

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance

Island Communities Impact Assessment

November 2024

Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA)

Disability Assistance (Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance) (Scotland) Regulations 2025

1. Introduction

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018¹ places a duty on the Scottish Ministers and other relevant authorities, including a number of public authorities, to have regard to island communities in exercising their functions, and for the Scottish Ministers this also includes the development of legislation. This duty is often referred to as 'island-proofing'.

The importance of island-proofing was recognised in the "Empowering Scotland's Island Communities prospectus" published in June 2014. The principle of island-proofing is one of building a broad-based islands awareness into the decision-making process of all parts of the public sector.

The Scottish Government committed to island-proofing the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018² (the 2018 Act) in advance of the Islands Act placing a formal requirement to do so. The Scottish Government is also committed to island-proofing the legislation required in support of the delivery of social security powers in Scotland.

If Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that any piece of proposed legislation is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities, then the duty to island-proof legislation requires Scottish Ministers to:

- a) describe the likely significantly different effect of the legislation;
- b) assess the extent to which Scottish Ministers consider that the legislation can be developed in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from the legislation; and
- c) set out the financial implications of steps taken under this subsection to mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from the legislation.

2. Executive Summary

This Island Communities Impact Assessment has considered the potential effects of the Disability Assistance (Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 and how they impact on people living in island communities, as presented below in the [Key Findings](#) section.

The findings here are based on desk research, engagement with and feedback from disabled people with lived experience of the current social security system,³ and the Consultation on Disability Assistance.⁴ The consultation ran until 28 May 2019. The consultation received 262 responses from individuals and stakeholder organisations. We have taken a number of actions as a result of these responses including:

¹ [Islands \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#)

² [Social Security \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#)

³ [Social Security Experience Panels: Publications](#)

⁴ [A Consultation on Improving Disability Assistance in Scotland](#)

- Further in-depth analysis of the impact of proposed changes to the application of the eligibility criteria. This can be found in the related Equalities Impact Assessment, which specifically considers potential impacts on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, such as women, older people, racial minorities and people with one or more mental, physical or learning disabilities.
- The Scottish Government is extending the Island Communities Impact Assessment by considering rurality and remoteness in the same spirit of the Act to gauge evidence as to whether the policy and regulations will impact rural/remote communities differently to other communities.

Scottish Ministers have concluded that there are unlikely to be any unique impacts on remote and island communities as a result of the provisions in these regulations, nor will there be a specific financial impact for island communities in isolation resulting from the provisions. The positive impacts of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance that have been identified are expected to have a similar impact on remote and island communities as with the rest of Scotland.

3. Policy Background

The Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 sets out the broad framework for the delivery of the Scottish Government's social security benefits. On 1 April 2020, executive and legal competence for disability benefits was transferred to Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Government has now replaced Disability Living Allowance for children with Child Disability Payment, and Personal Independence Payment with Adult Disability Payment. Attendance Allowance in Scotland will start to be replaced by Pension Age Disability Payment in 2024-25. Disability Living Allowance is currently being delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Scottish Government under the terms of an Agency Agreement. Under the 2018 Act, it is the Scottish Government's intention to replace Disability Living Allowance with Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance will be delivered by Social Security Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Adult Disability Living allowance will be a closed benefit only available to existing Disability Living Allowance recipients who reside in Scotland. In line with the Scottish Government's published case transfer principles, transfer from the Department of Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland will take place without clients needing to make a new application. Clients will be no worse off at the point of transfer, and Social Security Scotland will honour the client's award review date.

Based on information from the Department for Work and Pensions' Stat-Xplore service, there were around 80,000 individuals as of August 2023 with an entitlement to Disability Living Allowance in Scotland whose awards would transfer Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. By the time Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is expected to be launched, forecasts anticipate there will be around 65,000 cases in scope for transfer.

In order to transfer clients in line with the case transfer principles, Scottish Ministers do not propose to make significant changes to the existing Disability Living Allowance eligibility criteria when introducing Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. Examples of this include the replication of the current 3-month qualifying period for Disability Living Allowance for those under the relevant age and capping the rate of the mobility component for clients over that age. By maintaining the current eligibility criteria, individuals in Scotland who are eligible for passported benefits and premiums from the UK Government will have seamless access to this vital support. This will provide security to people in Scotland when Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is rolled out.

However, there are some key changes along with a number of practical administrative differences between Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance and Disability Living Allowance which Scottish Ministers expect to have a positive impact for disabled people in Scotland. These differences have been developed through the commitments under the Social Security Charter.⁵ The Scottish Government recognises social security as a human right and has designed Social Security Scotland's services with the people who use them so that everyone is treated with dignity, fairness and respect. The Scottish Government is committed to continually improving Scottish disability benefits by continuing to engage with disabled people and stakeholders to identify areas for further improvement in future.

People who require further assistance or would prefer face-to-face support will be able to access that through Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery service. Local Delivery staff will provide one-to-one support and help disabled people to understand what Scottish Government benefits they may be entitled to. They can also provide assistance to complete relevant forms and take forward any follow-up actions relating to a person's ongoing award. This support will be of particular benefit to those on receipt of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, as many clients in this cohort are older and/or vulnerable, and may find completing forms overwhelming and might not have access to a support network to assist them.

The Scottish Government launched the Social Security Independent Advocacy Service in January 2022 and has committed to investing £20.4 million in the service over the four years following the launch of the service.⁶ The service is free and supports people who self-identify as a disabled person with advocacy when dealing with Social Security Scotland with regards to their benefit.

As with the Scottish Government's other disability benefits, a new approach to gathering supporting information is being utilised by Social Security Scotland which will help reduce stress and anxiety for individuals. A Case Manager will ordinarily only seek one piece of supporting information from a professional to support the decision-making process when making a determination on an individual's change of circumstances or following a scheduled review.

Case Managers will use a collaborative approach to help people gather supporting information from a professional, where an individual does not already have this to hand. This includes Case Managers obtaining supporting information from professionals on the

⁵ [Social Security Scotland Charter](#)

⁶ [Social Security Scotland - New Independent Advocacy Service opens](#)

individual's behalf. Case Managers can also assist in gathering supporting information from the individual's wider support network, such as a family member or unpaid carer, which can help Social Security Scotland to understand the individual's needs, conditions or disability.

The Scottish Government included provision in the 2018 Act to introduce a new definition of terminal illness that differs from the current UK Government definition. It removes the arbitrary 12 month timescale currently used by the Department for Work and Pensions. Instead, the judgement as to whether a person should be considered terminally ill for the purposes of determining eligibility for Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance will be made by clinicians, based on guidance prepared by the Chief Medical Officer.⁷

The Scottish Government's new definition allows medical professionals, including registered nurses, to use their clinical judgement when determining whether an individual has a condition which can reasonably be expected to result in their death. This means that individuals who would otherwise not be entitled to Disability Living Allowance through Special Rules will be able to do so under the Scottish Government definition as part of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, thereby having a positive impact on those with protected characteristics in Scotland.

During the Parliamentary passage of the 2018 Act, the inclusion of Short-term Assistance was welcomed by stakeholders and supported by Parliament. The Scottish Government has committed to providing Short-term Assistance where Social Security Scotland has made a determination to reduce or stop an on-going Scottish Government benefit and that determination is subject to a request for re-determination or an appeal. As with the Scottish Government's other disability benefits, Short-term Assistance will be available for those with an award of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance.

The intention of Short-term Assistance is to ensure individuals are not discouraged from challenging a review of their award determination or from accessing administrative justice, by having to manage, for a period, with a reduced income. Short-term Assistance is not available in the UK Government system. Providing support in this way is another example of where Scottish Ministers are removing barriers in the Scottish social security system.

Short-term Assistance will be available until the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland has made a determination, and is non-recoverable except in cases of fraud or error. Where a person is eligible, the value of Short-term Assistance will be the difference between the longstanding award paid prior to the reduction and the new level of award. This includes when that amount is now £nil because entitlement to the individual's award has stopped.

⁷ [Guidance for Doctors and Nurses Completing Benefits Assessment Under Special Rules in Scotland \(BASRiS\) form for Terminal Illness from the Chief Medical Officer](#)

The proposal that Short-term Assistance should not be recoverable, except in cases of fraud or error, was also met with approval by 87% of respondents to the Disability Assistance consultation.⁸ This will ensure that, should a re-determination or appeal be unsuccessful, there will not be any overpayments that individuals will need to worry about repaying. This will help to prevent a further reduction in household income should the re-determination or appeal be unsuccessful, something which was stressed by respondents.

People will be able to challenge their transfer determination by requesting a re-determination, and subsequently they will be able to appeal to the Social Security Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland. Once the transfer from Disability Living Allowance to Scottish Adult Disability Allowance is complete, individuals who were born on or after 8 April 1948 will be able to make an application for Adult Disability Payment instead if they wish to do so. However, this will not be an automated process, and will remain optional for these recipients as part of Scottish Ministers commitment to preserve the safe and secure transfer principles.

This policy is closely aligned with the Healthier, Wealthier and Fairer Strategic Objectives, and contributes to the following National Outcomes:

- We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination;
- We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth, and power more equally; and
- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

This impact assessment has been developed in a way that incorporates findings of previous similar impact assessments, such as the Island Communities Impact Assessments (ICIAs) that accompanied the Disability Assistance for Working Age People (Scotland) Regulations 2022⁹ and the draft Disability Assistance for Older People (Scotland) Regulations 2024.¹⁰

4. Scope of the Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA)

The scope of this Island Communities Impact Assessment is the impact on disabled people over the age of 18 and their families, who live in remote and island communities, of replacing Disability Living Allowance with the Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance.

5. Key Findings

This section provides an overview of issues for Scottish rural/remote and island communities that are relevant for these regulations. Island stakeholders have emphasised the importance of understanding the island experience. Each island has its own specific considerations and constraints. Rural Scotland accounts for 98% of the land mass of Scotland and 17% of the population.¹¹

At the time of the 2011 Census, Scotland had 93 inhabited islands with a total population of 103,700 (which was 2% of Scotland's population).¹² Of these islands, only five are

⁸ [Social Security – A Consultation on Disability Assistance in Scotland – Scottish Government Response](#)

⁹ [The Disability Assistance for Working Age People \(Scotland\) Regulations 2022](#)

¹⁰ [Draft Disability Assistance for Older People \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)

¹¹ [Rural Scotland Key Facts 2021](#)

¹² [Scotland's Census – 2011 census table data: Inhabited Islands 2011](#)

connected to the Scottish mainland by bridge or causeway. The Islands Act identifies six local authorities representing island communities in Part 4 of the Act (Section 20 (2)), which are Argyll and Bute Council; Comhairle nan Eilean Siar/Western Isles; Highland Council; North Ayrshire Council; Orkney Islands Council; and Shetland Islands Council. Amongst them, Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles are entirely island authorities, while Highland, Argyll and Bute and North Ayrshire local authorities cover island regions as well as mainland regions.

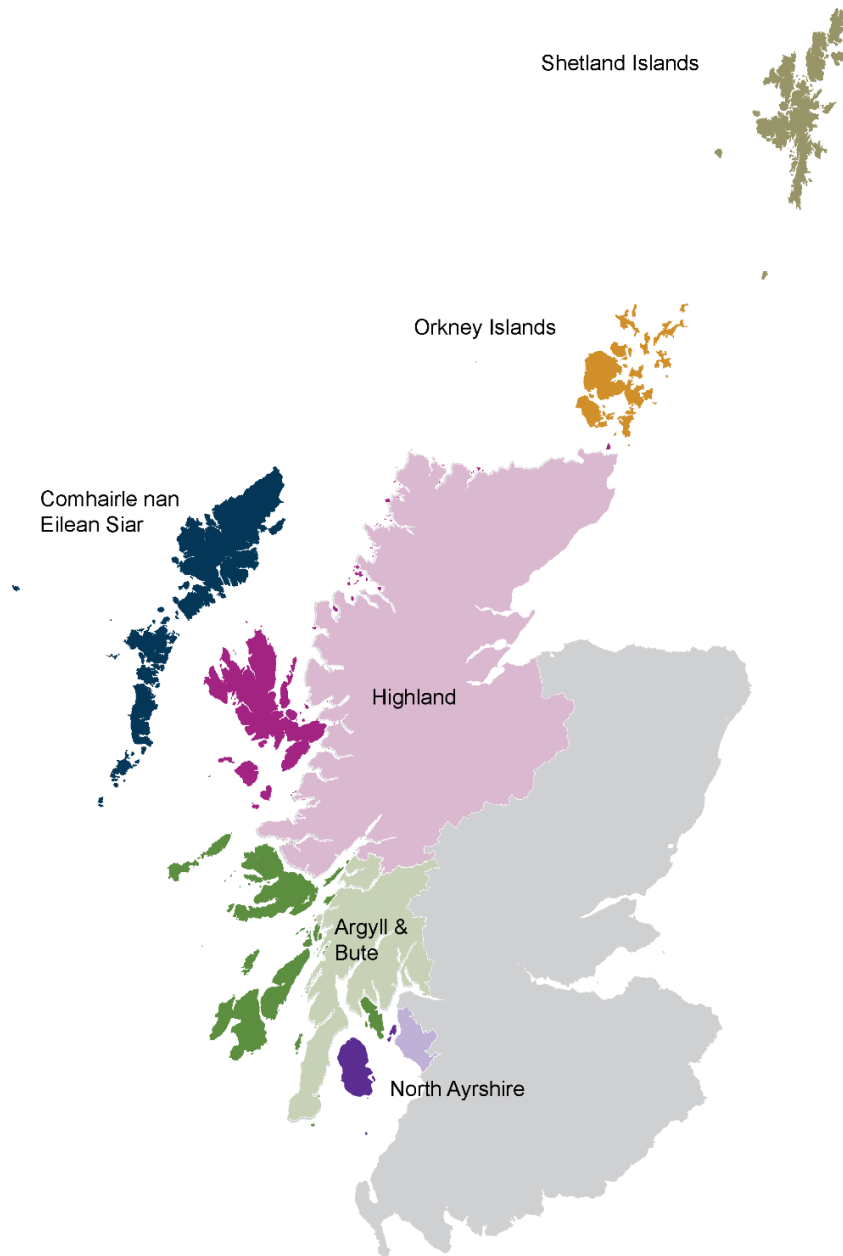


Figure 1: Map highlighting all 6 local authorities representing Island Communities (islands in darker shades where islands are part of mainland Local Authorities).¹³

5.1 Demography and Health

According to the 2011 Census, 83% of island residents reported their health as being 'Very good' or 'Good' compared with 82% for Scotland as a whole. The proportion of island

¹³ [Islands \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

residents with a long-term (lasting 12 months or more) health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities was just under 20%, including 9% who reported their daily activities were limited a lot. The corresponding proportions for Scotland as a whole were very similar.¹⁴

62% of island residents are aged between 16-65 with the median age being 45 which is higher than the average across Scotland as a whole.¹⁵ Rural Scotland has higher proportions of people aged 65 and over in the local population (averaging 23.5%) compared to the rest of Scotland (18%).¹⁶

1 in 8 people aged over 65 in Scotland experience poverty in the last year of their life. The impact of social inequalities on health outcomes in older people is well documented.^{17 18}

Based on information from the Department for Work and Pensions' Stat-Xplore service, analysts believe around 1.4% of adults with entitlement to Disability Living Allowance in Scotland live in island communities as of May 2023. This accounts for approximately 1,184 people.

In Scotland, as with the rest of the United Kingdom, disabled people experience higher prevalence of poverty, food insecurity, material deprivation and lower mental wellbeing than the general population.¹⁹ In Scotland, the poverty rate after housing costs for people in households with a disabled person was 24% (560,000 people each year). This compares with 18% (550,000 people) in a household without disabled household members.²⁰ Data related to disability specifically in island communities is not available.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are believed to have worsened pre-existing inequalities between different groups and communities. It has had a significant and disproportionate impact on certain groups, including disabled people, households in poverty, and older people, the latter of which make up a more significant proportion of rural populations.²¹ While people in remote rural areas were four times less likely to die from COVID-19 than people in urban areas, the acceleration of digitisation and automation risk worsening the long-term mental health impacts of digital exclusion and social isolation.²²

5.2 Cost of Living

The cost of many amenities and activities are higher for people living in island communities than those living on the mainland. A lack of choice and accessibility means that shopping, mobile phone services and broadband can be more expensive for people living in island communities compared to those on the mainland. The greater distances between amenities and remoteness means that day to day travel, postage, fuel, day-trips and holidays are also more expensive for people in remote communities.

¹⁴ [Inhabited Islands Analytical Report](#)

¹⁵ [Inhabited Islands Analytical Report](#)

¹⁶ [Rural Scotland Key Facts 2021](#)

¹⁷ [Mid-2021 Population Estimates, Scotland](#)

¹⁸ [Public Health Scotland – Population Groups – Older People](#)

¹⁹ [Scotland's Wellbeing: national outcomes for disabled people](#)

²⁰ [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2020-23](#)

²¹ [Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)

²² [Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)

A 2015 report published by Citizens Advice Scotland identified several issues that particularly impact consumers in rural areas. These include the cost and availability of essential goods and services including transport, utilities, housing and shopping.²³

Further, a 2016 report published by Highlands and Islands Enterprise states that households in remote rural areas of Scotland experience costs that are 10-40% higher than elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, households in the most remote parts of Scotland can experience additional costs that are even greater than 40%, and a food basket of typical essential items was found to cost as much as 50% more on island communities than elsewhere in Scotland.²⁴

Research published by the Scottish Government in 2021 built upon previous reports and also concluded that households in remote rural areas of Scotland typically add 15-30% to their household budgets when compared to urban areas of the United Kingdom. Although this study did not include additional costs associated with fuel, it found evidence of additional costs in a variety of spending categories, with the dominant extra cost coming from the cost of travel.²⁵

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported that levels of poverty among disabled people are generally underestimated. Because disabled people's needs are often greater than for those without a disability, the cost of living for disabled people is frequently higher. These costs are higher in island and remote communities due to an environment that is less accessible, with higher costs for reasonable adjustments to technology, housing and transport.²⁶

The Trussell Trust reported that disabled people are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and are consequently overrepresented in referrals to food banks, which is partly driven by cost of living. They add that disabled people face significant additional financial burdens beyond typical day-to-day living costs due to managing their health conditions through adaptations and therapies not provided by the NHS or local authorities. Some disabled people also have health conditions or use medication that require specialist diets which come with additional associated costs.²⁷

While Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is not intended to be an income replacement benefit, it is intended to provide support with helping to meet the extra costs associated with having a disability, such as paying for care and mobility needs. For some disabled people, it will bring additional entitlement to other benefits via passported benefits, tax credits and other forms of assistance.

5.3 Connectivity and Accessibility

Citizens Advice Scotland have identified issues of grid, utilities, digital and travel as key barriers for people in accessible rural, remote rural and remote small towns.²⁸

²³ [Citizens Advice Scotland – Remotely Excluded](#)

²⁴ [A Minimum Income Standard for Remote Rural Scotland 2016](#)

²⁵ [The cost of remoteness – reflecting higher living costs in remote rural Scotland when measuring fuel poverty: research report](#)

²⁶ [Disability, Long Term Conditions and Poverty](#)

²⁷ [Disability and financial hardship: How disability benefits contribute to the need for food banks in the UK](#)

²⁸ [Citizens Advice Scotland – Remotely Excluded](#)

Alongside the areas identified by Citizens Advice Scotland, research briefings from 2017 for the Islands (Scotland) Bill ²⁹ indicates that residents of islands rely on ferry crossings and air travel to reach the mainland and larger islands to access key services such as secondary and higher education, care, and medical services.

In 2011, the proportion of island households with at least one car or van available was 79%, compared with just over two-thirds (69%) nationally.³⁰ Remote rural households are far more dependent on cars compared to households in urban areas due to limited availability of alternatives, and often need to make further journeys to access amenities.³¹

In rural remote areas and island communities, disabled people face a lack of access to opportunities that are more readily and frequently available to those on the mainland or in urban areas. Furthermore, a lack of accessibility to employment, education and leisure opportunities can be made more difficult for someone with a physical condition, especially when transport options are limited.

Bus services in remote and island communities can be unreliable and are often community run. Even where buses are available, they often run rarely and timetables do not always meet the needs of people living in the community. Not all islands are served by buses and there are not always taxis available. It is known that disabled people on islands rely heavily on neighbours, friends and families driving them as a primary means of transport. Furthermore, if there is already someone with a wheelchair or pram on the bus it is not always possible for a wheelchair user to board.

The needs of wheelchair users or others with mobility issues, can be different in island and rural communities than the needs of wheelchair users in an urban environment due to more challenging terrain and weather. An absence of good quality internet connection can significantly impact on an individual's ability to socialise, partake in cultural activities and access support services, particularly where people already have difficulty taking part in activities as a result of a disability or health condition.

Rural and island communities often experience poor connectivity, and the accelerated trend towards automation and digitisation during the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated risks associated with digital exclusion.³² Social Security Scotland will offer a multi-channel approach, including telephone, webchat, paper-based and face-to-face support (including home visits to clients where necessary) to ensure that people are not isolated through a lack of access to technology.

Social Security Scotland local delivery officers will share locations with other services so that they are based where clients currently go to ensure that clients can access advice and support in existing island locations. Social Security Scotland will also support individuals to gather supporting information. This includes, if authorised by the individual, gathering supporting information on their behalf if they do not have this to hand. For individuals living in rural or island communities, this may be of particular benefit as it may be difficult for residents to gather supporting information from a professional given the remoteness and lack of connectivity.

²⁹ [Islands \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

³⁰ [Inhabited Islands Analytical Report](#)

³¹ [The cost of remoteness – reflecting higher living costs in remote rural Scotland when measuring fuel poverty: research report](#)

³² [Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)

5.4 Culture

Stakeholders have previously identified cultural barriers to applying for other disability benefits delivered by the Scottish Government, and while Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is a closed benefit with no new applications it is reasonable to believe similar barriers may exist for individuals in receipt of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance too. These barriers were attributed to the nature of island communities; and while some research indicates that there are also positive benefits of close-knit communities, like providing support to vulnerable neighbours,³³ the need for individual privacy remains important.

Dignity, fairness and respect underpins how Social Security Scotland will deliver Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, including protecting the privacy of individuals. For instance, Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery team will share locations with other services so that they are based where individuals currently go to ensure that they can access advice and support in existing island locations.

Because Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is a closed benefit with no new applications there will be a very targeted distribution of stakeholder resources within local communities. Social Security Scotland proactively translates information resources about the benefits it delivers into Gaelic, as well as many other languages, which may be culturally relevant and beneficial to some island communities.

5.5 Choice and Representation

We know that many island and remote communities have limited options with regard to leisure activities, support services and support groups.. In previous social security and disability assistance consultations, the importance of choice has stood out as being a key theme, however, such choices are often diminished or non-existent in rural areas.

As previously mentioned, the local delivery team within Social Security Scotland will share locations with other services so that they are based where people currently go to ensure that they can access advice and support in existing island locations.

The Scottish Government launched the Social Security Independent Advocacy Service in January 2022 and has committed to investing £20.4 million in the service over the four years following the launch of the service.³⁴ The service is free and supports people who self-identify as a disabled person to access and apply for Social Security Scotland assistance. The service is independent of the Scottish Government and is delivered by VoiceAbility, a charity with 40 years' experience of delivering independent advocacy services. Advocates from VoiceAbility can support people to have their voices heard, understand and secure their rights under the Scottish social security system, express their wishes and be fully involved in order to make informed decisions.

It is expected that the Scottish Government's approach to delivering Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance will help to ensure that individuals can interact with Social Security Scotland in a way that best meets their needs, while having support from friends

³³ [Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of COVID-19](#)

³⁴ [Social Security Scotland - New Independent Advocacy Service opens](#)

or relatives as well as independent advice organisations, no matter where they reside in Scotland.

6. Implementation

A targeted communications strategy and comprehensive guidance will be developed in advance of the launch of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. This will ensure that individuals whose cases are selected for transfer and their families, the third sector, local authorities and advice providers are aware of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, the differences between Disability Living Allowance and Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance and have an understanding of the case transfer process.

The communications strategy will be linked with wider Scottish Government initiatives on improving outcomes for disabled people and for remote and island communities. This will ensure that Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is part of wider efforts to meet the needs of people living in island communities.

In line with our case transfer principles, we will also provide clear and timely communication in relation to the transfer of Disability Living Allowance to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. Individuals will not be required to reapply when their case transfers to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance from Disability Living Allowance. Their current award will be honoured with no break in payment to minimise disruption and ensure that people are paid the right amount at the right time.

7. Monitoring and Review

The 2018 Act places a duty on Scottish Ministers to report annually to the Scottish Parliament on the performance of the Scottish social security system during the previous financial year. The report is to describe what Scottish Ministers have done in that year to meet the expectations set out in the Charter.

Scottish Ministers have also committed to engaging with, and reporting regular progress to, the Islands Strategic Group to ensure that those representing the interests of island communities and others with experience of the current system, are fairly represented in the development and delivery of the Scottish social security system.

8. Conclusion

Scottish Ministers are aware of the duty to consult island communities before making a material change to any policy, strategy or service which, in the Scottish Ministers' opinion, is likely to have an effect on an island community which is significantly different from its effect on other communities. This impact assessment has highlighted that living in island and remote communities present unique challenges for disabled people.

However, the Scottish Government has not identified any evidence that the introduction of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, or the case transfer from Disability Living Allowance to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, will directly or indirectly discriminate against remote and island communities.

Scottish Ministers do not propose to make significant changes to the existing Disability Living Allowance eligibility criteria when introducing Scottish Adult Disability Living

Allowance as part of the commitment to ensure a safe and secure transfer. However, some key changes are expected to have a positive impact for disabled people across Scotland, regardless of location (for example adopting a broader definition of terminal illness than the Department for Work and Pensions), with a secondary positive impact on their families and carers.

The Scottish Government recognises social security as a human right and has designed Social Security Scotland's services with the people who use them so that everyone is treated with dignity, fairness and respect. The Scottish Government is committed to continually improving Scottish disability benefits by continuing to engage with disabled people and stakeholders to identify areas for further improvement in future.

The Scottish Government has concluded that no further changes to the Disability Assistance (Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 are necessary as a result of this Island Communities Impact Assessment.

9. Authorisation

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Date Authorised: 16/10/2024



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