

## Social Security Scotland Statistics

# Child Disability Payment: high level statistics to 31 March 2023

### Key figures

- From 26 July 2021 to 31 March 2023, 30,975 part 1 applications were received for Child Disability Payment.
- In total, 20,535 applications were processed with a decision made by 31 March 2023. Of these, 82% were authorised, whilst 13% were denied and 5% were withdrawn in this time period.
- The median average processing time for online applications has increased from 94 working days in December 2022, to 106.5 working days in March 2023. The proportion of applications processed in 141 or more working days increased from 12% in December 2022, to 13% in March 2023.
- Between 26 July 2021 and 31 March 2023, the total value of Child Disability Payments issued was £204.9 million. Of this total, £66.2 million was issued to new applicants and £138.6 million was issued to clients who have transferred to Child Disability Payment.
- As of 31 March 2023, it is estimated that 62,325 children and young people were in receipt of Child Disability Payment. Of this total, 16,790 were new applicants and 45,535 were people who had their award transferred to Child Disability Payment.

### Frequency of publications

**The next publication will be released in August 2023.**

**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 is found online at: <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> 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 or young person living with a disability might have.

From 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 2021 to 31 March 2023 ([see how data was collected](#)). It includes figures for approximately a year and eight months of applications and payments.

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:

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

# Main findings

## New applicants

### Applications by month

- From 26 July 2021 to 31 March 2023, there were 30,975 part 1 applications for Child Disability Payment registered. There were 23,570 part 2 applications received in this period **[Table 1]**.
- The number of part 1 applications registered in the previous quarter, from October to December 2022, was 5,400. In the current quarter, from January to March 2023, 5,515 part 1 applications were registered **[Table 1]**.
- As of 31 March 2023, there were 4,545 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 (see [Data Extraction Issues](#)) **[Table 1]**.

### Application outcome

- In total, there were 20,535 applications that were processed with a decision made by 31 March 2023. Of these, 82% of the applications were authorised, whilst 13% were denied and 5% were withdrawn in this time period **[Table 1]**.
- The total number of applications that were processed in the current quarter, from January to March 2023, was 4,435. In the previous quarter, October to December 2022, 3,765 applications were processed. March 2023 had the most applications processed in any month since the benefit launched, with 1,780 **[Table 1]**.

### Initial award type

- Of the applications authorised, 52% were given an initial award comprising of both care and mobility components, whilst 47% were for care only and 1% were for mobility only **[Table 2]**.
- In the months following the national launch of Child Disability Payment, the proportion of applications authorised for both care and mobility components has ranged from 47% in January 2022 to 56% in November 2022 **[Table 2]**.
- There are three levels that can be awarded for care - the lowest, middle or highest level. For further information, see the [payments section](#) of the background note.
- Of the initial awards that included a care element within it, 39% were at the highest level, 42% were the middle level and 20% were at the lowest award level **[Table 3]**.

- There are two levels that can be awarded for mobility - higher and lower. For further information, see the [payments section](#) of the background note.
- Of the initial awards that included a mobility element within it, 88% were for the lower level. The remaining 12% were authorised for the higher level **[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 77% of applications received by 31 March 2023 were made online and 14% were made via phone. A further 5% were made through alternative applications, where a Disability Living Allowance application was redirected to Social Security Scotland **[Table 6]**.
- The proportion of applications that have been made online has increased over the last three quarters, from 78% in July to September 2022, 81% in October to December 2022 and 83% in the current quarter of January to March 2023. **[Table 6]**. For more information on application channels, see the [application and decision making process section](#) of the background note).

## Applications by age of child

- Across the period 26 July 2021 to 31 March 2023, 42% of the part 1 applications were made for children aged 5-10, whilst 31% were in the 11-15 age group and 26% were in the 0-4 age group **[Table 7]**.
- The proportion of applications authorised was similar across the age groups, ranging from 81% in the 11–15 age group to 83% in both the 0-4 and the 5–10 age groups **[Table 7]**. The exception to this was in the 16–18 age group, where withdrawn applications accounted for the highest percentage of processed applications at 48%, followed by authorised and denied applications, each accounting for 26% of processed applications. Those aged 16 and over are not eligible to apply for Child Disability Payment, and should apply for Adult Disability Payment instead (see the [Eligibility](#) section).

## Applications by local authority

- Part 1 applications have been registered for children living in all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Of the part 1 applications registered, 15% were from Glasgow City, followed by 8% in Fife and 7% in North Lanarkshire **[Table 8]**.

- Across the period 26 July 2021 to 31 March 2023, the pilot areas of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross, where applications were taken from 26 July 2021, had proportions of authorised applications ranging from 76% in Na h-Eileanan Siar to 79% in Perth and Kinross. In all other local authority areas, which have been accepting applications for less time, at least 80% of applications have been authorised **[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.
- Due to ongoing data extraction issues, the part 2 received dates are more accurate for applications where a part 1 is registered online, than for applications from other channels. Therefore the processing times presented is currently a subset of applications from clients who completed the part 1 of their application online. For further details, see the [Data extraction issues](#) section of the background note. This measure is published to provide an indication of the processing times where possible.
- The median<sup>4</sup> average processing time increased from 94 working days in December 2022 to 106.5 in March 2023. The median average processing time for all applications processed since July 2021 was 71 working days. There has been a gradual increase in the median average processing time across each month since December 2021 **[Table 9a]**.
- The proportion of applications processed in 141 or more working days increased from 12% in December 2022, to 13% in March 2023 **[Table 9a]**.
- Table 9b has been added to show the proportion of decisions which have been completed within each time band. The proportion of decisions completed within 141 working days, or seven months, has remained relatively similar, decreasing from 88% in December 2022 to 87% in March 2023 **[Table 9b]**.
- The biggest change across the time bands in the latest quarter was seen in the ‘within 100 working days’ category, which equates to around five months. The proportion of decisions completed within five months decreased from 63% in December 2022 to 37% in March 2023 **[Table 9b]**.

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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.

# New applicants and clients being transferred

## Payments

- The total value of Child Disability Payment payments issued up to 31 March 2023 was £204.9 million. Of this, £66.2 million was to new applicants and £138.6 million was to people who had their award transferred. The total number of payments issued is now over one million **[Table 10]**.
- Overall, the care component accounted for 76% of the expenditure, with a value of £155.3 million issued, whilst the mobility payments issued accounted for 21% of the expenditure, totalling £42.8 million **[Table 10]**.
- The monthly total value of payments issued has increased each month since the benefit launched until December 2022, where the monthly total value was £26.7 million. There was a decline in the total monthly payments in January to £18.4 million and then an increase to £23.3 million in February 2023. In March 2023, the total value of payments issued was £30.7 million **[Table 10]**.
- Of the total value of care payments issued, 48% was for those within the highest care award level, with a value of £74.8 million and 48% was for the middle award level with a value of £73.9 million **[Table 11]**.
- Of the total value of mobility payments issued, 83% was for the lower mobility award level, with a value of £34.6 million and 17% was for the higher award level with a value of £6.8 million **[Table 12]**.
- For the proportion of payment amounts issued for each care and mobility award level, for new applicants and clients who had their case transferred, see the two tables below. It is important to note that the cohorts of case transfers and new applicants are different. This is because case transfers are likely to have been receiving their award for a longer time than new applicants, since Child Disability Payment is a relatively new benefit. Case transfers are also generally an older cohort than new applicants (see [Caseload section](#) and Chart 1). This may contribute towards some of the differences in awards seen between case transfers and new applicants.

**Excerpt from Table 11: Proportion of total payment values issued for each care award level, by client type**

Client type	Proportion of total value of payments issued to clients		
	Highest care award	Middle care award	Lowest care award
<b>Total</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>4%</b>
New applicants	53%	39%	8%
Case transfers	46%	52%	2%

**Excerpt from Table 12: Proportion of total payment values issued for each mobility award level, by client type**

Client type	Proportion of total value of payments issued to clients	
	Higher mobility award	Lower mobility award
<b>Total</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>83%</b>
New applicants	24%	76%
Case transfers	13%	87%

- It should be noted that the data in Tables 11 and 12 excludes some payments where an award level is not recorded. As a result, some payment values may differ from data presented in Table 10. Tables 11 and 12 are currently under review due to this data quality issue (see [Data Extraction Issues](#) for further details).
- Payments were issued to clients living in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland. The highest total value of payments was made to clients in Glasgow City at £28.4 million, followed by Fife at £15.1 million and North Lanarkshire at £14.9 million [**Table 13**].

## **Caseload**

- As of 31 March 2023, it is estimated that 62,325 children and young people were in receipt of Child Disability Payment, of which 16,790 were authorised new applicants [**Table 14**].
- Of the total caseload, 45,535 were children who had had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. This number has increased from 42,005 at the end of December 2022 [**Table 14**]. Further information on the case transfer process can be found in the [background note](#).
- The methodology for calculating caseload has changed from the previous publication. The caseload is a derived statistic calculated based on identifying all cases who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet. Further information on the calculation and the changes in methodology can be found in the [background note](#).

### ***Caseload by award type and caseload by age***

- It is estimated that of the new applicants, 16,710 were in receipt of a care award and 9,645 were in receipt of a mobility award as of 31 March 2023 [**Table 14**].
- Of those who had their award transferred, 45,325 were in receipt of a care award and 36,205 in receipt of a mobility award as of 31 March 2023 [**Table 14**]. The methodology for calculating caseload by award type has changed and further information can be found in the [background note](#).

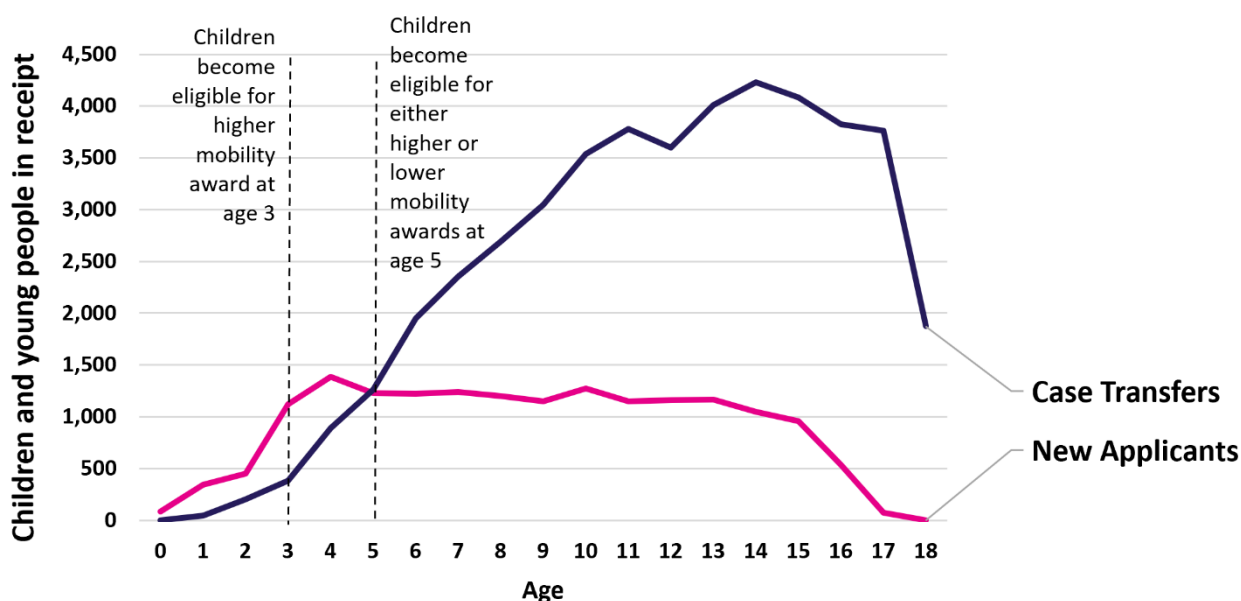
- Of the new applicants in receipt in March 2023, 57% received both care and mobility awards, and 43% received care only awards [Table 14].
- Of those who had their award transferred, 79% received both care and mobility awards, and 20% received care only awards [Table 14].

**Excerpt from Table 14: Proportion of caseload by award and client type in March 2023**

Client type	Proportion of caseload by award type in March 2023		
	Both	Care only	Mobility only
All	73%	26%	0%
New applicants	57%	43%	0%
Case transfers	79%	20%	0%

- The difference in award types may be related to the age profile of the new applicants, compared to those who have had their awards transferred, who are likely to have been in receipt for a longer period of time. Chart 1 shows the age profile of the caseload by client type in March 2023. The age profile of clients that have been transferred is much older, with 64% of the caseload being aged 11-18, compared with new applicants where only 36% are aged 11 to 18 (see the excerpt from Table 15 below).

**Chart 1: Caseload in March 2023 by age and client type**



**Excerpt from Table 15: Proportion of caseload by age and client type in March 2023**

Client type	Proportion of caseload by age in March 2023			
	0 - 4	5-10	11-15	16-18
All	8%	36%	40%	16%
New applicants	20%	44%	33%	4%
Case transfers	3%	33%	43%	21%



- The age profile of new applicants and children who have had their award transferred is shown in Table 15. For new applicants, those aged 0-17 are in the caseload, with children aged three to four being the largest age groups across previous caseload periods. In March 2023, children aged four were the largest age group, followed by age ten **[Table 15, Chart 1]**.
- For children and young people who have had their awards transferred, those aged 1-18 are in the caseload, with those aged 13 – 15 representing the largest age groups in March 2023 **[Table 15, Chart 1]**. The case transfer caseload is not expected to include babies aged 0-1 since it has been over a year since Child Disability Payment launched, so they would have been able to apply for Child Disability Payment straight away.
- The case transfer process began in October 2021, when children who were aged over 15 and a half to 17 who received Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Children under 15 and a half years old began having their awards transferred from spring 2022. For more information, see the case transfer section of the background note.

#### ***Caseload by sex of child or young person***

- The sex of child has been included as an additional one off table for this publication. Sex of child was obtained via the application form until 30 October 2022, and subsequently this information is obtained via an equalities monitoring form.
- In the October 2022 caseload, the sex of child was unknown/other for 16% of new applicants, of which, 13.9% were missing a sex of child **[Table 16]**. Some of the missing information may be because this information is collected when part 2 of the application form is completed and there is ongoing data extraction issues with the part 2 received dates. For further details, see the Data extraction issues section of the background note.
- On removal of the clients where the sex of child is unknown/other, the proportion of males and females is 63% and 37% respectively, for new applicants. For clients that have had their cases transferred the proportion of males is higher at 70% compared to 30% for females **[Table 16]**.

**Excerpt from Table 16: Proportion of caseload by sex of child and client type in October 2022 – unknown/other removed**

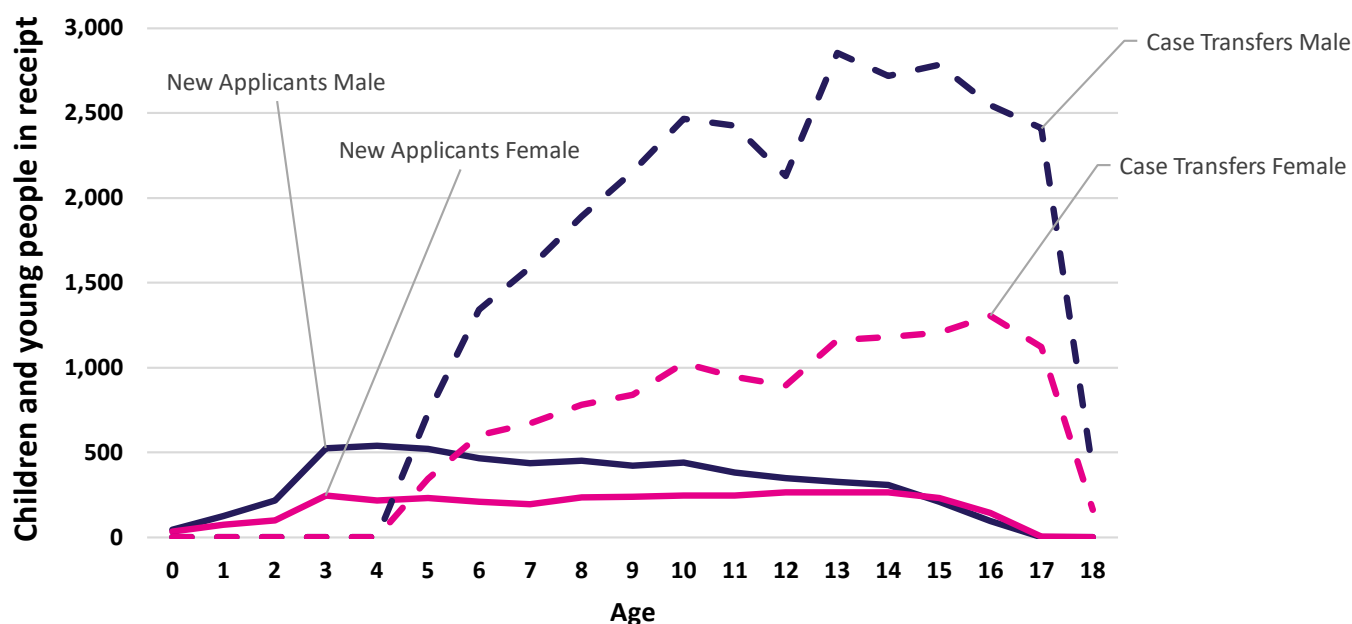
Client type	Proportion of caseload by award type in October 2022	
	Male	Female
All	69%	31%
New applicants	63%	37%
Case transfers	70%	30%

- For new applicants who are aged 0-10, 67% are male and 33% are female. For new applicants aged 11-18, the proportions are more even with 54% male and 46% female. This is in contrast to the case transfer caseload where the proportion of males and females is similar for both age groups 0-10 and 11-18, with 70-71% male and 29-30% female [Table 16].

Excerpt from Table 16: Proportion of caseload by sex of child, age and client type in October 2022 - unknown/other removed

Client type	Age at the end of October 2022	Sex of child				
		Total	Male	Female	% Male	% Female
All	0 – 10	20,630	14,345	6,285	70%	30%
	11 – 18	29,305	19,920	9,385	68%	32%
New applicants	0 – 10	6,205	4,175	2,030	67%	33%
	11 – 18	3,080	1,665	1,415	54%	46%
Case transfers	0 – 10	14,430	10,170	4,255	71%	29%
	11 – 18	26,225	18,255	7,970	70%	30%

Chart 2: Caseload in October 2022 by age, sex and client type



### Caseload by local authority

- The number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment in March 2023 was highest in Glasgow City with 14%. This was followed by Fife, South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire which each accounted for 7% [Table 17].

### Caseload by Special Rules for Terminal Illness Status

- Of the 62,325 children and young people in receipt of Child Disability Payment in March 2023, 50 of these were receiving an award with Special Rules for Terminal Illness [Table 18].

## Re-determinations and appeals: New applicants and clients being transferred

- There were 1,245 re-determinations requested by 31 March 2023. Of these, 970 were requested by new applicants, and 275 by clients being transferred **[Table 19]**.
- The requests from new applicants represents around 5% of the total number of decisions made for new applicants by 31 March 2023 **[Table 19]**.
- By 31 March 2023, 1,105 re-determination requests had been decided. Of these, 84% were allowed or partially allowed and 12% were disallowed **[Table 19]**.
- Of the completed re-determinations, new applicants and clients with their award transferred had a similar proportion of allowed or partially allowed, at 84% and 83% respectively **[Table 19]**.

Excerpt from Table 19: Proportion of re-determination outcomes, by client type

Client type	Percentage of completed re-determinations which are disallowed	Percentage of completed re-determinations which are allowed or partially allowed	Percentage of completed re-determinations which are invalid
<b>Total</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>5%</b>
New applicants	12%	84%	4%
Case transfers	9%	83%	8%

- Overall, 98% of re-determinations were closed within 56 days **[Table 19]**.
- There were 45 appeals received by 31 March 2023, of which 15 had been decided. Of these, 80% were upheld in the clients' favour and 20% were not upheld **[Table 20]**.

# Background to Child 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 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 apply and their awards will be transferred to Social Security Scotland 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 or young person living with a disability might have. The pilot launched on the 26 July 2021 for new applicants living in the local authorities 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. Further details about the benefit can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>.

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

## Case transfers

From 11 October 2021, children and young people who were aged over 15 and a half to 17 who received Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Children under 15 and a half years old began having their awards transferred from spring 2022. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for over 99% of those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children by spring 2023 with the remainder completing soon after.

A case transfer begins when Department for Work and Pensions first sends over a person's case data to Social Security Scotland. This occurs approximately three to four months before a person's Disability Living Allowance for children entitlement ends, so that their Child Disability Payment award can be prepared in advance and ready for a transfer between payments of Disability Living Allowance for children and payments of Child Disability Payment. During this transitional period, the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to make payments to these individuals. A transfer is complete once entitlement to Child Disability Payment has started. The first case files were received in October 2021 for people whose entitlement to Child Disability Payment started from January 2022, with payments commencing in February 2022 due to payments being made 4 weeks in arrears.

Social Security Scotland will only publish detailed information on case transfers from the time that they are fully responsible for the administration of that case, including making the payments. The Department for Work and Pensions will publish information on the cases that are still being paid by them.

## Eligibility

An adult with [parental responsibilities and rights](#) or a guardian can apply for Child Disability Payment on behalf of a child 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, for young people in receipt of assistance before they were 16. New applicants who are 16 or above will need to apply for Adult Disability Payment which Social Security Scotland launched nationally on 29 August 2022.

## **Application and decision making process**

The application stage involves a two part application process. The part 1 form gathers key personal details of the child or young person. The impact of the child or young person'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 applicant will be sent a paper form to complete part 2 of the application. In some instances an applicant 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 applicant 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 ([see eligibility section](#) for information on those aged 16 to 18). 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 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 calendar 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.

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.

## **Payments**

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

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 five years or older. The higher rate of the mobility component is available for eligible children who are at least three years old.

The below tables indicate the value of payments for the period covered by the publication, the 2021/22 and 2022/23 rates.

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 in advance.

Care component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2021/22	2022/23	
<b>Lowest rate</b>	£23.70	£24.45	Help for some of the day
<b>Middle rate</b>	£60.00	£61.85	Frequent help or continual supervision during the day, or attention at night, or someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day or at night
<b>Highest rate</b>	£89.60	£92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day and at night, or they are terminally ill

Mobility component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2021/22	2022/23	
<b>Lower rate</b>	£23.70	£24.45	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
<b>Higher rate</b>	£62.55	£64.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They cannot walk or are virtually unable to walk outdoors, or</li> <li>• They could become very ill if they try to walk, or</li> <li>• They have a severe visual disability, or</li> <li>• They have no legs or feet, (regardless of the use of artificial limbs), or</li> <li>• They are both blind and deaf, or</li> <li>• They have a severe mental impairment with severe behavioural difficulties and qualify for the highest rate of the care component, or</li> <li>• They are terminally ill</li> </ul>



## **Accessible vehicle leases and equipment**

Children who get the higher rate of the mobility component of Child Disability Payment will be 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 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. People 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<sup>6</sup>. 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.

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<sup>6</sup> This differs from the Department for Work and Pensions definition of terminal illness, which is 'a progressive disease where death as a consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within 12 months'. The Department for Work and Pensions changed this definition from 6 months to 12 months on 3 April 2023.

# 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 16 April 2023 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 March 2023 (See [Revisions](#) section). 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.

Detailed re-determinations and appeals information is collected by the Client Experience team at Social Security Scotland and a challenges administrative extract is used to produce statistics on the number of re-determination requests received and decided up to 23:59 on 31 March 2023.

## 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.

- 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 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 the [age of applicant](#) section.
- Check postcode lengths are within the expected ranges and check postcodes that do not match to local authorities – see the [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

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 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.

In August 2022, a change was implemented in the data extracts to try and resolve the issue of part 2 received dates not being extracted for a number of applications. Following this change, the proportion of applications processed without a part 2 date has fallen, however the issue has not been fully resolved.

Table 11 (Payments by award type) that was provided in the previous publication, has been removed from the current publication. This is due to caseload by award type now being included in table 14 in the current publication.

The methodology for calculating the caseload in tables 14 through 18 has been revised to include cases that have been authorised but which have not yet received a payment. More information on this is included in the Caseload (new applicants and people being transferred) section below.

## **Methodology and definitions: Caseload (new applicants and case transfers)**

A new methodology has been introduced in this publication in order to produce a more accurate estimate of the caseload. This methodology uses a new caseload data extract which makes it possible to identify all cases who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet.

Payments are made every four weeks, in arrears, with the entitlement start date being the date that the applicant registered their part 1 form. The new methodology differs from the previous method by:

- Using a point-in-time measure of the number of people in receipt of Child Disability Payment on the final day of any given month. This methodology counts people from the point that they are approved for a payment until the point that their application is closed. Therefore, if a client's eligibility ended on the last day of a month, they would be counted in that month's caseload, but not in subsequent months. However, if the client's eligibility ended before the last day of the month then they would not be included in that month's caseload.
- Counting people in the caseload who are eligible for payment in the calculated caseload period, but who are not receiving payments yet due to it being their first payment which will be made in arrears.

A data cut from 16 April 2023 has been used to produce statistics on all cases who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet, up to 11.59 pm on 31 March 2023.

### ***Comparison of new caseload methodology with previously published caseload methodology***

As the new methodology counts not only those clients who are in receipt of payment, but also those that have been approved for a payment in the caseload period, it results in higher caseload numbers in this publication compared to those previously published. This is especially true for clients who have had their cases transferred. This is due to the new caseload measure capturing the approximate date that a transferred case is approved for payment of Child Disability Payment, compared to the previous method which would capture these clients up to four weeks later when their payment was made in arrears.

This difference will be bigger in the earliest months of the launch, due to there being higher numbers of cases being transferred. In the later months this difference will not be as marked. For example, a comparison using March 2023 as the caseload period, shows that for overall caseload calculated using the new methodology is around 1% larger than that calculated with the previous methodology. See the below table for a comparison of the two methods for March 2022, September 2022 and March 2023.

Month	Client Type	Caseload using previous method	Caseload using current method	% increase
March 2022	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>72%</b>
	New applicants	2,495	2,720	9%
	Case transfers	555	2,515	354%
September 2022	<b>Total</b>	<b>43,720</b>	<b>49,365</b>	<b>13%</b>
	New applicants	9,780	10,020	2%
	Case transfers	33,940	39,345	16%
March 2023	<b>Total</b>	<b>61,450</b>	<b>62,325</b>	<b>1%</b>
	New applicants	16,490	16,790	2%
	Case transfers	44,960	45,535	1%

### ***Caseload by award type methodology***

In order to identify caseload numbers by award type (i.e. awarded both care and mobility, care only or mobility only) the caseload extract was linked to the payments extract which details whether a client receives a care, mobility or accessible vehicles and equipment payment. For clients who were still to receive their first payment, the initial award in the applications extract was used as the award type. Initial award type would be accurate here, as these clients will have just entered the caseload, therefore their award type is unlikely to have changed from the initial award.

There are limitations to this method which include:

- When bank holidays occur in a caseload month, it means that a payment may be made earlier to the client. This could result in that payment being allocated incorrectly to an earlier month and therefore the caseload award type being registered against that month.
- If the award type of a client changed in between its initial award and first payment, this could result in an incorrect award type for that given month.

This methodology is experimental and is likely to change over time.

### ***Caseload by age and sex***

Table 16 has been included as an additional one off table for this publication. This is because sex of child was obtained via the application form until October 2022. Subsequently this information is obtained via an equalities monitoring form. This one off table shows the sex of child data that was collected via the application form.

For new applicants, there were a high number of unknown/other in the data set. 'Unknown' sex of child includes 'Unknown', 'I'd prefer not to say', 'Other' and blank entries. For example, in the October 2022 caseload, the sex of child was unknown/other for 16% of new applicants, of which, 14% were missing a sex of child **[Table 16]**. Some of the missing information may be because this information is collected when part 2 of the application form is completed and there is ongoing data

extraction issues with the part 2 received dates. For further details, see the [Data extraction issues](#) section of the background note.

### ***Caseload by Special Rules for Terminal Illness Status***

Table 18 has been added to show the latest caseload figure for clients receiving an award with Special Rules for Terminal Illness. This has been calculated using the Special Rules for Terminal Illness indicator from the applications extract, and linking this to the new caseload extract.

## **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.

In the previous publications, of the applications that had been processed, only those where the part 1 was registered online had a part 2 received date appearing in the extract. At the same time, not all processed online applications had a part 2 received date appearing in the extract. Individuals with processed applications that had made their part 1 application via other channels did not have a part 2 application date. This was because the extract that provides application level information was not extracting these dates. Therefore we were unable to calculate processing times for these applications where the part 2 received date was not extracted.

In August 2022, a change was implemented in the data extracts to try and resolve this issue by extracting all the part 2 received dates where applicable. Following this change, the proportion of applications processed without a part 2 date has fallen, however the issue has not been fully resolved.

In addition to this, during the quality assurance process a number of inconsistencies have been found in the updated data including:

- The part 2 received date is before the part 1 date
- The part 2 received date is after the decision date
- Part 2 received dates are missing for approved applications<sup>7</sup>

Cases with any of the above inconsistencies have been excluded from the processing time calculations.

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<sup>7</sup> This excludes approved applications that were subject to Special Rules for Terminal Illness where there is only one part to the application, to make the process simpler and quicker.

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 still unknown how many of these are due to information being missing from the extract.

We are continuing to assess these issues and progress towards a solution, with a view to improving the data being captured and extracted. Currently, the extraction of part 2 received dates is more accurate for online applications than for applications from other channels, so in this publication we continue to present information on processing times on the subset of online applications only.

The impact of the issues described above is similar to that of previous publications:

- 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 online applications that do have a part 2 received date populated. This may introduce bias to the calculation, as it is likely that applications via other channels such as telephone and mail would have a longer processing time. Furthermore, the online processed applications that are missing a part 2 date in the extract, may also add bias if there is some reason that these applications would 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 or shorter time to process on average.

Due to these ongoing issues, the processing times published here should be treated with caution, as they only include a subset of applications and are not representative of all applications. However, this measure is published to provide an indication of the processing times where possible. Quality assurance work will continue in this area and it is anticipated that in future publications this can be updated with all applications.

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

The data extract used to produce this publication provides application level information including the details of an individual's care 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 care and mobility levels data does not currently update in the data extracts to reflect any change.

When the applications extract was linked to the payments extract that contains financial information, there were a number of payments that could not be assigned to a care or mobility award level. This is due to only the initial award level being available

in the applications data, but in these instances the payments data is reflecting the updated award level, which is not provided in any of the extracts.

This means that some payments that were included in Table 10 have not been included in award level breakdowns within Tables 11 and 12 and total values may differ as a result. The inclusion of Tables 11 and 12 is currently under review. In addition, it is anticipated that award level information will be obtained in the future.

## **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 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. Individuals 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 person. For this publication we have retained all these applications, but this represents a small proportion of 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 applicant 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. 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 individual 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.

The category of 'paper applications' includes figures for applications received by a combined part 1 and part 2, as well as those received by separate paper part 1 and part 2 applications. The category of 'other channel' includes applications received through Local delivery as well as any that have a recorded channel of 'In Person', 'Transferred from DWP' and 'External System'.

### *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 and some small errors may exist. Different measures of age are used in this publication. In table 7, which details number of applications received and processed, age is based on the age of the child when part 1 of the application was received. In table 15, which details the age of children that are in different caseload periods, age is based on the age that the child would be on the last day of the caseload period in question.

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 individual profiles and data extracts are automatically updated in the case of a person changing address. As a result, postcodes reflect the latest address 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 being received, or decision or payment being made.

### *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 applicants and other organisations (for example, General Practitioners (GPs) and local authorities), 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.

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 (see above in [Data Extraction Issues](#)). 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.

The processing times calculation also 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. 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.

As described above in the [Data Extraction Issues](#) section, the processing times published should be treated with caution, as it is only a subset of applications and is not representative of all applications.

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

Payments to applicants eligible under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness have been included in the totals, but due to small application numbers they have not been included in further breakdowns.

## **Future Developments**

It is planned that information on disability conditions will be added for the next publication in August 2023. Information on duration of award is also intended to be included later in the year.

Other future developments include the removal of tables 11 and 12, payments by care and mobility level, respectively. These tables will be replaced with caseload alternatives. Additionally, in the future it is hoped that table 5 will be removed and replaced with a caseload alternative that will be split by client type.

If you have any feedback on the proposed developments, or on the changes to the caseload methodology from this publication, please contact us at [MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot).

## **Related Social Security Scotland Publications**

Updated statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance recipients in Scotland will be available through the Social Security Scotland 'publications' webpage at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/publications>

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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.

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