



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Disability Payment Pilot: high level statistics to 21 November 2021

Key figures

- From 26 July to the 21 November 2021, 550 part 1 applications were received for Child Disability Payment in the pilot areas.
- Of these part 1 applications, there were 355 part 2 applications completed.
- Of those applications with a completed part 2 form, 72% were processed. Of those processed, 66% of the applications were approved, whilst 24% were denied. A further 11% were withdrawn in this time period.
- Approximately 84% of the part 1 applications were made online.
- Between 26 July and 21 November, the total value of Child Disability Payments issued was approximately £141,680.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering up to the 31 December 2021, will be released on 15 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

Child Disability Payment is the replacement for Disability Living Allowance for Children in Scotland, which was previously delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions. It is the first application-based disability benefit to be introduced by the Scottish Government and is administered by Social Security Scotland. It provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a child living with a disability might have.

From the 26 July 2021, new applications were taken for Child Disability Payment for children under 16 that live in the pilot areas of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. On 22 November 2021, Child Disability Payment launched nationwide to all new applicants living in Scotland. The case transfer process, where individual ongoing awards of Disability Living Allowance for Children are replaced by an award of Child Disability Payment, began on 11 October 2021.

The application for Child Disability Payment is in two parts. Once an applicant has filled out part 1 they have six weeks to complete part 2 (see the application and decision making process section of the [background note](#)).

This publication provides information on applications and payments for Child Disability Payment from 26 July to 21 November 2021 ([see how data was collected](#)). It includes figures for approximately four months of applications and payments.

The [Background section](#) has further detail about the payment and its application process.

All tables and charts referred to within this publication can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/>

These statistics are being published as experimental statistics. Experimental statistics 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.*" The UK Statistics Authority has not yet assessed these statistics. They have not been designated as National Statistics³.

³ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/>

Main findings

Applications by month

- From the 26 July to 21 November 2021, there were 550 part 1 applications for Child Disability Payment received. Numbers of part 1 applications were similar across the months that were covered fully in the publication date range. There were also 355 part 2 applications registered **[Table 1]**.

Application Outcome

- Of the applications received with a completed part 2 form, 72% had decisions made **[Table 1]**.
- Of those processed with a decision, 66% of the applications were approved, whilst 24% were denied **[Table 1]**.
- An additional 11% were withdrawn in this time period **[Table 1]**.

Award Type

- Of the applications approved, 47% were approved for both care and mobility components, whilst 50% were for care only and 3% were for mobility only **[Table 2]**.
- There are three levels that can be awarded for care - the lowest, middle or highest level (see payments section of [background note](#)).
- Of the applications approved that had a care element within it, 40% were the middle level, 36% were at the highest level and 23% were at the lowest award level **[Table 3]**.
- There are two levels that can be awarded for mobility - higher and lower (see payments section of [background note](#)).
- Of the applications approved that had a mobility element within it, the majority, 86% were of the lower level **[Table 4]**.

Application channel

- Application channel refers to the method of application used to complete the part 1 application.
- Around 84% of applications were made online and 13% were made via the phone. A small proportion of applications were made through other channels (see the application and decision making process section of the [background note](#)) **[Table 5]**.

Applications by age of child

- Approximately 44% of the part 1 applications were made for children aged 5-10, whilst 31% were in the 11-15 age group and 24% were in the 0-4 age group **[Table 6]**.

Applications by local authority

- Of the part 1 applications received, 54% were made for children living in Dundee City and 41% for children in Perth and Kinross. There were only 3% of applications from Na h-Eileanan Siar **[Table 7]**.
- Across the three local authorities included in the pilot area, similar proportions of applications were approved. In Dundee City and Na h-Eileanan Siar 67% of applications were approved, whilst 63% were approved in Perth and Kinross **[Table 7]**.

Processing Times

- Processing times for any application received is calculated between the received date of the part 2 application and the date that a decision was made regarding the application.
- In total, 28% of the decisions were made in 36 or more days and 19% were made in 16 to 20 days **[Table 8]**.
- The median⁴ average processing time for applications over the pilot period was 24 working days **[Table 8]**.

Payments

- In total, approximately £141,680 of payments were issued to approved applicants during the pilot period **[Table 9]**.
- Care awards accounted for 81% of the payments, approximately £114,870, whilst mobility payments were for £26,810 **[Table 9]**.
- Of the awarded care payments, 50% were for those within the highest care component rate followed by 42% in the middle care component rate. The lowest care component rate accounted for approximately 9% of the payments **[Table 10]**.
- Of the mobility payments awarded, 74% were for the lower mobility component rate **[Table 11]**.
- It should be noted that percentages in this payments section can differ from the percentage approved as not all approved applications will have payments associated with them by the 21 November 2021.

⁴ The median average is the middle value of an ordered dataset, or the point at which half of the values are higher and half of the values are lower.

Background to Child Disability Payment

The Scotland Act 2016⁵ devolved new powers to the Scottish Parliament in relation to social security, including responsibility for disabled benefits which had been administered in Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions. On 1st April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance was transferred to Scottish Government.

The Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment for new applications in April 2013. People can still apply for Disability Living Allowance if they are aged under 16. However from July 2015, working age recipients have been invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. The Department for Work and Pensions have stopped proactively sending these invites to Disability Living Allowance working age recipients who live in Scotland since April 2020 due to the scheduled transfer of these benefits.

Social Security Scotland is the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering social security benefits for Scotland. It will gradually deliver three different types of disability assistance. These are:

- Child Disability Payment which will replace Disability Living Allowance for Children
- Adult Disability Payment which will replace Personal Independence Payment (Department for Work and Pensions replacement of Disability Living Allowance for working age people)
- Pension Age Disability Payment which will replace Attendance Allowance

There is a transitional period to allow administration of these benefits to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Disability Living Allowance for Children, Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. Those people already in receipt of the Department for Work and Pensions benefits will not need to re-apply and their awards will be transferred in the future, in phases.

Child Disability Payment is the first of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a child living with a disability might have. The pilot launched on the 26 July 2021 for new applicants living in of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. On 22 November 2021, Child Disability Payment launched nationwide to all new applicants living in Scotland. From 11 October 2021, children who are aged over 15 and a half to 17 who get Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions have started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Clients under 15 and a half years old will have their award transferred from spring

⁵ The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

2022. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children by spring 2023.

Further details about the benefit can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>.

Eligibility

This benefit is for children and young people from birth up to the age of 16 who have lived with a disability for at least three months, and who can expect to continue to have this disability for at least six months. There is an exception to this if a child is terminally ill, whereby no qualifying period is required ([see Terminal illness section](#)).

A key difference from Disability Living Allowance for Children administered by the Department for Work and Pensions is that Social Security Scotland have extended the eligibility for Child Disability Payment from 16 to 18 years old. This is only where the applicant has already been in receipt of assistance before they were 16. New applicants who are 16 or above will currently need to apply for Personal Independence Payment. This will transfer to Adult Disability Payment when it is launched by Social Security Scotland in 2022.

Payments

Child Disability Payment is made up of two components: a care component and a mobility component. Qualifying children will be entitled to a payment for their care.

Young people aged 16 or over are also entitled to the lowest rate of the care component if they can't make a cooked main meal if provided with the ingredients because of a mental or physical disability.

Children over three years old can also get a payment to help with their mobility needs.

Children who are terminally ill are automatically entitled to the highest rate of the component part(s) (care and mobility) of whichever benefit they are entitled to.

The lower rate of the mobility component is available to eligible children who are aged 5 years or older. The higher rate of the mobility component is available for eligible children who are at least 3 years old.

| Care component rate | Weekly amount | Level of help needed |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Lowest | £23.70 | Help for some of the day |
| Middle | £60.00 | Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night, or someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day or at night |
| Highest | £89.60 | Help or supervision throughout both day and night, someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day and at night, or they are terminally ill |

| Mobility component rate | Weekly amount | Level of help needed |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Lower | £23.70 | They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors |
| Higher | £62.55 | They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they have a severe visual disability. |

Payments are made every 4 weeks, in arrears, with the start date of the application being the application date of the part 1 form. Awards for terminally ill children and young people are paid weekly.

Accessible vehicle leases and equipment

Children who get the higher rate of the mobility component of Child Disability Payment will be able to transfer either the whole or part of the money they get for the mobility component to access the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme. This new Scottish scheme will provide a service similar to the current Motability scheme, with leases available for a range of cars, wheelchair accessible vehicles, scooters and powered wheelchairs. Clients who have an existing Motability lease will be able to retain their vehicle until the end of that lease.

Terminal illness

Terminal illness is defined as a progressive disease, which can reasonably be expected to cause an individual's death. The judgement as to whether a person should be considered terminally ill will be made by clinicians, based on guidance prepared by the Chief Medical Officer. This definition includes all diseases and conditions that a medical professional judges to be terminal and an individual's eligibility could be established based on having a single illness or a combination of diseases with conditions. In Scotland, registered medical practitioners and registered nurses will use their clinical judgment to determine whether an individual is terminally ill for the purpose of accessing disability assistance under special rules. These special rules mean that:

- There will be no qualifying period. An individual is not required to have the condition for any length of time before they are eligible.
- Once verification has been given that the person is considered to have a terminal illness, for the purpose of entitlement to disability assistance, there will be no requirement for an individual to undergo any further assessment.
- Awards will be calculated, at the latest, from the date of application.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules will be automatically entitled to the highest rate of the component part(s) (care and mobility) of whichever benefit they are entitled to.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules will not be subject to review.

This is a change from the time limited definition which the Department for Work and Pensions currently uses, which defines terminal illness as 'a progressive disease where death as a consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within 6 months'.

Application and decision making process

The application stage involves a two part application process. The part 1 form gathers key personal details of the client. The impact of the client's disability is detailed in part 2 of the application form. The exception to this is for applicants applying under the special rules for terminal illness, where there is only one part to the application, to make the process simpler and quicker.

Part 1 of the application is generally made online or by phone. Where part 1 of an application is started online, part 2 will usually be completed online. Where part 1 is completed by phone the client will be sent a paper form to complete part 2 of the application. In some instances a client might request to complete both parts of the form by paper. It is also possible for a valid application for Child Disability Payment to arrive in an alternative format. For example, a Scottish client may complete a Disability Living Allowance form and send it to the Department for Work and Pensions, who will then re-direct it to Social Security Scotland.

Applicants have 6 weeks to complete part 2 of the form following the submission of part 1.

Any adult with parental rights and responsibilities can apply for Child Disability Payment on behalf of the child if the child is under 16. An adult can still apply if the child is not living with a parent or guardian and they look after them. A parent or guardian may make an application for each disabled child or young person that they look after. If the child is terminally ill, anyone can submit a third party application for the child as long as they:

- tell the person with parental rights and responsibilities, or appointee if there is one, that they are applying for them
- get consent from the child's parent or appointee to do so

Social Security Scotland processes each application received and makes a decision whether to approve or deny the application. Applicants can withdraw their application at any point before a decision is made. This may be after part 1 of the application has been submitted, or after both part 1 and part 2 have been submitted.

Re-determinations and appeals

If an applicant doesn't agree with the decision about their Child Disability Payment application, they can ask Social Security Scotland to look at it again. This is called asking for a re-determination. A request for a re-determination should be made within 42 days of being notified of the determination. Social Security Scotland then has 56 calendar days to make a re-determination. Child Disability Payment applicants also have the right to appeal to a Tribunal if they do not agree with Social Security Scotland's re-determination, or if Social Security Scotland is not able to make a re-determination within the required timescales. Due to the small number of re-determinations during the period covered in this publication, no numbers or analysis have been included.

Short Term Assistance will also be available as part of Child Disability Payment. An individual can apply for Short Term Assistance during a re-determination or appeal of a determination that reduced or removed their entitlement to Child Disability Payment. The intention is to ensure an individual is not discouraged from challenging a Social Security Scotland decision or from accessing administrative justice, by having to manage for a period with a reduced income. Where a person is eligible for Short Term Assistance, this will be the difference between the level of payment prior to the reduction and the new level of payment.

About the data

How the data is collected

The data in this publication is sourced from Social Security Scotland's case management system. The system holds information on all applications received, decisions and payments. Data about the applicant and their child is collected through the online application form or is entered by client advisors during telephone applications or processing of paper applications. Information about the application outcome and payments is created in the case management system as an application is processed.

The information is held across multiple tables within the system. 100% extracts of administrative data are taken from this system every day for internal reporting purposes. Data cuts combine information from the different tables in the system into one daily extract which includes details of all Child Disability Payment applications made since 26 July 2021. A payments extract which contains information on the financial aspects of applications is used for calculations in this publication.

To take into account backdating and delays between applications being authorised and payments being made, a data cut from 21 December 2021 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 21 November 2021. Later data cuts may include retrospective changes to application details, including corrections to details in the case management system, and changes that have resulted from re-determinations and appeals.

Quality assurance

The data used to produce official statistics are the same as the data extracted from the case management system on a daily basis that is used for internal reporting within Social Security Scotland. As such, the data is checked daily for consistency with previous extracts (i.e. do applications, decisions and payments figures increase as expected over time, and are they in proportion to each other) and compared to other sources of information such as the number of payment instructions reported by the finance team.

Additional quality assurance and cleaning has been carried out on the variables used in the official statistics to:

- Check for duplicate and missing application references. One duplicated application reference was detected and removed.
- Check for duplicate and missing applicant identification numbers. A small number of duplicates were identified and checked. It was determined due to different child information that these were not duplicate applications. A parent or guardian may make an application for each disabled child or young person that they look after.

- Check for duplicate child identification numbers. A small number of duplicates were identified and checked. It was determined due to missing parent identification information that these were duplicate 'prospect cases' and they were removed from the data set.
- Check application dates are within the expected ranges.
- Check that payment date is present where a payment value is present.
- Check applicant and child dates of birth are within the expected range – see [Age of applicant](#) section.
- Check postcode lengths are within the expected ranges and check postcodes that do not match to local authorities – see [Geography](#) section.
- Remove a small number of test applications which were used to test the case management system.

Once the data is aggregated and copied into the publication and supporting Excel tables, the final statistics are quality assured by a different member of the statistics team. The final documents are checked by the lead statistician.

Revisions

In the future, each updated publication of Child Disability payment statistics may include revisions going back to July 2021. This is because each time figures are published they will be based from a new 100% data cut from the case management system, which can include retrospective changes to data going back to July 2021 as described in the [How the data is collected](#) section. More recent months tend to be subject to a greater degree of revision than more distant ones.

Data Quality

Rounding and disclosure control

Application and outcome figures have been rounded to the nearest five for disclosure control. Data has been suppressed where it would disclose fewer than five applications.

Incorrect application dates

Quality assurance checks highlighted that a small number of cases had an application decision date on or prior to the benefit opening for applications on 26 July 2021. These cases were identified as test data and were removed from the data set.

Missing and duplicate applications

The data comes from a 100% data cut of the case management system.

The data cut was checked for applications where the applicant was missing a National Insurance number. A small number of these were found and represented temporary 'prospect cases', which are created when clients contact Social Security

Scotland without a National Insurance number, and are later replaced once a National Insurance number is received from the applicant. Any such applications are therefore duplicates and are excluded from the statistics.

Clients may make repeated applications for the same payment, for example if their first application is denied. This means that there can be several applications in the data cut from the same client. For this publication we have retained all these applications.

Application channel

Application channel represents the channel used to complete part 1 of an application only. Application channel is automatically entered into the case management system for online applications, and manually entered for applications taken by phone or paper. If ever an application channel has been manually entered incorrectly, the application channel will be classed as 'unknown'. In some instances a valid application for the Child Disability Payment may arrive in a non-standard format. For example, a Scottish client may mistakenly complete a Disability Living Allowance form and send it to the Department for Work and Pensions, who will then re-direct it to Social Security Scotland. The channel for these applications is classed as 'alternative'.

There are three main ways that applications are completed:

1. Online for both part 1 and 2 of the application
2. By phoning up and completing part 1 of an application and requesting a paper part 2 form to complete
3. Requesting via telephony a paper form for both part 1 and 2

The third option is unlikely to include many applications as it will only occur if an applicant specifically requests this, the majority will go through telephone to proceed to part 2. A request can also be made by the client to receive help filling out part 2 of the application from a local delivery team member. This can occur via a videocall or in person.

Age of applicant

The age that is used for the applicant and child is taken from the date of birth that is entered during the completion of the part 1 application. This means that the age has not been verified via the part 2 application process, and therefore some small errors may exist. The age that is used in this publication is based on the age of the child when part 1 of the application was received. Ages that are outwith the expected range are treated as "unknowns" and may be the result of a date of birth being incorrectly entered.

Geography

Applications are assigned to local authority by postcode using a Scottish Government lookup file. For some applications, the postcode will not match to the lookup file. This can be because the postcode is not in a Scottish local authority, or because the postcode has been introduced too recently to appear on the lookup file, for example if a property is in a new development. For postcodes that could not be matched to a Scottish pilot local authority, the postcode area was used to check whether the postcode was in Scotland or elsewhere.

Postcodes are linked to client profiles and data extracts are automatically updated in the case of a client changing address. As a result, postcodes reflect the latest address of clients and may not be the same as the address at the time of application. Therefore a small number of addresses may not reflect the correct local authority at the time of application, decision or payment. This may be why there are some applications in non-Pilot areas.

Processing time

Processing time is the number of days from part 2 of the application being received to a decision being made or the application being withdrawn. It includes time spent waiting to receive further information from clients, if required, but does not include time to make payments. It is calculated in working days. Weekends and public holidays are excluded from calculations, even if applications were processed by staff working overtime on these days. The time of day that an application was received or processed is not taken into account.

Processing times data does not include any applications that are flagged as having had a re-determination request because the decision date for these applications will represent the re-determination decision date, which can be some time after the original decision date. The number of applications in the processing times table is therefore lower than the number of applications shown as processed or decided in other tables. Re-determinations are a small proportion of the total applications processed, and the average processing times for applications that go on to re-determination or appeal compared to other applications should not differ from all other applications. Therefore, removal of these should not impact the average processing times shown in the table.

Processing time is only calculated for applications that were decided within the period being reported on. Processing times for applicants applying under the special rules for terminal illness have not been included as there is only one part to this application, to make the process simpler and quicker. Finally, a number of applications that had a decision but did not possess a part 2 application date were excluded from this analysis as processing time could not be calculated. This issue is under review.

Payments

The payments extract which contains information on the financial aspects of applications is used for calculations in this publication. This was linked to the applications extract allowing for a breakdown of payments to care and mobility component rates. Payments to applicants eligible under the special rules for terminal illness or the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme have not been included due to small application numbers that would be disclosive. The number of payments has been rounded to the nearest five and the value to the nearest ten pounds for disclosure control.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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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/publications/>

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

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

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