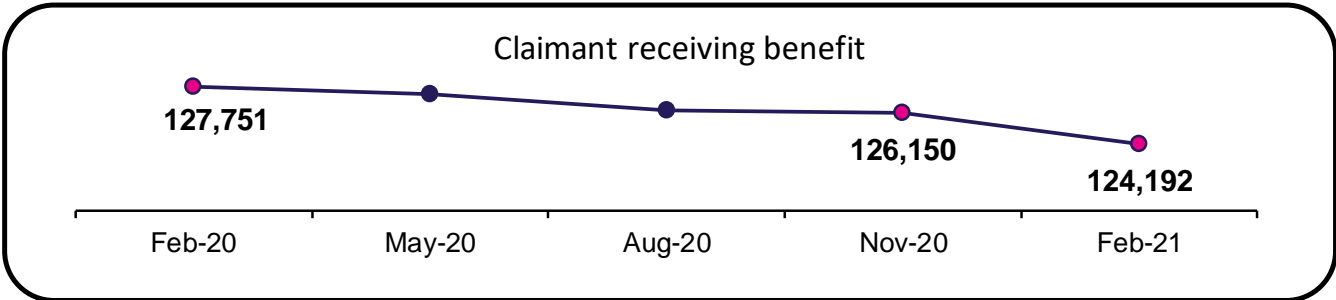
Care Award Rate	Mobility Rate		
	Higher	Lower	Nil
Higher	17%	9%	3%
Middle	13%	20%	8%
Lower	9%	5%	5%
Nil	10%	2%	-



Attendance Allowance at February 2021

- At February 2021, there were 124,192 people in Scotland in receipt of Attendance Allowance. This is a decrease of three per cent since the previous year (127,751 at February 2020) and a two per cent decrease since the last quarter (126,150 at November 2020). A further 14,910 people were entitled to Attendance Allowance but did not receive a payment. This is likely to be because they are eligible for another benefit with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Attendance Allowance, such as State Pension.
- Nearly two thirds of Attendance Allowance claimants (65 per cent) received the higher rate and just over a third (35 per cent) received the lower rate.
- More than two thirds of claimants (72 per cent) have been receiving Attendance Allowance payments for two years or more, with 41 per cent receiving the payment for five years or more.
- Nearly two thirds of Attendance Allowance claimants (63 per cent) were female and over a third (37 per cent) were male.
- Of the Attendance Allowance claimants in receipt of payments, 60 per cent were aged 80 or over.
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis (29 per cent), followed by Unknown (11 per cent).

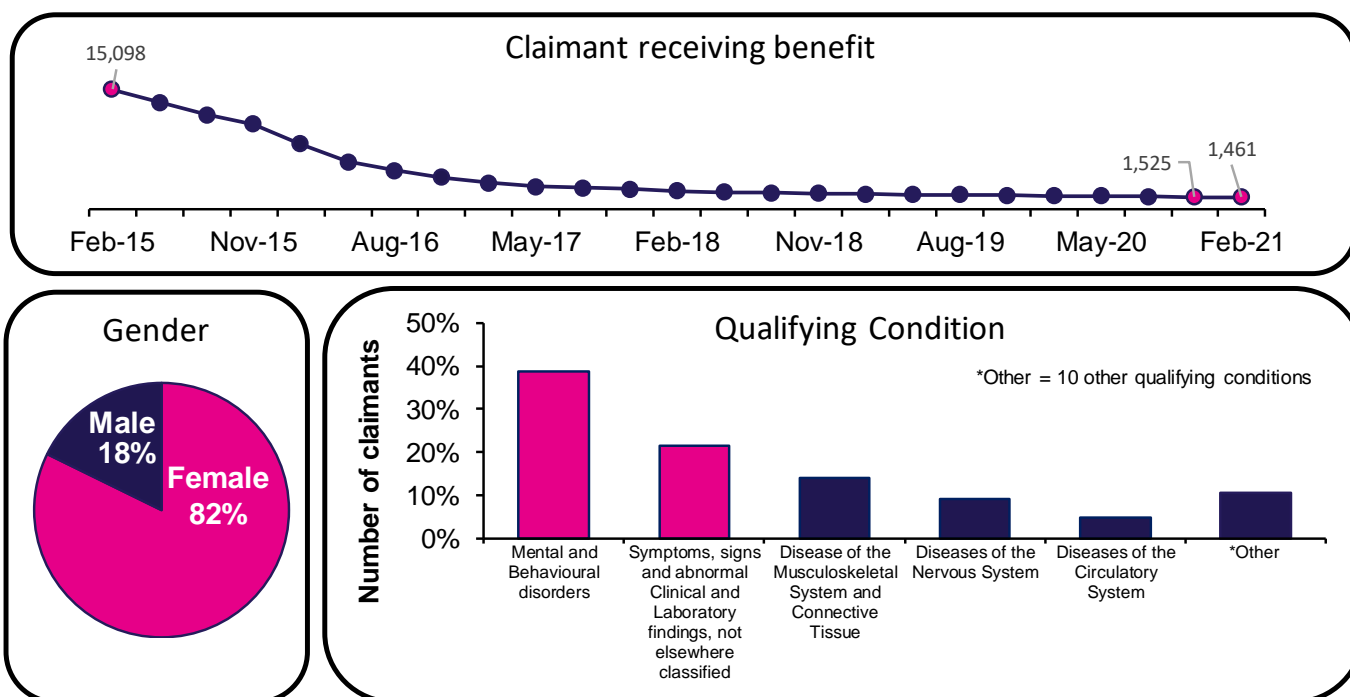
Summary Panel: Attendance Allowance claimants February 2021



Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2021

- At February 2021, there were 1,461 people in Scotland in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance. This is a decrease of four per cent since the last quarter (1,525 at November 2020) and over a 90 per cent decrease over six years (15,098 at February 2015).
- 82 per cent of Severe Disablement Allowance claimants were female and 18 per cent were male.
- The most common disabling condition is Mental and Behavioural disorders (39 per cent), followed by Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (22 per cent).

Summary Panel: Severe Disablement Allowance claimants to February 2021



Background to the Carer's Allowance Supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date. During the transitional period, when DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf, Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be eligible to receive Carer's Allowance Supplement.

The payment was initially set at a level which would raise Carer's Allowance to the equivalent of the current rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 25 and over, however following uprating the combined payment now exceeds the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 2019/20.

Carer's Allowance Supplement payments are paid twice a year, based on eligibility at specific eligibility dates in April and October.

Eligibility date	Month payments made	Payment amount
16 April 2018	September 2018	£221.00
15 October 2018	December 2018	
15 April 2019	June 2019	£226.20
14 October 2019	December 2019	
13 April 2020*	June 2020*	£460.20*
12 October 2020	December 2020	£230.10
12 April 2021	June 2021	£231.40

*The Scottish Government made an extra Carer's Allowance Supplement payment of £230.10 in June 2020. This is a one-off payment to provide some more support for carers during coronavirus. Carers receiving a payment for the 13 April 2020 eligibility date will get a total payment of £460.20, made up of £230.10 standard Carer's Allowance Supplement, plus £230.10 Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement. If a Carer's Allowance claim is backdated to include 13 April 2020 they will receive the extra payment. In the statistics this is counted as one payment with a value of £460.20.

To be eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement the person you care for does not have to live in Scotland, but you must:

- live in Scotland on the eligibility date;
- be getting Carer's Allowance payments on the eligibility date.

It is possible for carers to have a temporary break in Carer's Allowance Supplement payments due to a temporary suspension of Carer's Allowance, as described above.

Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is for people who spend at least 35 hours a week providing regular care to someone who has a disability. It was introduced on 5th July 1976. To be eligible for Carer's Allowance:

- The person being cared for must already get one of these benefits:

Personal Independence Payment - daily living component

Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate

Attendance Allowance

Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension

Armed Forces Independence Payment

- The carer must earn no more than £123 a week after tax and expenses. Expenses can include:

50 per cent of the carer's pension contributions

some of the costs of caring for the carer's children or the disabled person while you're at work

- And the carer must also:

be 16 or over

spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone

have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least two of the last three years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)

normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces

not be in full-time education

not be studying for 21 hours a week or more

not be subject to [immigration control](#)

Some carers might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Some carers are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but they do not actually receive a payment. This may occur as a temporary suspension of the Carer's Allowance payments, if the claimant is in hospital. Otherwise, this is because the claimant receives another benefit (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance.

Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, only the amount of Carer's Allowance which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on low income and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) may receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

During the coronavirus outbreak, some Carer's Allowance rules have been relaxed. To allow for self isolating on the part of the carer or cared for person, care does not need to take place in the physical presence of the cared for person as it usually does. Where caring cannot take place due to coronavirus, this will not count as a break in care, and Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid.

Background to Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance is for people who became disabled before the age of 65 and who have extra care or mobility needs (difficulty getting around).

It is made up of two components. A person might be eligible for one or both components. The rates for each are:

Care component rate	Weekly amount	Level of help needed
Lower Rate	£23.60	Help for some of the day
Middle Rate	£59.70	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
Higher Rate	£89.15	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

Mobility component rate	Weekly amount	Level of help needed
Lower Rate	£23.60	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher Rate	£62.25	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind, severely sight impaired

Children under 16 years of age qualify for the care component or the lower rate mobility component only if their needs are substantially in excess of those of a child of the same age in normal health. They cannot qualify for the lower rate care component through the "cooking test" route - a method of assessing an adult's need to care by determining if they could prepare and cook a meal for one person given the raw ingredients. Children under 3 years of age cannot qualify for the higher-rate mobility component; children under 5 years of age cannot qualify for the lower-rate mobility component.

People who are terminally ill (i.e. have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 6 months) automatically qualify for the higher rate care component. They can also qualify for the mobility component if they satisfy the normal rules.

Disability Living Allowance can be awarded for a fixed or an indefinite period. People can continue to receive the allowance after reaching age 65 if they continue to satisfy the entitlement conditions.

From 8 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment for new claims. People can still apply for Disability Living Allowance if they are aged under 16.

From 28 October 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions has been inviting Disability Living Allowance working age recipients to claim Personal Independence Payment if:

- the department received information about a change in care or mobility needs which meant their claim had to be renewed;
- the claimant's fixed term award was due to expire;
- children turned 16 years old (unless they have been awarded Disability Living

Allowance under the special rules for terminally ill people);

- or the claimant chose to claim Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance.

From July 2015, the remaining Disability Living Allowance working age recipients have started to be invited to claim Personal Independence Payment. However, since 1 April 2020, DWP have stopped proactively sending these invites to Disability Living Allowance working age recipients who live in Scotland.

From 26 July 2021, applications from children under 16 living in Dundee City, Perth and Kinross, and the Western Isles should apply for Child Disability Payment. This replaces Disability Living Allowance for Children in Scotland. It is the first application-based disability benefit to be introduced by the Scottish Government and will be administered by Social Security Scotland.

This pilot will be followed by a nationwide roll out on 22 November 2021 and is for families applying for the first time for this benefit. Those already in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children do not need to apply and their cases will be transferred in future.

Background to Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is for people aged 65 or over with an illness or disability that is severe enough that they need someone to help look after them, for example, help with washing, dressing or eating, during the day or overnight.

To be eligible for Attendance Allowance the person must have reached [State Pension age](#) and have:

- a physical disability, a mental disability, or both
- a disability that is severe enough to need help caring for themselves or someone to supervise them, for their own or someone else's safety
- have needed help for at least 6 months (unless they are terminally ill)

The person must also:

- be in Great Britain when they claim
- have been in Great Britain for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this does not apply to refugees or people who have humanitarian protection status)
- be [habitually resident](#) in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- not be subject to [immigration control](#)

If a person is terminally ill, i.e. they are not expected to live for more than 6 months, there are 'special rules':

- there's no qualifying period for how long they have had the illness
- if eligible, they will automatically get the higher rate of Attendance Allowance

Some people might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Attendance Allowance is paid weekly at 2 different rates – depending on the level of help needed.

Rate	Weekly amount	Level of help you need
Lower Rate	£59.70	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher Rate	£89.15	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

A person cannot get Attendance Allowance if they already get [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) or [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#).

Background to Severe Disablement Allowance

Severe Disablement Allowance is for people below the state pension age who cannot work for 28 weeks in a row because of illness or disability.

It was closed to new entrants and replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance. Recipients are now being asked to undertake a re-assessment of their claim by:

- Completing a questionnaire and returning it by the deadline
- Potentially attending a face-to-face Work Capability Assessment

If the re-assessment shows they cannot work, they will be transferred automatically onto [ESA](#). They will continue to get Severe Disablement Allowance until that date.

A person's Severe Disablement Allowance is not usually affected if they:

- do volunteer work
- work for less than 16 hours a week on average and earn up to £140 a week

- work and earn up to £140 a week, if the work is done as part of a treatment programme or is supervised by someone from a local council or voluntary organisation
- work and earn up to £140 a week and are exempt from personal capability assessment

About the data

Carer's Allowance Supplement data quality

Backdating

To take account of backdating, each eligibility scan identifies those people that have retrospective entitlement for previous Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. The data in this publication includes those found to be eligible during the latest scan for up to three payments before the latest eligibility date. The statistics for the latest eligibility date will not include retrospective entitlement until the next eligibility scan. Future scans may continue to identify additional people who are retrospectively entitled for any previous eligibility date. Because of this, there may be an undercount for the latest eligibility date, and smaller undercounts for earlier eligibility dates.

The table below illustrates how figures for total number of carers at each eligibility date have changed between between statistics publications, and percentage increase in figures between publications:

		Published number of carers / payments						
		April 2018 eligibility date**	October 2018 eligibility date**	April 2019 eligibility date**	October 2019 eligibility date**	April 2020 eligibility date	October 2020 eligibility date	April 2021 eligibility date
Publication (and date published)	April 2018 eligibility date (Feb 2019)	77,620*						
	October 2018 eligibility date (May 2019)	77,620* (+0%)	75,760					
	April 2019 eligibility date	77,990 (+0.5%)	79,680 (+5.2%)	77,740				

(August 2019)								
October eligibility date 2019 (February 2020)	78,080 (+0.1%)	79,950 (+0.3%)	80,900 (+4.1%)	78,125				
April eligibility date 2020 (August 2020)	78,080	80,030 (+0.1%)	81,230 (+0.4%)	82,045 (+5%)	80,185			
October eligibility date 2020 (February 2020)	78,080	80,060 (+0.0%)	81,335 (+0.1%)	82,290 (+0.3%)	83,750 (+4.5%)	83,820		
April eligibility date 2021 (August 2021)	78,080 (+0.0%)	80,035 (-0.0%)	81,340 (+0.0%)	82,300 (+0.0%)	83,910 (+0.3%)	85,690 (+2.2%)	82,590	
Total % change to date	+0.6%	+5.6%	+4.6%	+5.3%	+4.6%	+2.2%	n/a	
Backdated payments to date	460	4,275	3,600	4,170	3,730	1,860	n/a	

*no additional backdating occurred between these publications as they were based on the same scan. **backdating occurs for up to three past payments, no further backdating should occur for this eligibility date.

There has been relatively little change in the figure for April 2018 eligibility date. This is mainly due to the first publication for this eligibility date being ten months after the date itself, with backdated payments already having been made by the time data was first published.

For the eligibility dates October 2018 to October 2020, the table shows that the figure originally published has increased by around 5% in each case, with most of the increase occurring between the first and second times that data for these eligibility dates has been published. It is likely that the figure for the April 2021 eligibility date will also increase by around 5% (or around 4,000 carers and payments) when the statistics are updated in future if a similar amount of backdated payments are made.

Gender

Gender data are based on 'title'. Title was supplied for every carer. 'Unknown' gender includes carers with titles where gender cannot be identified, i.e. 'Dr', 'Rev' and 'Captain'.

Age

Age is based on age at the eligibility date. In a very small number of cases ageband is 'unknown'.

Local Authority

A small number of carers (100 at the April 2021 eligibility date, which is less than one per cent) have 'unknown' local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the postcode address file used for statistical analysis.

Rounding

Payments figures have been rounded to the nearest five, and expenditure figures to the nearest £1,000 for disclosure control.

How Carer's Allowance Supplement data is collected

DWP runs a scan of the information they hold on those in payment of Carer's Allowance twice a year to identify those eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement on each of the eligibility dates. Scans are run around six weeks after each Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility date. DWP then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to make Carer's Allowance Supplement payments.

In some instances, payment of Carer's Allowance can be backdated, which may mean that someone who did not receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility date is later considered to have been eligible on that date. In order to capture these people, each scan of the DWP data will identify people who have retrospective entitlement to earlier eligibility dates, as well as identifying those in receipt of Carer's Allowance on the most recent eligibility date. Social Security Scotland will then pay Carer's Allowance Supplement for one or more periods of eligibility as determined by the data transfer.

A cut of data is extracted from the Social Security Scotland payments system in the month following Carer's Allowance Supplement payments being made. This includes information about each carer that received a payment for any one of the eligibility dates going back to 2018/19. For each carer the data extract includes their title, postcode, whether they have received a payment for each of the eligibility dates, and their age at each of those eligibility dates. This data is used to produce statistics on numbers of carers receiving a Carer's Allowance Supplement for the most recent eligibility date, and also to update payments figures for all previous eligibility dates.

How Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data is collected

DWP holds information on those in payment of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, and publishes statistics as part of the quarterly DWP benefits statistics series at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>.

DWP produce summary tables for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly statistical summaries, and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics and the quality of the statistics is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data are subject to DWP's rounding techniques for disclosure control.

Comparisons between Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement Statistics

The eligibility for Carer's Allowance Supplement is dependent on a person being in payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date. The data is therefore similar to the Carer's Allowance statistics published here and by DWP⁷. However, there are a number of differences between these two sets of data. The key differences are:

- Reference date – Carer's Allowance Supplement data refers to eligibility dates which are in mid-April or mid-October each year. Carer's Allowance data refers to the end of February, May, August or November each year.
- Backdating – Carer's Allowance Supplement data is taken from scans carried out around six weeks after each eligibility date, except for the April 2018 eligibility date where the scan was run in August 2018. Therefore the April 2018 data has more than seven months of backdating and all other data has one month of backdating. Carer's Allowance data includes up to four months of backdating.
- Eligibility – all those who receive a payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date will receive Carer's Allowance Supplement. This will include eligible carers who subsequently become entitled to a payment, including cases which may have temporarily been suspended from payment. Carer's Allowance

⁷ Carer's Allowance statistics are published as part of DWP's benefits statistics collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>

data will exclude those who are later found to be ineligible for Carer's Allowance as part of their backdating adjustments.

- Geography – DWP use different postcode address files to identify those who receive Carer's Allowance who are living in Scottish postcodes.

Further breakdowns of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data

The data for Carer's Allowance in Scotland is available in more detail on Stat-Xplore, where you can access data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>.

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#benefitsforcarersanddisabilityassistance>

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

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