



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Carer's Allowance at August 2019 and Carer's Allowance Supplement, October eligibility date 2019

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance at November 2019 will be released in May 2020.

Carer's Allowance Supplement, April 2020 eligibility update will be released in August 2020.

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: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/03/18798>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance in Scotland at August 2019 and recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) to the October eligibility date 2019. This 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.

This publication also includes an update of Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics for previous eligibility dates in 2018/19 to 2019/20.

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

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/summary-statistics-for-carers-allowance-at-august-2019-and-carers-allowance-supplement-october-eligibility-date-2019>

These statistics 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 Statistics³.

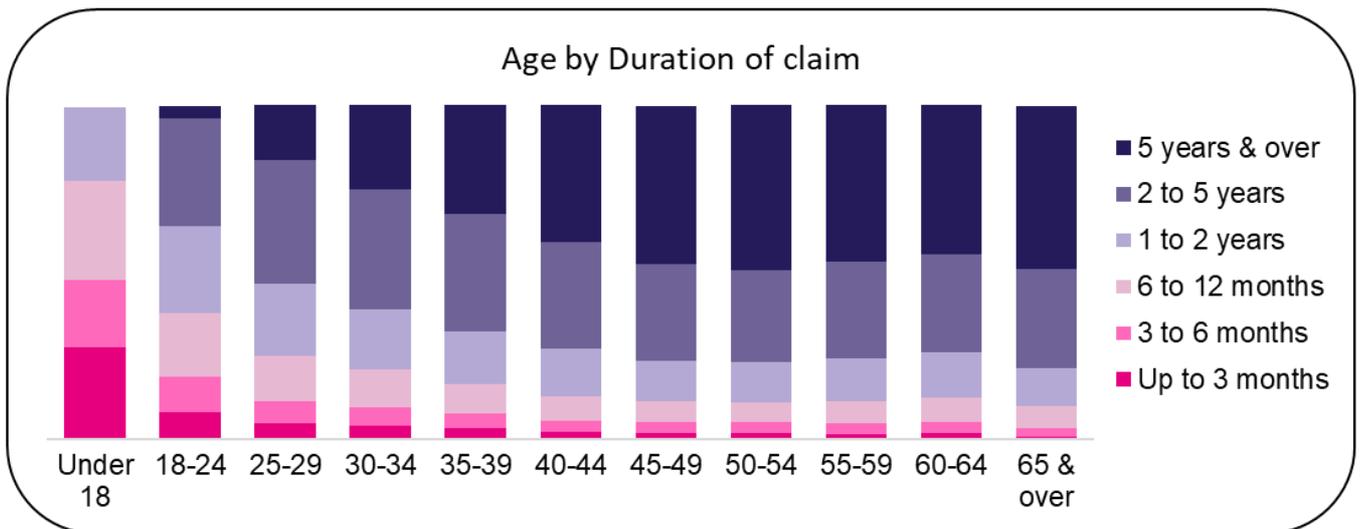
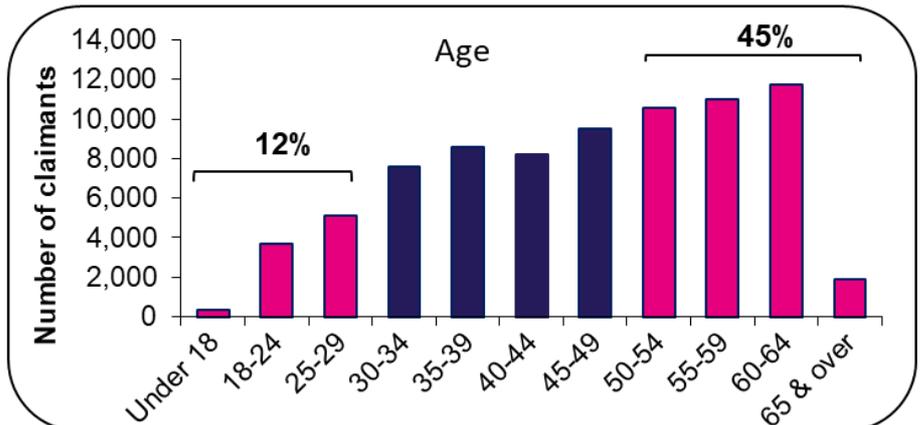
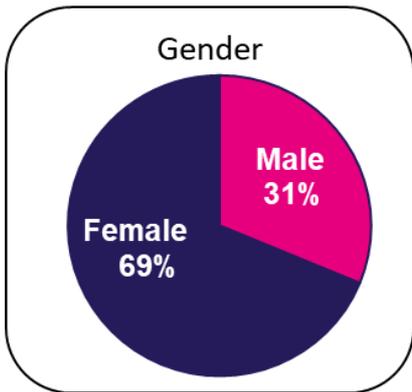
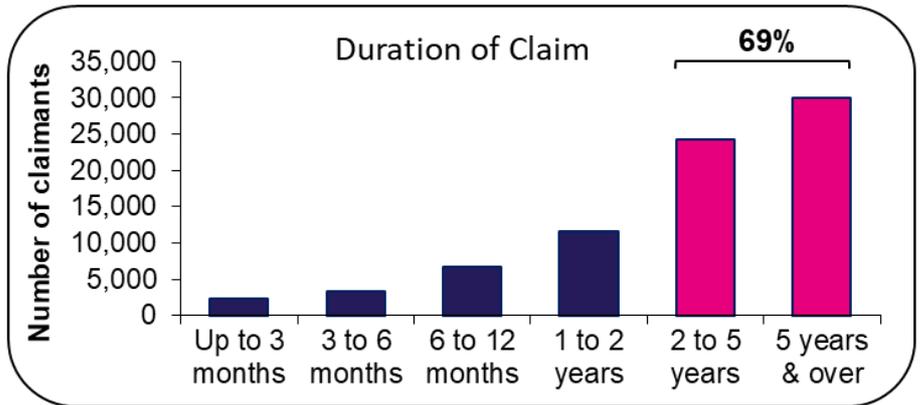
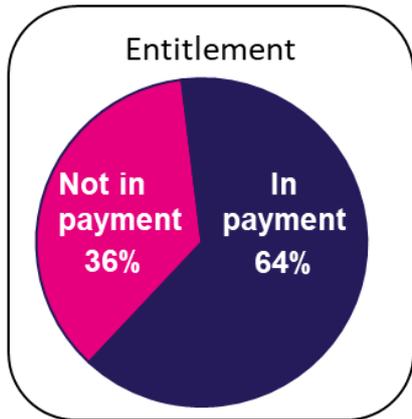
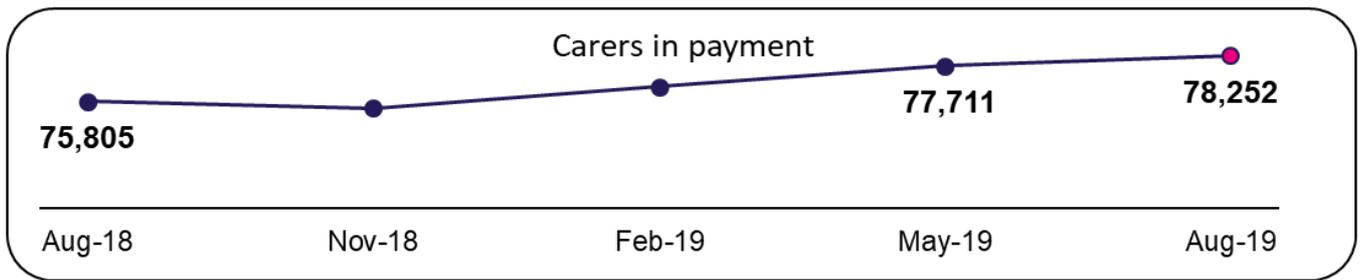
³ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/images-assessmentanddesignationofexperimentalstatistic_tcm97-44327-1.pdf

Carer's Allowance at August 2019

- At the end of August 2019, there were 78,252 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is an increase of three per cent since the previous year (75,805 at the end of August 2018) and a one per cent increase since the last quarter (77,711 at the end of May 2019).
- A further 44,243 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive a payment. The majority of these carers (81 per cent) were 65 or over, so may have been eligible to a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance (See [Background Note](#)).
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance payments (69 per cent) were made to female carers and nearly a third (31 per cent) of payments were made to male carers.
- Of the Carer's Allowance claimants in receipt of payments 45 per cent were aged 50 or over, whereas only 12 per cent were under the age of 30.
- Two thirds of claimants (69 per cent) have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over two years. In total 38 per cent have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over five years.
- The average Carer's Allowance payment was £66.07 a week.

Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance payments to August 2019



October 2019 Eligibility Date

- 78,125 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to carers who were eligible in October 2019. Each payment was £226.20, giving a total expenditure of £17.7 m.
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to female carers (53,790 payments, 69 per cent), while 31 per cent of payments were made to male carers (24,280 payments) **[Table 1]**.
- More than four times as many Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to carers aged over 50 (35,660 payments, 46 per cent), compared to those aged under 30 (8,785, 11 per cent) **[Chart 1]**. The average age of carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments was 46.
- Only a small proportion of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were made to carers aged 65 and over (2,015 payments, 2.6 per cent) or under 18 (315 payments, less than one per cent) **[Chart 1]**.
- The local authorities with the greatest numbers of carers receiving Carer's Allowance Supplement payments were Glasgow City (12,620, 16.2 per cent), North Lanarkshire (6,685, 8.6 per cent), Fife (5,915, 7.6 per cent), South Lanarkshire (5,555, 7.1 per cent) and City of Edinburgh (4,555, 5.8 per cent). **[Table 3, Chart 2]**.

Chart 1: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by ageband – October 2019 eligibility date

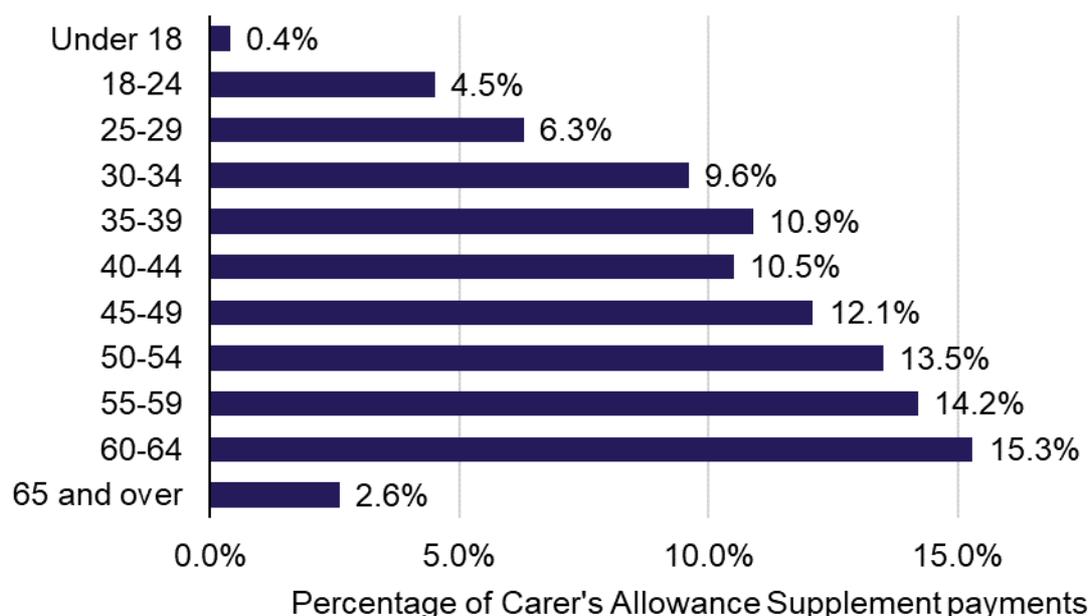
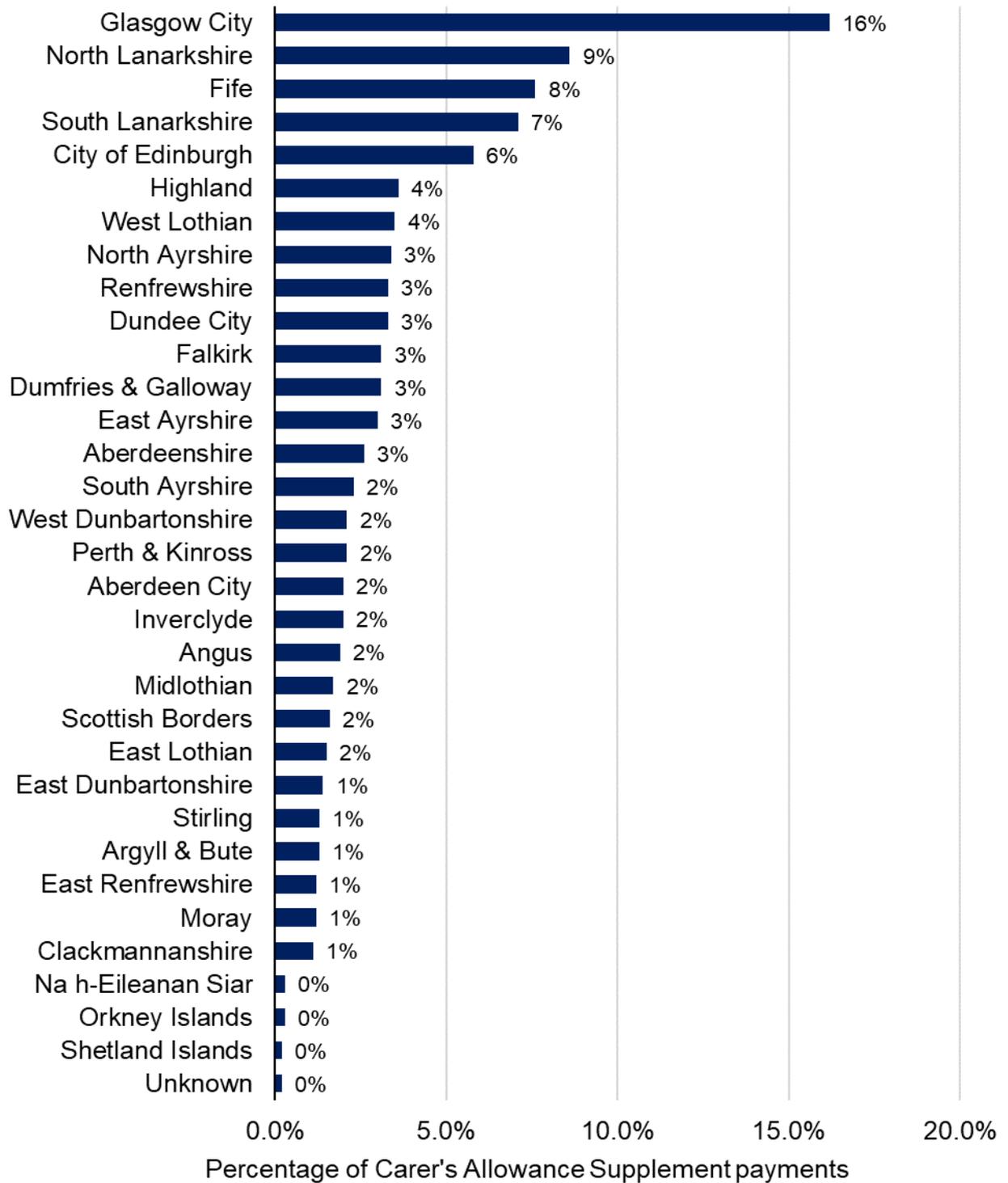


Chart 2: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by Local Authority – October 2019 eligibility date



Carer's Allowance Supplement Payments since September 2018

- Since September 2018, 317,055 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to 98,275 carers who were eligible at any date in 2018/19 or 2019/20 [Table 1, Table 4]. Individual payments were £221 in 2018/19, totalling £34.9m paid to carers eligible at the 2018/19 eligibility dates. In 2019/20 individual payments were £226.20, totaling £36.0m paid to carers eligible at the 2019/20 eligibility dates. In total £70.9m has been paid to carers since September 2018.
- Of those carers eligible in October 2019, 94% (73,220) were also eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement in April 2019. An additional 6% (4,905) of carers were new recipients of Carer's Allowance Supplement. Of those eligible in April 2019, 10% (7,680) were no longer eligible by October 2019 [Table 4, Chart 3].
- The number of carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance Supplement decreased from the April 2019 to the October 2019 eligibility date (2,775 fewer) [Table 1]. This difference may be due to backdating and will change with future updates (See [Background Note](#)). In the previous version of this publication we reported that the number of carers receiving Carer's Allowance Supplement had fallen from October 2018 to April 2019, however, in this version of the publication it is now evident that the number of eligible carers increased between these eligibility dates – this change is due to backdating, with additional carers being found to have been eligible at the April 2019 eligibility date during the most recent scan.
- The percentage of carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance Supplement in each ageband are similar across the eligibility dates, except for the agebands '60-64' and '65 and over', where the proportion of carers in these agebands is increasing over time [Table 2]. This is particularly evident in the '65 and over' category, where the number of carers has more than doubled from 795 at the April 2018 eligibility date to 2,015 at the October 2019 eligibility date. 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 women⁴. 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 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 ageband 60-65 remaining in receipt of Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement.

⁴ 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 66 by October 2020:

<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>

- 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 0.1 percentage points between each eligibility date in each local authority) [Table 3].

Chart 3: Number of carers – April 2019 and October 2019 eligibility date



Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance 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.

Background to the Carer's Allowance Supplement

The Scotland Act 2016⁵ gives Scottish Parliament powers over a number of social security benefits 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. More information on Carer's Allowance can be found [above](#).

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. During this time, Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be eligible to receive Carer's Allowance Supplement. Carer's Allowance Supplement was initially set at a level which would raise their 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 JSA 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
15 October 2018	December 2018	
15 April 2019	June 2019	£226.20
14 October 2019	December 2019	

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.

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

About the data

How Carer's Allowance data is collected

DWP holds information on those in payment of Carer's 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 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 data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's 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 data are subject to DWP's rounding techniques 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.

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 any of the eligibility dates from April 2018 onwards. 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.

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 (685 at the October 2019 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.

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 DWP⁶. 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

⁶ Carer's Allowance statistics are published as part of DWP's benefits statistics collection:

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

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 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 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>.

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/summary-statistics-for-carers-allowance-at-august-2019-and-carers-allowance-supplement-october-eligibility-date-2019>

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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