

## Social Security Scotland Statistics

# Adult Disability Payment: high level statistics to 31 July 2022

### Key figures

- From 21 March to the 31 July 2022, 7,135 part 1 applications were registered for Adult Disability Payment. During that period, 3,485 part 2 applications were received.
- In total, there were 940 applications processed with a decision made by 31 July 2022. Of these 56% were authorised, 20% were denied and 24% were withdrawn.
- As of the 31 July 2022, there were 430 people who were in receipt of Adult Disability Payment.
- Between 21 March and 31 July 2022, the total value of Adult Disability Payments issued was £666,770.

### Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering up to the 31 October 2022, will be released in December 2022.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup> we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

<sup>2</sup> The forthcoming publication timetable is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

# Introduction

Adult Disability Payment is the replacement for Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance in Scotland, which were previously delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions. It is the second 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 daily living and mobility costs that a person living with a disability might have.

From the 21 March 2022, new applications were taken for Adult Disability Payment people who lived in the pilot areas of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. The pilot expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022 and further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022 before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022.

The application for Adult Disability Payment is in two parts. Once an applicant has filled out part 1 they have eight 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 Adult Disability Payment from 21 March to 31 July 2022 (see the [How the data is collected section](#)).

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

All tables referred to within this publication are available in an Excel workbook on [Social Security Scotland statistics website](#).

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 Statistics<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on experimental statistics please see the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

# Main findings

## Applications by month

- As of 31 July 2022, 7,135 part 1 applications for Adult Disability Payment had been registered. Additionally, 3,485 part 2 applications had been received in this period **[Table 1]**.
- As of the 31 July 2022, there were 345 applications in the data extract used for reporting that did not have a part 2 received date populated but had been processed with a decision associated with them. These applications are not currently included within the number of part 2 applications received measure.

## Application Outcome

- In total, there were 940 applications processed with a decision made by 31 July 2022. Of these 56% were authorised, 20% were denied and 24% were withdrawn **[Table 1]**.
- Applications may have been withdrawn due to the client applying from outside Pilot areas, the client being ineligible due to age or for other reasons.
- The number of applications processed increased each month from 20 in March 2022 to 495 in July 2022. **[Table 1]**.
- Of the authorised applications, 85 were subject to Special Rules for the Terminally Ill.

## Initial Award Type

- Of the applications authorised, 73% were given an initial award comprising of both daily living and mobility components, whilst 20% were for daily living only and 7% were for mobility only **[Table 2]**.
- The proportion of applications authorised for both daily living and mobility components each month has ranged from 95% in April to 71% in July 2022 **[Table 2]**.
- There are 2 levels which can be awarded for each component, standard and enhanced (see payments section of background note).
- Of the initial awards that included a daily living element within it, 73% were at the enhanced rate and 27% were at the standard rate **[Table 3]**.
- Of the initial awards that included a mobility element within it, 67% were for the enhanced rate while 33% were authorised for the standard rate **[Table 4]**.
- For more detailed information on the combinations of initial awards that clients have been authorised for, see Table 5 in the accompanying Excel tables.

## Application channel

- Application channel refers to the method of application used to complete the part 1 application.

- Around 68% of applications received by 31 July 2022 were made online and 29% were made via phone **[Table 6]**.
- A small proportion of applications were made through paper applications or through other channels (see the [Application and decision making process section](#)) **[Table 6]**.

## Age of Applicant

- The most common age group for applicants was 55-64, representing 24% of applications registered. This was closely followed by 25-34, which represented 21% of applications. Overall, 3% of applications were registered by applicants aged 65 and over **[Table 7]**.
- A small number of applications for children under 16 were registered and have been included for completeness **[Table 7]**.

## Local Authority

- Part 1 applications were registered from clients in all of the pilot areas. Of the applications registered, 24% of applications came from Dundee City followed by 18% of applications coming from North Lanarkshire and 16% of applications received from Perth and Kinross **[Table 8]**.
- There were also small number of applications that could not be attributed to a postcode, representing less than 1% of applications **[Table 8]**.

## 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. Further information on the calculation can be found in the [Data Quality section](#) of the Background note.
- The processing times showed that of applications that had received a decision by 31 July 2022, 19% were made within 1 to 20 days, 41% were made within 21 to 40 days, 38% were made in 41 to 80 days and 2% were made after 81 or more days **[Table 9]**.
- The median<sup>4</sup> average processing time for applications over the period was 36 working days **[Table 9]**.

## Payments

- Between 21 March and 31 July 2022, the total value of Adult Disability Payments issued was £666,770 **[Table 10]**.
- Daily living awards accounted for 66% of payments, with a value of £441,010 issued, whilst mobility payments issued had a value of £224,990 **[Table 10]**.

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

- The monthly value of payments issued has increased month on month since the benefit launched, rising from £12,390 in April 2022 to £428,730 in July 2022 **[Table 10]**.
- In total, 84% of payments issued were to clients receiving both daily living and mobility payments, with 13% of payments to those only receiving daily living payments and 3% to those only receiving mobility payments **[Table 11]**.

## **Caseload**

- As of 31 July 2022, it is estimated that a total of 430 people were in receipt of Adult Disability Payment, all of whom were new applicants **[Table 12]**.

## **Re-determinations**

- As of 31 July 2022 there had been 15 re-determinations requested, of which 5 had been processed.
- Due to the small number of re-determinations during the period covered in this publication, no further breakdown has been included.

## **Case Transfers**

- The case transfer process began on 13 June 2022. There is an approximately 3 month period before transferred people enter payment with Social Security Scotland, as such no case transfer cases had entered payment with Social Security Scotland as of 31 July 2022. Further information can be found in the [Case Transfer section](#) of the Background note.

# Background to Adult Disability Payment

The Scotland Act 2016<sup>5</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment 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. However from July 2015, working age recipients have been invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. The Department for Work and Pensions 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 and Working Age Disability Living Allowance
- 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, Working Age Disability Living Allowance 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 apply and their awards will be transferred to Social Security Scotland in the future, in phases.

Adult Disability Payment is the second of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra daily living and mobility costs that a person living with a disability or long term health condition might have. The pilot launched on the 21 March 2022 for new applicants living in the local authorities of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. The pilot expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022 and further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022 before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022.

Further details about the benefit can be found on the [mygov.scot website](https://mygov.scot).

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<sup>5</sup> Information is provided on [the Scotland Act 2016 webpage](#).

## Case Transfers

From 13 June 2022, people who get Personal Independence Payment and from 29 August 2022 some people who get Working Age Disability Living Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment in phases. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance by the end of 2025.

Social Security Scotland will only publish detailed information on case transfers that they are fully responsible for and have made their first payment to. The Department for Work and Pensions will publish information on the cases that are still being paid by them.

## Eligibility

This benefit is for people who have a disability and/or health condition that results in additional needs for at least three months, and who can expect to continue to have this disability and/or health condition for at least six months. There is an exception to this if a person is terminally ill, whereby no qualifying period is required (see the [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 client has already been in receipt of assistance before they were 16.

Until the national launch of Adult Disability Payment on 29 August 2022 by Social Security Scotland, new applicants who were 16 or above needed to apply for Personal Independence Payment or Adult Disability Payment depending on whether they were in a pilot area. Applicants who applied for Personal Independence Payment in Scotland prior to the launch of Adult Disability Payment are being transferred to Adult Disability Payment.

## Payments

Adult Disability Payment is made up of two components: a Daily Living component and a mobility component. Qualifying people will be entitled to a payment to help with their daily living needs.

Daily Living component rate	Weekly rates 2022-2023
Standard	£61.85
Enhanced	£92.40

<b>Mobility component rate</b>	<b>Weekly rates 2022-2023</b>
Standard	£24.45
Enhanced	£64.50

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 people are paid weekly in advance.

## **Accessible vehicle leases and equipment**

People who get the Enhanced rate of the mobility component of Adult Disability Payment are able to use 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 provides 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 are 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 is made by clinicians, and is based on [guidance prepared by the Chief Medical Officer](#). This definition relates to 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 is 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 is no requirement for an individual to undergo any further assessment.
- Awards are calculated, at the latest, from the date of application.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules are automatically entitled to the highest rate of the component part(s) (Daily Living and mobility) of whichever benefit they are entitled to.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules are not 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 Adult Disability Payment to be made with alternative form. For example, a Scottish client may complete a Personal Independence Payment form and send it to the Department for Work and Pensions, who will then re-direct it to Social Security Scotland.

Applicants have 8 weeks to complete part 2 of the form following the submission of part 1.

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 Adult 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 calendar days of being notified of the determination. Social Security Scotland then has 56 calendar days to make a re-determination. Adult 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.

Short Term Assistance will also be available as part of Adult 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 Adult 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 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. 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 Adult Disability Payment applications made since 21 March 2022. 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 16 August 2022 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 July 2022. 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.

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.
- Check for duplicate and missing applicant identification numbers.
- Check application dates are within the expected ranges.
- Check that payment date is present where a payment value is present.
- 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 Adult Disability Payment statistics may include revisions going back to March 2022. This is because each time figures are published they will be based from a new data cut from the case management system, which can include retrospective changes to data going back to March 2022 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. The number of payments have been rounded to the nearest five and the value to the nearest ten pounds 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 21 March 2022. 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.

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.

### *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 Adult Disability Payment may arrive in a non-standard format. For example, a Scottish client may mistakenly complete a Personal Independence Payment 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. Where the initial contact is made by phone, the majority will complete part one over the telephone then 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 video call or in person.

### *Age of applicant*

The age that is used for the applicant is taken from the date of birth that is entered during the completion of the part 1 application and some small errors may exist. The age that is used in this publication is based on the age of the client at the time of application. Ages that are out with 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.

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.

### *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 Daily Living and mobility component rates. The total number of payments presented counts each component of an Adult Disability Payment (e.g. Daily Living and mobility) as individual payments. It also counts multiple payments made to a client in the same month as separate payments. This could happen for a client where payments are being backdated to the start of their entitlement period (e.g. one Daily Living payment for current entitled month, and one Daily Living payment backdated to entitlement start date).

## Data Extraction Issues

### *Processed applications missing a part two received date*

As described in the [How the data is collected section](#), the data in this publication is sourced from Social Security Scotland's case management system. The information is held across multiple tables within the system. Data cuts combine information from the different tables into daily extracts which provide information on applications received, decisions made and financial aspects of applications.

Applications that are withdrawn or denied do not always need a part 2 application. Therefore of those that have been denied or withdrawn where a part 2 date is missing, it is unknown how many of these is due to information missing from the extract.

The impact of this is that:

- There is an undercount in the number of part 2 applications that have been received [Table 1].
- Processing time is calculated using the number of days from part 2 of the application being received to a decision being made or the application being withdrawn. Processing times cannot be calculated where applications are missing a part 2 date in the extract [Table 9].
- Processing times can be calculated for a subset of processed applications that do have a part 2 received date populated. This may introduce bias to the calculation as the processed applications that are missing a part 2 date in the extract may take longer to process [Table 9].
- In addition, the unknown number of applications denied with a part 2 received date missing in the extract could also bias this number if for example these took a longer time to process on average.

Due to these ongoing issues, the processing times published should be treated with caution, as it is only a subset of applications and is not representative of all applications. However, this measure is published to provide an indication of the processing times where possible.

### *Award levels not displaying the most recent award*

The data extract used to produce this publication provides application level information including the details of a client's daily living and mobility levels that are awarded following an initial decision. However, awards and levels may change as a result of many reasons including change of circumstances and the daily living and mobility levels data does not currently update in the data extracts to reflect any change.

## **Related Social Security Scotland Publications**

Updated statistics for Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants in Scotland will be available through the [Social Security Scotland 'Publications' webpage](#).

## **An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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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](http://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 [MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto: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.

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