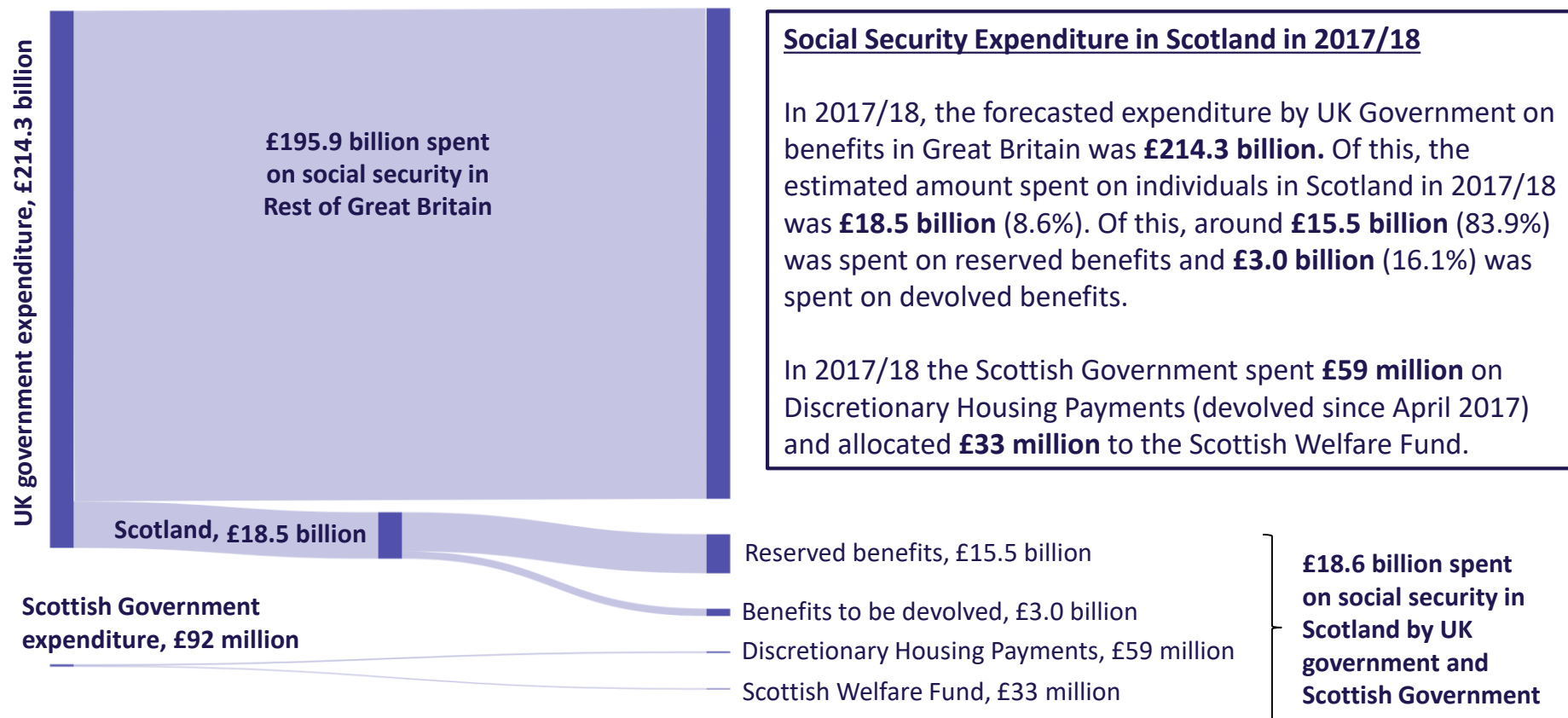


Social Security for Scotland

Updated September 2019

EQUALITY, POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY



Introduction

This slide pack summarises the current social security system in Scotland and how this will change as benefits are devolved to Scotland under the Scotland Act 2016, and as new benefits and top-ups to reserved benefits are introduced.

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High-level statistics (e.g. caseload, expenditure, key characteristics of claimants) for:

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* Funeral Expenses Payment now devolved, Funeral Support Payment data not yet published

Background

Following the Scottish independence referendum in 2014, the **Smith Commission** recommended that the Scottish Parliament be given autonomy to determine the structure and value of a range of powers over disability, as well as the power to make administrative changes to Universal Credit and to vary the housing cost element. It also recommended that Scottish Parliament be given powers to create new benefits in areas of devolved responsibility, and top-up reserved ones. These recommendations were made law by the **Scotland Act 2016**.

A summary of the benefits that have been devolved or that remain reserved is available on the Scottish Government website at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/responsibility-for-benefits-overview/>.

Currently, **Social Security Scotland** (an executive agency of the Scottish Government) is administering Carer's Allowance Supplement, Best Start Grant and Funeral Support Payment. The Scottish Government also allocates funding to local authorities to administer Discretionary Housing Payments and the Scottish Welfare Fund. During Autumn 2019 Young Carer Grant will be delivered, followed by Job Start Payment next Spring. Scottish Child Payment will open for applications in Autumn 2020 for children aged 0-6. Further changes to benefits have also been announced for 2020 and 2021.

Sources: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

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Social security in Scotland by recipient group

The benefit system currently in place in Scotland is distributed across a number of recipient groups. Benefits that are devolved, localised, new Scottish benefits, and top-ups to reserved benefits are highlighted in **bold** and described on the [next page](#). Future benefits have been announced: during Autumn 2019 Young Carer Grant will be delivered, followed by Job Start Payment next Spring. Scottish Child Payment will open for applications in Autumn 2020 for children aged 0-6. Further changes to benefits have also been announced for 2020 and 2021.

Benefits for people out of work	Benefits for elderly people	Benefits for people who are ill or disabled	Benefits for families with children	Benefits for people on low incomes	Other
Income Support	Winter Fuel Payments	Attendance Allowance	Child Benefit	Discretionary Housing Payments	Universal Credit, Inc. UC Scottish Choices
In Work Credit & Return to Work Credit	Financial Assistance Scheme	Carer's Allowance	Child Tax Credit	Scottish Welfare Fund	Bereavement Benefits
Jobseekers Allowance	Pension Credit	Carer's Allowance Supplement	Guardians Allowance	Cold Weather Payments	Christmas Bonus
	State Pension	Disability Living Allowance	Maternity Allowance	Best Start Grant	Other small benefits
	State Pension Transfers	Personal Independence Payment	Statutory Maternity Pay	Pregnancy and Baby payment, Early learning payment, School payment**	
	TV Licences	Severe Disablement Allowance		Funeral Expenses Payment/Funeral Support Payment	
		Industrial Injuries benefits Inc. Industrial Injury Disablement Benefit		New Deal & Employment Programme Allowances	
		Employment & Support Allowance		New Enterprise Allowance	
		Incapacity Benefit		Working Tax Credit	
		Specialised Vehicles fund		Housing Benefit	
		Statutory Sick Pay			
		Vaccine Damage Payments			

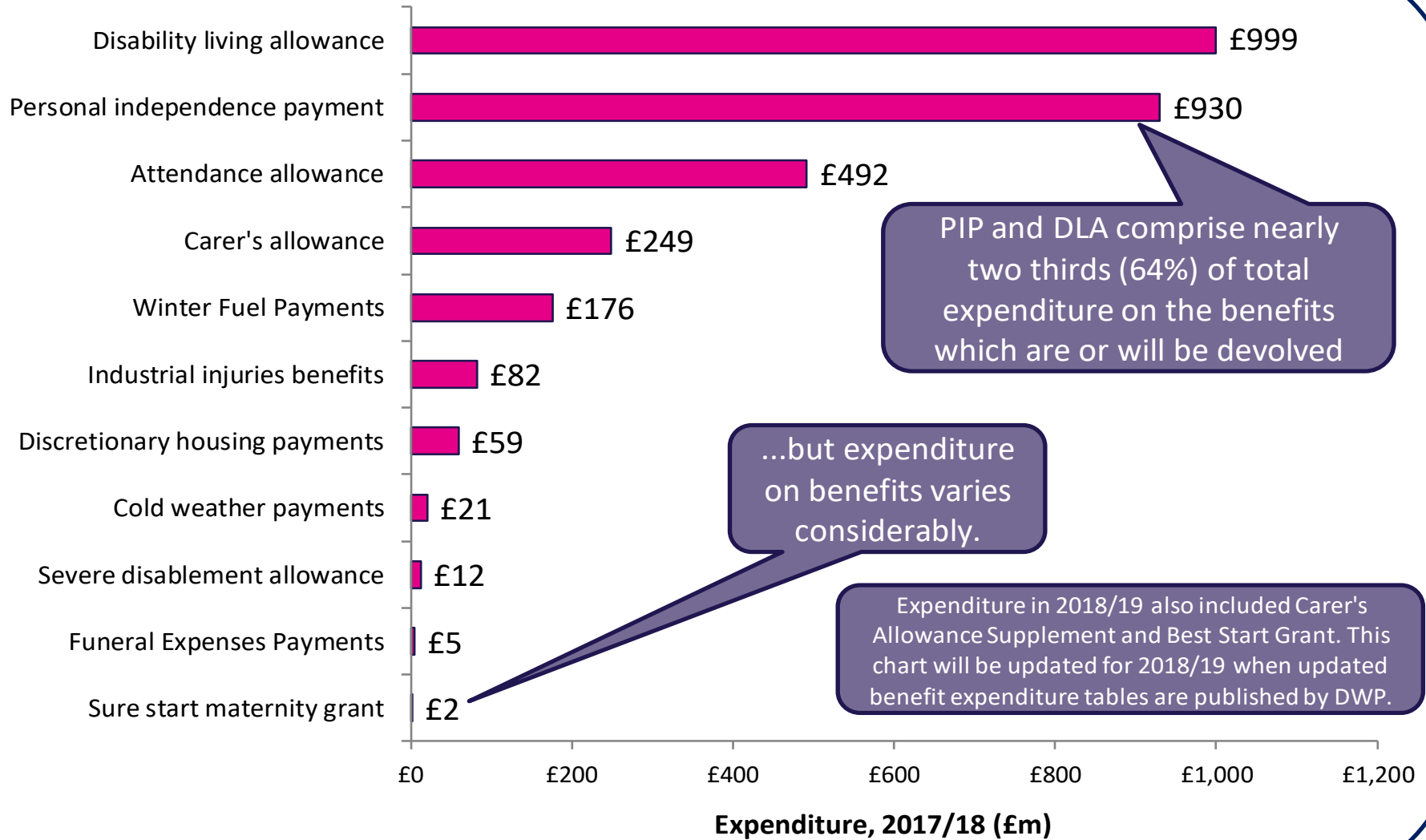
Sources: Expert Working Group on Welfare, Re-thinking Welfare: Fair, Personal and Simple. Scottish Government News Releases- <https://www.gov.scot/news/1>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/2>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/3> **Information about Sure Start Maternity Grant has been retained in the slide pack as many figures refer to 2017/18 before the launch of Best Start Grant.

Social security in Scotland - benefits with published data

	Benefits*	Primary purpose of current benefit and devolved status.	Devolved/delivered status**
For carers, disabled people & those who are ill	Attendance allowance	To help with personal care for individuals aged 65 or over with a physical or mental disability.	Disability Assistance for Older People by end 2020.
	Carer's Allowance	To help an individual look after someone with substantial caring needs. To be eligible the individual must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for them.	Carer's Assistance by end 2021. CA was devolved in September 2018 and is currently administrated by DWP.
	Carer's Allowance Supplement	Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment to increase the level of Carer's Allowance to that of Jobseeker's Allowance. First payments were made in September 2018.	Introduced by Social Security Scotland from September 2018.
	Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment	Help if your disability or health condition means one or both of the following are true: You need help looking after yourself or you have walking difficulties. PIP replaced working-aged DLA.	Disability Assistance for Children and Young People summer 2020 Disability Assistance for Working Age People early 2021.
	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	For individuals who are ill or disabled as a result of an accident or disease caused by work or while you were on an approved employment training scheme or course.	To be delivered by DWP using agency agreement April 2020.
	Severe Disablement Allowance	For working age individuals who are unable to work due to illness or disability. Closed to new entrants.	To be delivered by DWP using agency agreement April 2020.
Regulated Social Fund	Cold Weather Payments	A payment for individuals on certain benefits when the temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero Degree Celsius or below over seven consecutive days.	Cold Spell Heating Assistance by end 2021.
	Funeral Support Payment (Funeral Expenses Payment)	For individuals on low income and needing help to pay for a funeral they are arranging.	Delivered by Social Security Scotland since September 2019.*
	Best Start Grant (Sure Start Maternity Grant)	Best Start Grant launched on 10 December 2018, replacing Sure Start Maternity Grant, and providing lower-income families with financial support during the key early years of a child's life. Pregnancy and Baby, Early Learning and School Age payments are all available.	Delivered by Social Security Scotland since December 2018.
	Winter Fuel Payment	A tax-free payment to help pay for heating bills if you were born on or before 5 July 1952 (current state pension age for women).	Winter Heating Assistance by end 2021.
Other	Discretionary Housing Payments	To help for those in receipt of Housing Benefit and having difficulty meeting their rent payments. Paid at the discretion of the local authority. Also used to mitigate against the bedroom tax in Scotland.	Administered by Scottish local authorities, devolved April 2017.
	Scottish Welfare Fund	Crisis Grants provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency. Community Care Grants enable people to live independently, preventing the need for institutional care.	Administered by Scottish local authorities, localised April 2013.
	Universal Credit (Scottish Choices)	Universal Credit (Scottish Choices) give recipients of UC in Scotland a choice to have their UC award paid either monthly or twice monthly, and have the housing costs in their award of UC paid direct to their landlord.	Introduced in October 2017 (delivered by DWP on behalf of the Scottish Government).
	Reserved Benefits	Benefits that remain reserved to the UK government (e.g. Universal Credit, State Pension). Statistics on reserved benefits are available from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and via StatXplore and Nomis .	

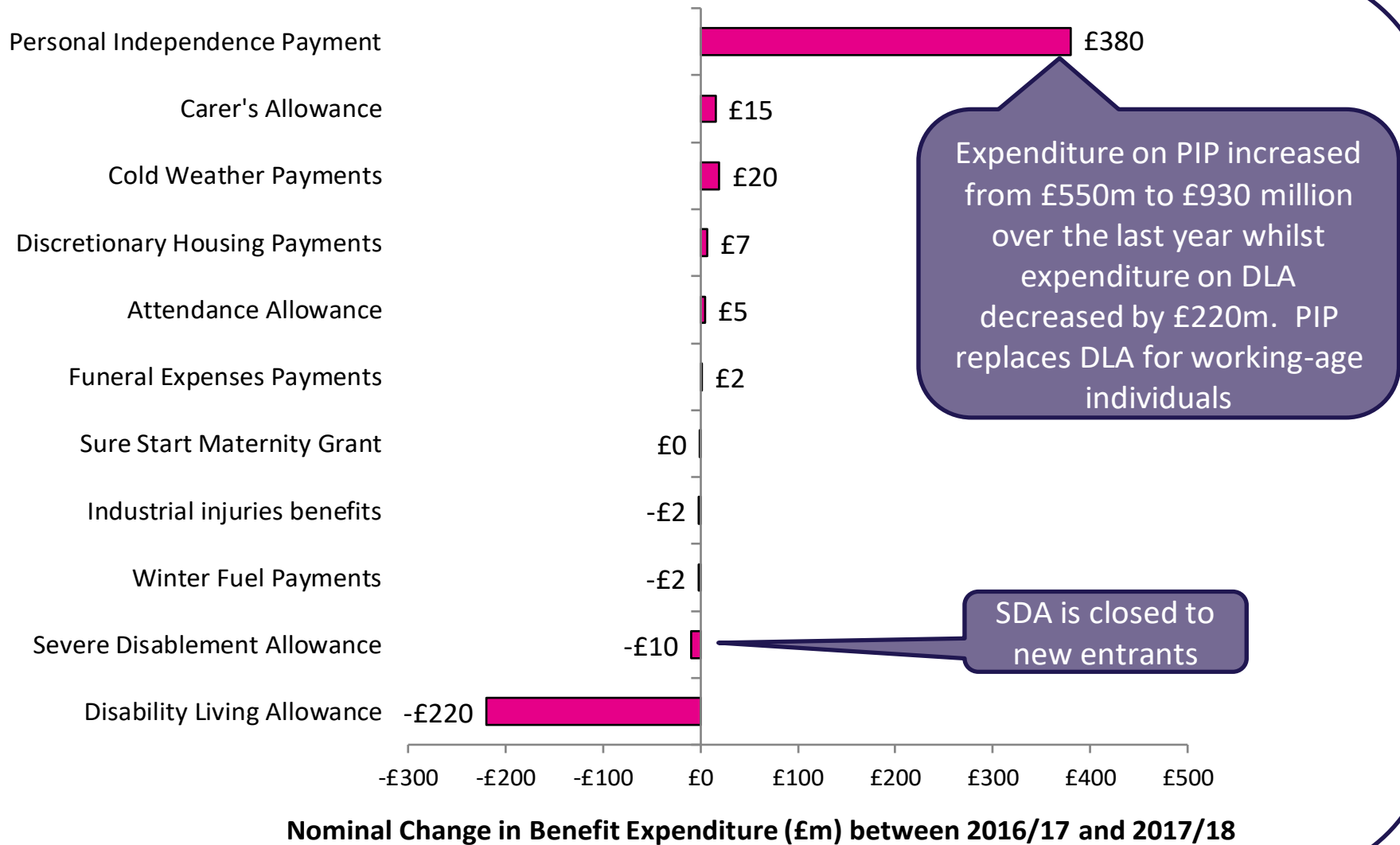
*Benefits are summarised in the slide pack where there is available published data. Therefore, the slide pack does not yet include information on new benefits such as Funeral Support Payment. Sources: www.gov.uk, www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/, <https://www.gov.scot/news/1>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/2>, <https://www.gov.scot/news/3> **delivered by Social Security Scotland unless otherwise stated.

Devolved benefit expenditure in Scotland – 2017/18



Source: DWP benefit expenditure by region from 1996/97 to 2017/18. Industrial Injuries benefits includes IIDB. A further breakdown is unavailable. Scottish expenditure on Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expenses Payments estimated based on GB figures in DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2018

Change in devolved benefit expenditure in Scotland between 2016/17 & 2017/18



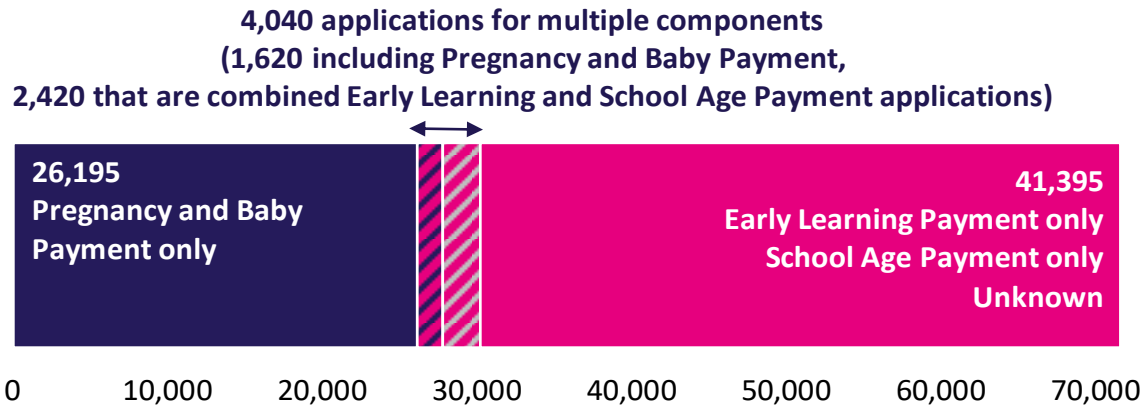
Source: DWP benefit expenditure by region from 1996/97 to 2017/18. Industrial Injuries benefits includes IIDB. A further breakdown is unavailable. Scottish expenditure on Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Expenses Payments estimated based on GB figures in DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2018

Best Start Grant – June 2019

The Best Start Grant (BSG) includes three types of payment: Pregnancy and Baby Payment (applications taken from 10 December 2018, replacing Sure Start Maternity Grant), Early Learning Payment (applications taken from 29 April 2019) and School Age Payment (applications taken from 3 June 2019). Best Start Foods replaced Healthy Start Vouchers for new claims from 12 August 2019, however statistics on Best Start Foods are not yet available.

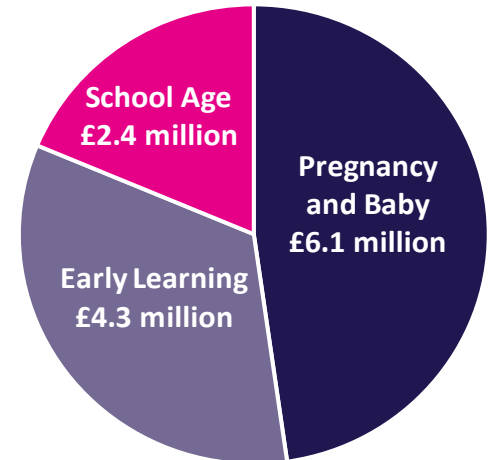
Sure Start Maternity Grant (SSMG) - a one off payment of £500 to help towards the costs of having your first child, for individuals who are in receipt of certain benefits. In 2017/18, expenditure for Scotland was **£2 million**¹.

From December 2018 to June 2019, **71,625** Best BSG applications were received. **27,815** applications were received for Pregnancy and Baby Payment, **23,800** for Early Learning Payment and **14,310** for School Age Payment.

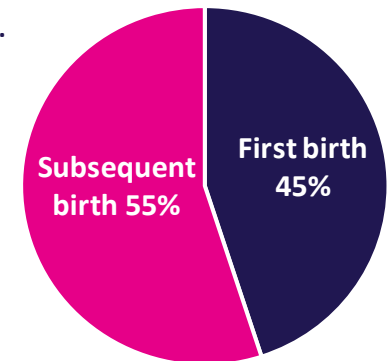


£12.9 million of BSG payments had been issued by 30 June 2019.

In total **15,840** Pregnancy and Baby Payments, **17,235** Early Learning Payments and **10,185** School Age Payments were authorised.



55% of BSG Pregnancy and Baby payments made were for subsequent births².

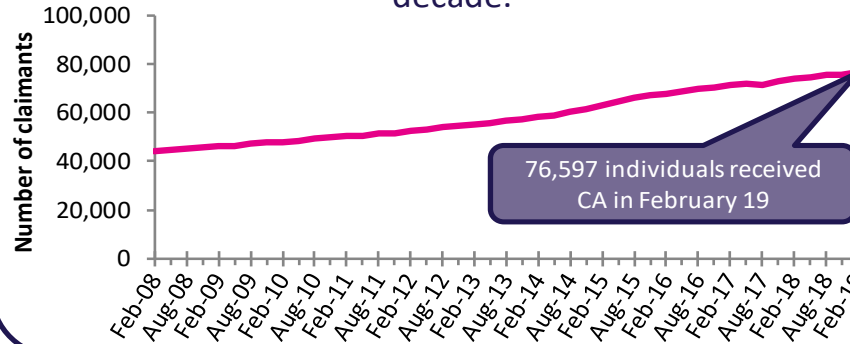


Carer's Allowance - February 2019 & Carer's Allowance Supplement - April 2019

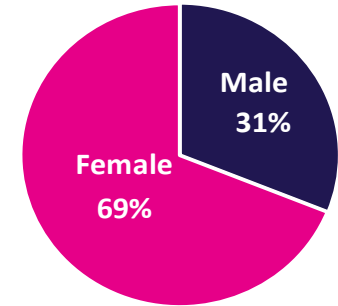
Carer's Allowance (CA) is provided to help an individual look after someone with substantial caring needs. Must be 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week providing care. Devolved in September 2018 - we now have data available to February 2019. Carer's allowance supplement (CAS) was introduced in September 2018, and data is available for payments made to carers eligible in April and October 2018.

In 2017/18, £249m was spent on CA in Scotland, 9% of the GB total which is slightly more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

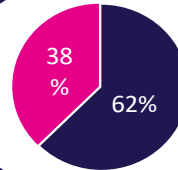
CA caseload has been increasing steadily over the last decade.



Gender split

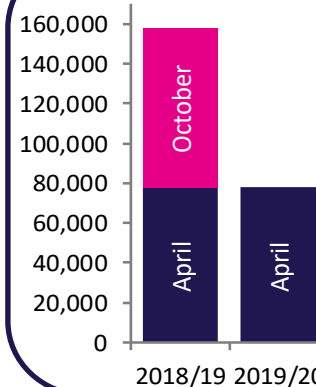
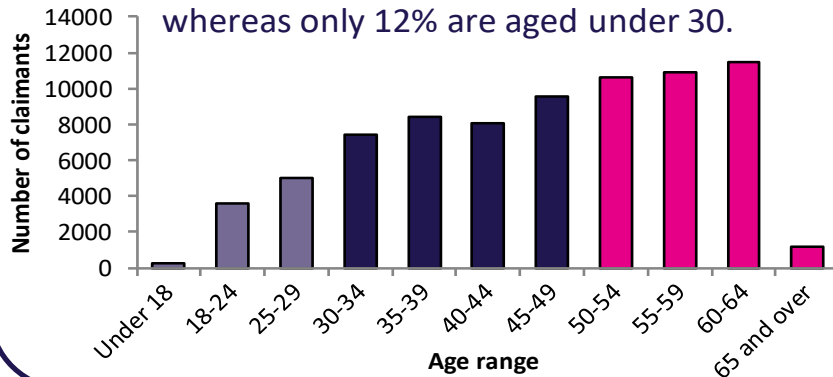


Over two thirds (68%) of claimants have been receiving CA for over 2 years, with 38% receiving CA for over 5 years.



38% of CA claimants are entitled to CA but do not receive a CA payment. This is because they are also in receipt of another benefit, such as State Pension, JSA or ESA, which provide a higher level of income.

45% of CA claimants are aged 50 or over, whereas only 12% are aged under 30.



Since launching in September 2018, 235,405 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to 91,550 carers who were eligible in 2018/19 or April 2019. Individual payments were £221 in 2018/19, totalling £34.8 m and £226.20 in 2019/20, giving a total expenditure since launch of £52.5 m.

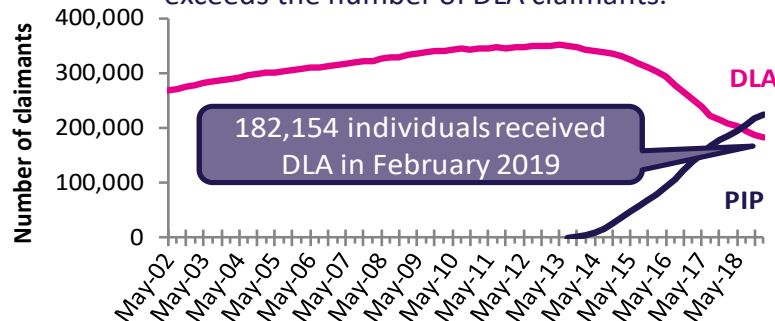
Sources: Stat-Xplore, DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2018, DWP benefit expenditure by Region 1996/97 to 2017/18. Note: caseload data relates to cases in payment. 1. Scottish Government Carer's Allowance at November 2018 and Carer's Allowance Supplement, October eligibility date 2018.

Disability Living Allowance in Scotland – February 2019

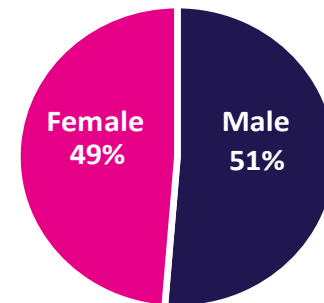
Provides help if health or a disability means a person needs help looking after themselves, or if they have difficulty walking. DLA is being replaced by PIP for working age people.

In 2017/18, £999m was spent on DLA in Scotland, 11% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

DLA caseload steadily increased but started falling as a result of the introduction of PIP in 2013. The number of PIP claimants now exceeds the number of DLA claimants.

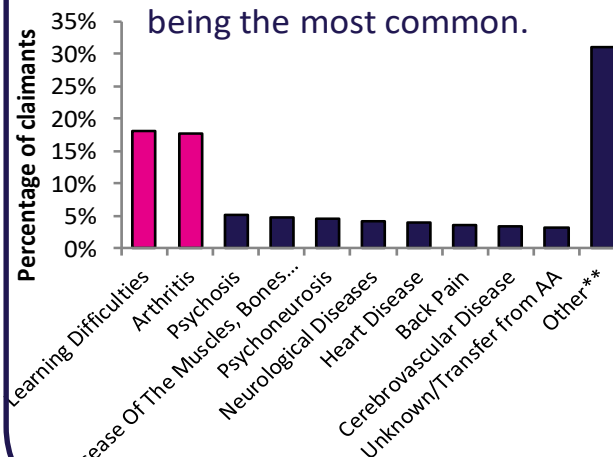


Gender split



The majority (86%) of claimants have been receiving DLA for over 5 years, with 7% receiving DLA for between 2 to 5 years.

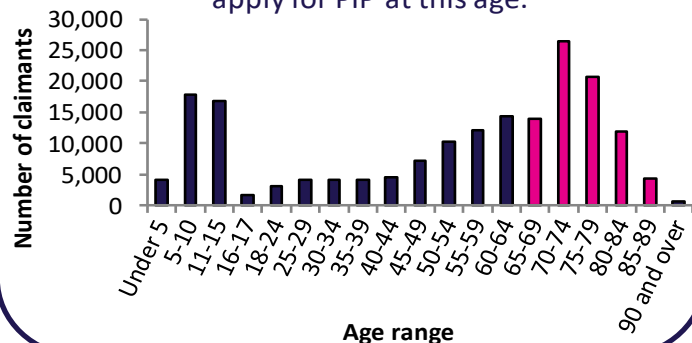
There is a wide range of main disabling conditions for DLA with **arthritis** and **learning difficulties** being the most common.



74% of DLA claimants are in receipt of both the Mobility and Care elements of DLA.

		Mobility Rate		
		Higher	Lower	Nil
Care Award Rate	Highest	17%	8%	2%
	Middle	15%	18%	6%
	Lowest	10%	6%	6%
	Nil	10%	2%	0%

43% of DLA claimants are aged 65 or over. Claimant numbers drop at age 16 as claimants apply for PIP at this age.



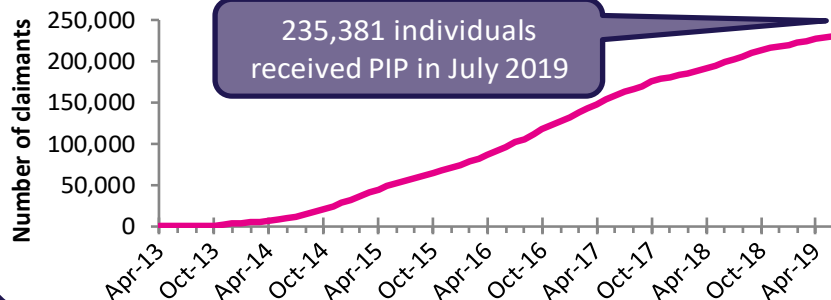
*Disease of the Muscle, bones or joints, **"Other" = 45 other qualifying conditions

Personal Independence Payments in Scotland – July 2019

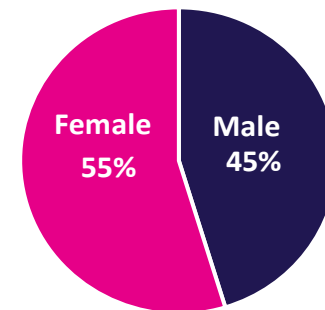
PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or disability for individuals aged 16 to 64. It is also replacing DLA for working age individuals.

In 2017/18, £930m was spent on PIP in Scotland, 11% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

Introduced to Scotland in June 2013. PIP caseload increases as DLA claimants are reassessed onto PIP.



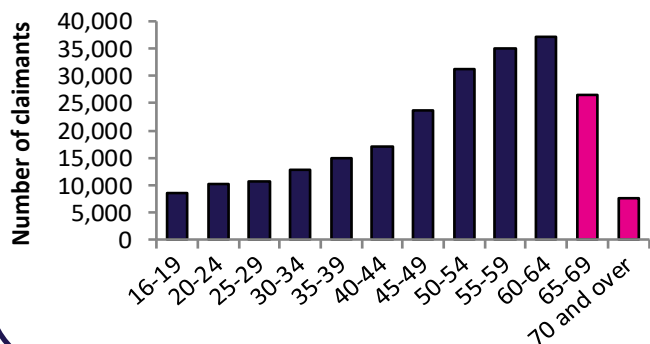
Gender split



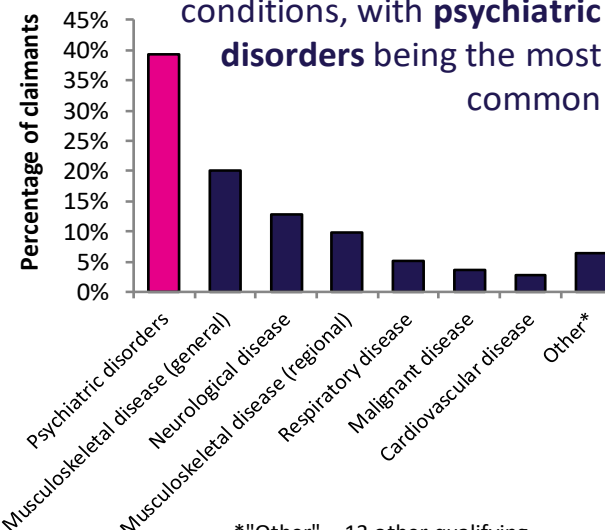
48% of current PIP claimants have been re-assessed from DLA.

1% of current PIP claimants are classed as being terminally ill.

14% of all PIP claimants are aged 65 and over, a much smaller proportion than for DLA



Wide range of main disabling conditions, with **psychiatric disorders** being the most common



*"Other" = 13 other qualifying conditions plus other or unknown

67% of PIP claimants are in receipt of both the mobility and daily living elements of PIP.

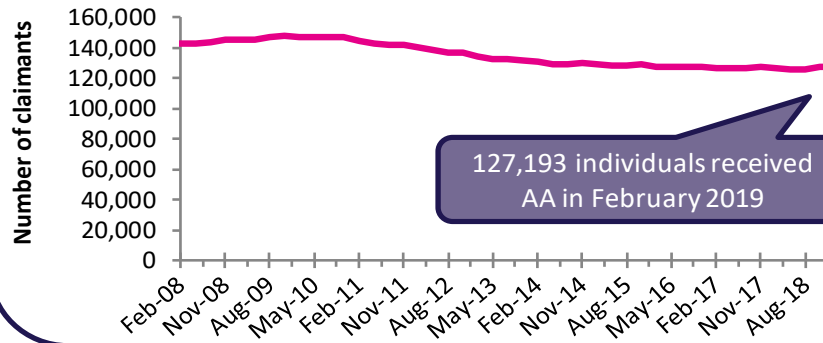
		Mobility Award Rate		
		Enhanced	Standard	Nil
Daily Living Award	Enhanced	30%	10%	7%
	Standard	9%	18%	22%
Nil		1%	2%	0%

Attendance Allowance in Scotland – February 2019

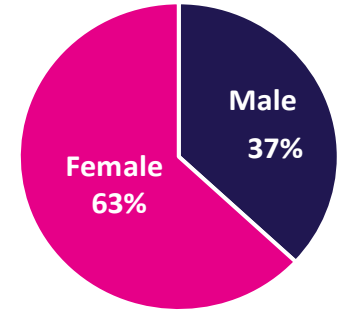
AA provides help with personal care for individuals aged 65 or over with a physical or mental disability.

In 2017/18, £492m was spent on AA in Scotland, 9% of the GB total which is slightly more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

AA caseload peaked in November 2009 with 147,990 claimants. AA has maintained stable levels in recent years

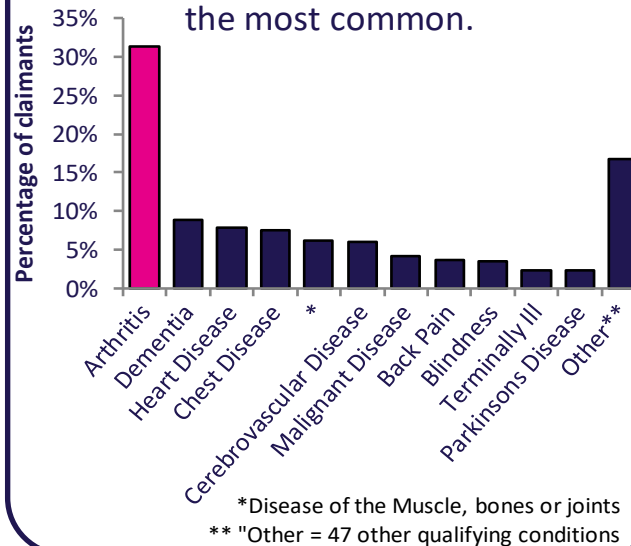


Gender split

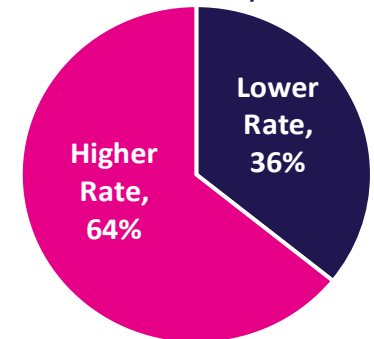


41% of claimants have been receiving AA for over 5 years, and **29%** have been receiving AA for between 2 to 5 years.

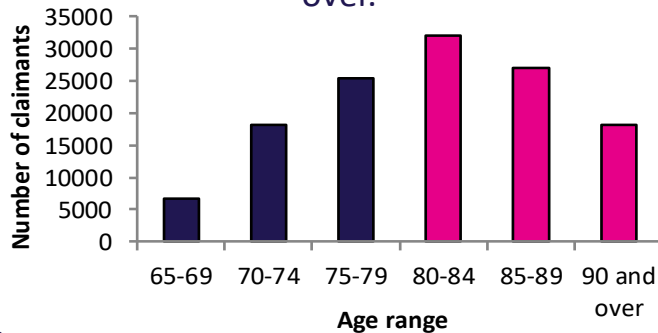
Wide range of main disabling conditions for AA, with arthritis being the most common.



64% of AA claimants receive the higher rate of care, meaning they require both day and night care or are terminally ill.



61% of all AA claimants are aged 80 or over.



*Disease of the Muscle, bones or joints

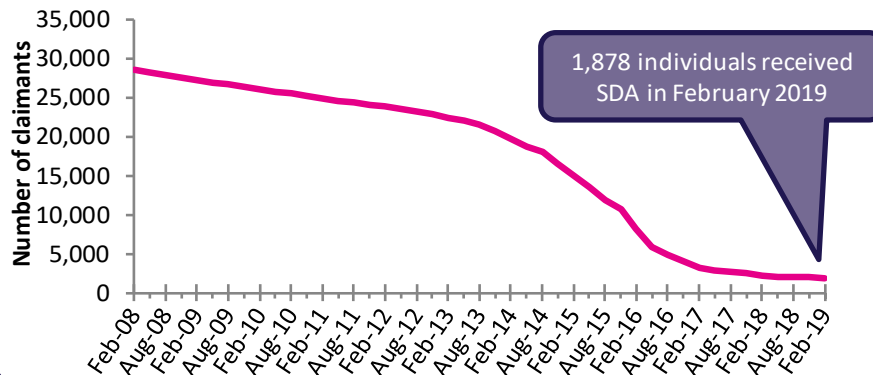
** "Other = 47 other qualifying conditions

Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland – February 2019

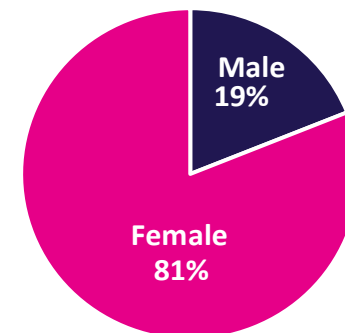
SDA is for working age individuals who are unable to work due to illness or disability. It was closed to new entrants and the provision replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance.

In 2017/18, £12m was spent on SDA in Scotland, 10% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

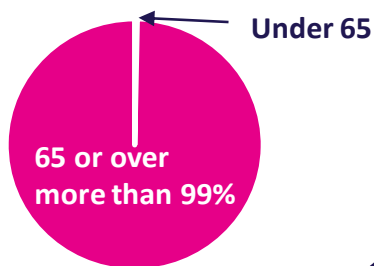
SDA caseload is falling as it is closed to new claimants.



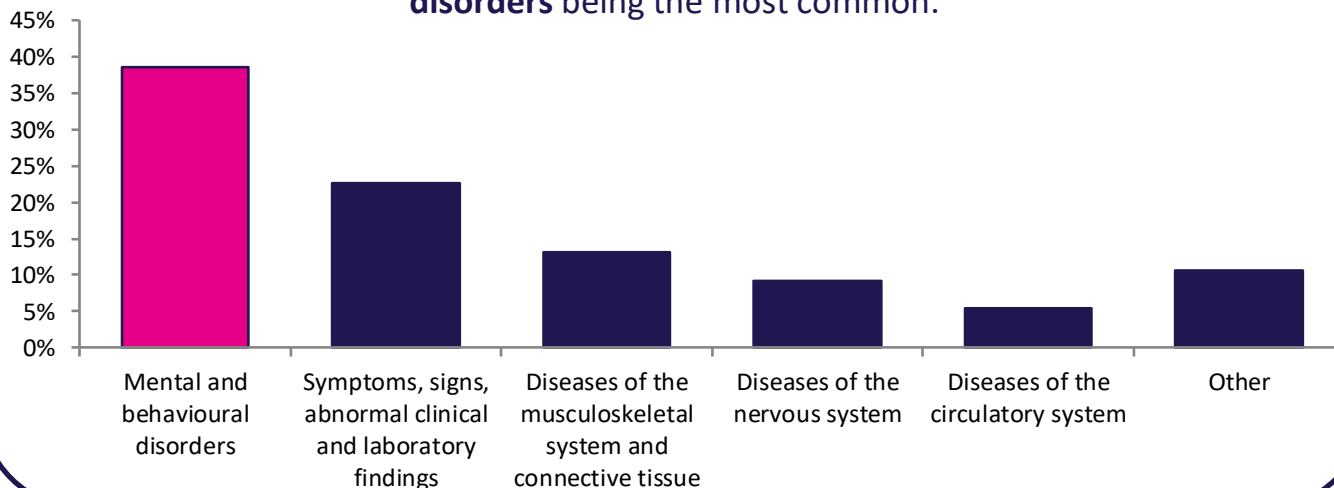
Gender split



Individuals aged under 65 account for less than 1% of all SDA claimants. This is because the benefit has been closed to new claimants since 2001.



There are a wide range of causes of incapacity for SDA with **mental and behavioural disorders** being the most common.

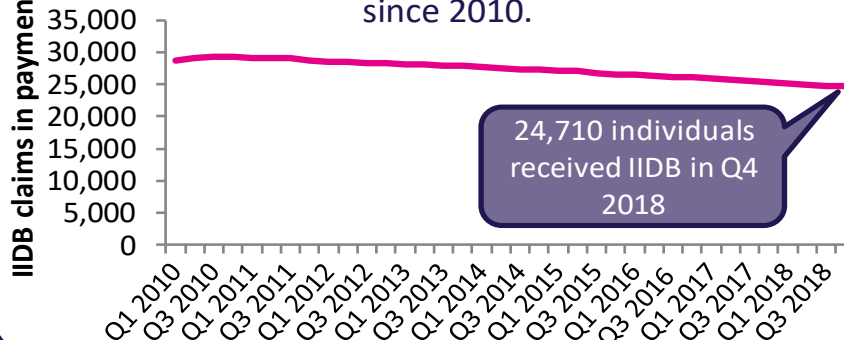


Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit in Scotland – December 2018

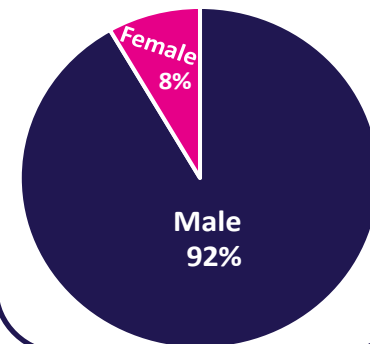
For those who are ill or disabled as a result of an accident or disease caused by work or while they were on an approved employment training scheme or course.

In 2017/18, £82m was spent on IIDB in Scotland, 10% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).

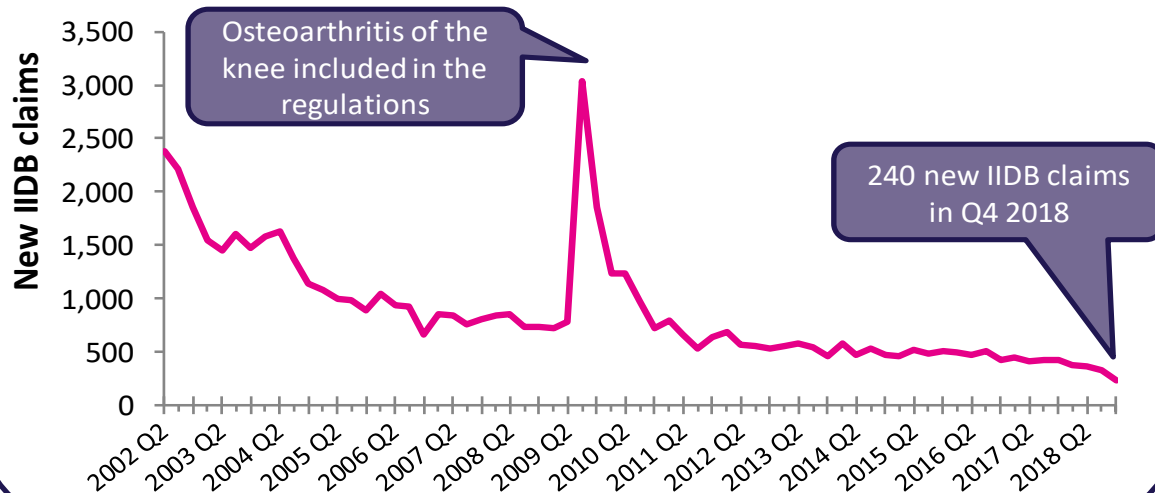
IIDB claims in payment have been slowly decreasing since 2010.



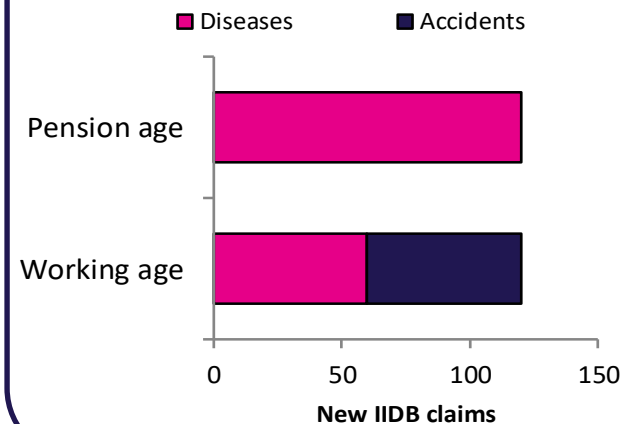
Gender Split of New IIDB Claims (Q4 2018)



The number of new claimants each quarter has been decreasing since 2002, except for when a new prescribed disease was added.



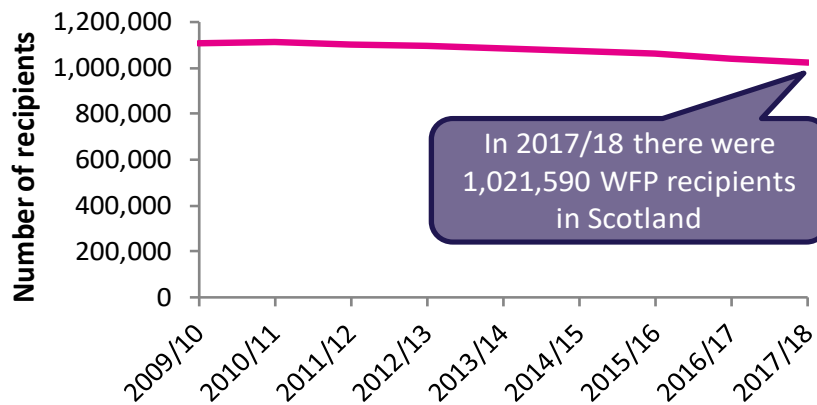
Qualifying conditions:
75% diseases
25% accidents



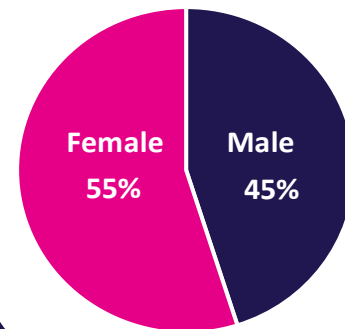
Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland – 2017/18

Tax-free payment to help with heating bills. For those born on or before 5 July 1952 (current State Pension Age for women). Must be UK resident during a specified week in September of that year.

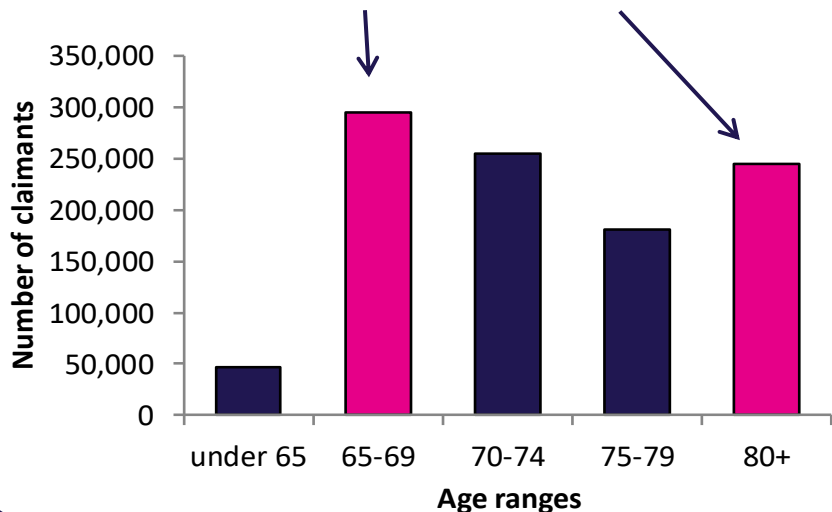
In 2017/18, £176m was spent on WFP in Scotland, 9% of the GB total which is more than Scotland's population share (8.5%).



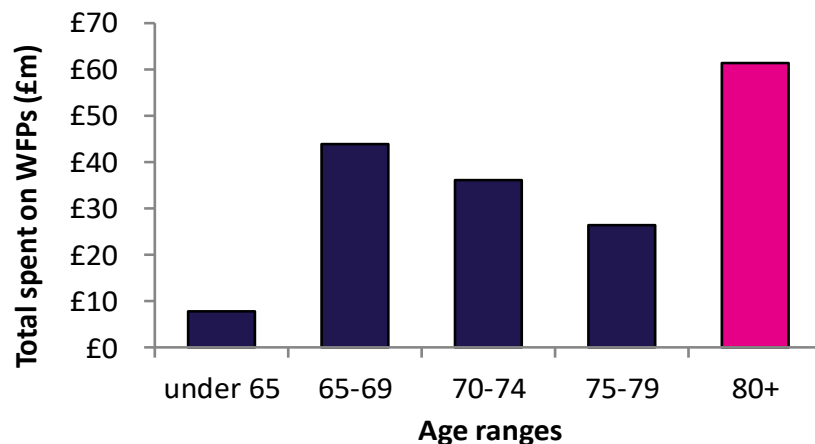
Gender split



29% of claimants are aged 65-69, and nearly a quarter are over 80.

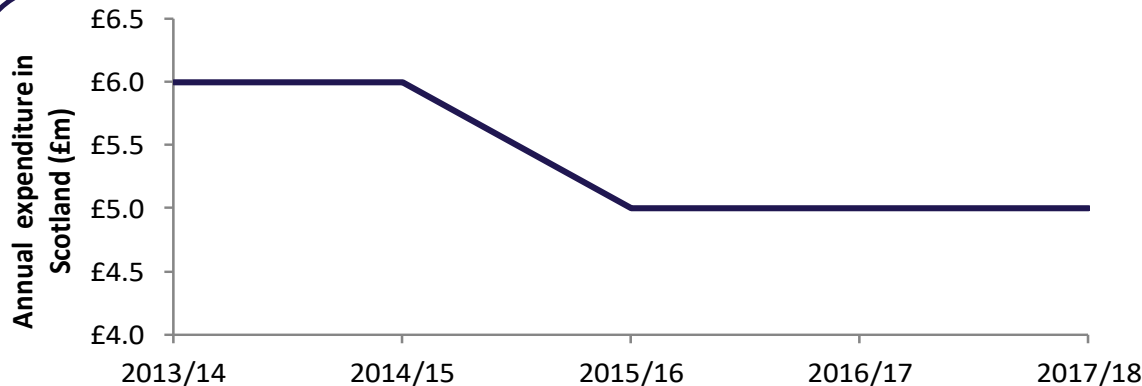
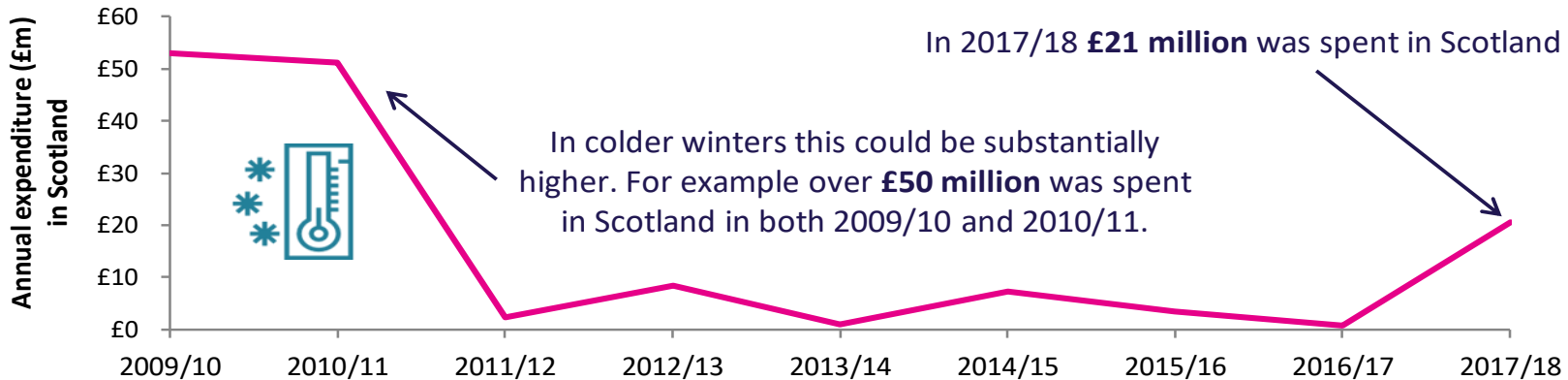


WFPs depend on age and circumstances. Older people receive higher payments on average, so the greatest amount in total is received by the 80+ age group.



Benefits which were part of the UK Government's Regulated Social Fund in 2017/18

Cold Weather Payments - for those receiving certain benefits, for when the temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of 0°C or below over 7 consecutive days.



Funeral Expenses Payments - for those on low income and needing help to pay for a funeral they are arranging.

In 2017/18, expenditure in Scotland was **£5 million**.

This benefit was replaced by Funeral Support Payment in September 2019*.

Sources: 2017/18 expenditure - DWP unpublished data - <http://www.fiscalcommission.scot/about-us/correspondence/correspondence-response-from-dwp-on-social-fund-figures-for-scotland-4-september-2018/>. CWP time series: DWP Outturn and forecast: Benefit expenditure by country and region, 1996/97 to 2017/18. and DWP Cold Weather Payment estimates 2017 to 2018. FEP time series: Unpublished DWP data.

*Benefits are summarised in the slide pack where there is available published data, so does not yet include information on Funeral Support Payment.

Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland – March 2019

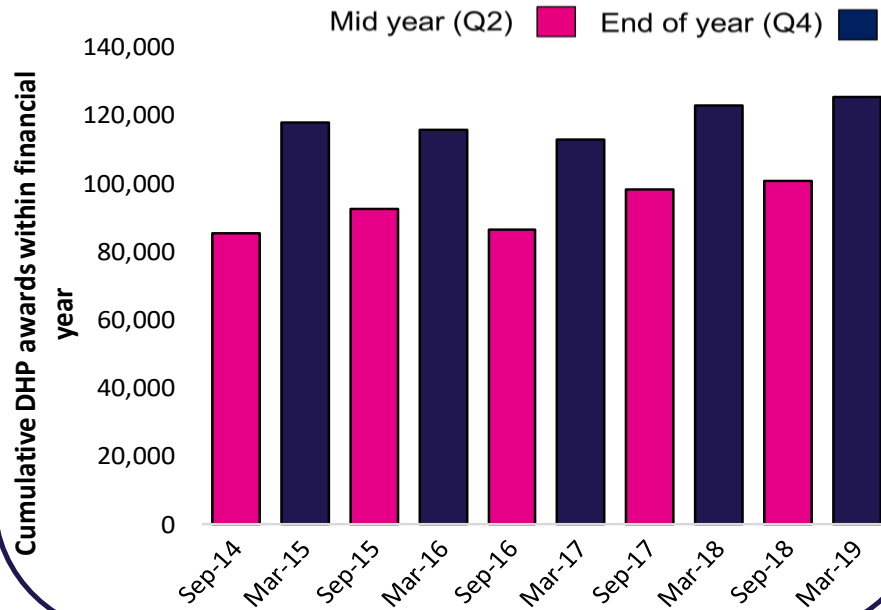
Help to meet rent payments for Housing Benefit recipients.

Paid at Local Authority discretion. As of April 2017, DHPs are fully devolved to Scottish Government.

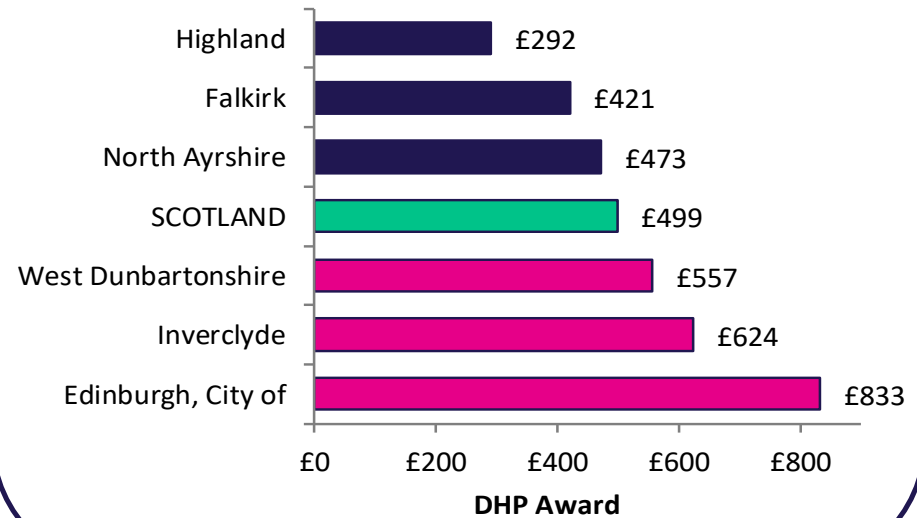
The total value of awards across Scotland in 2018/19 was **£62.5 million.**

DHP awards include a sizeable number of cases affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy (the 'bedroom tax'), where local authorities have continued to make up their shortfall in weekly rent through the use of DHPs.

In 2018/19 local authorities processed **116,618 applications** and made **125,161 awards.**



In 2018/19 the average DHP award was **£499**. The average award varies between local authorities.



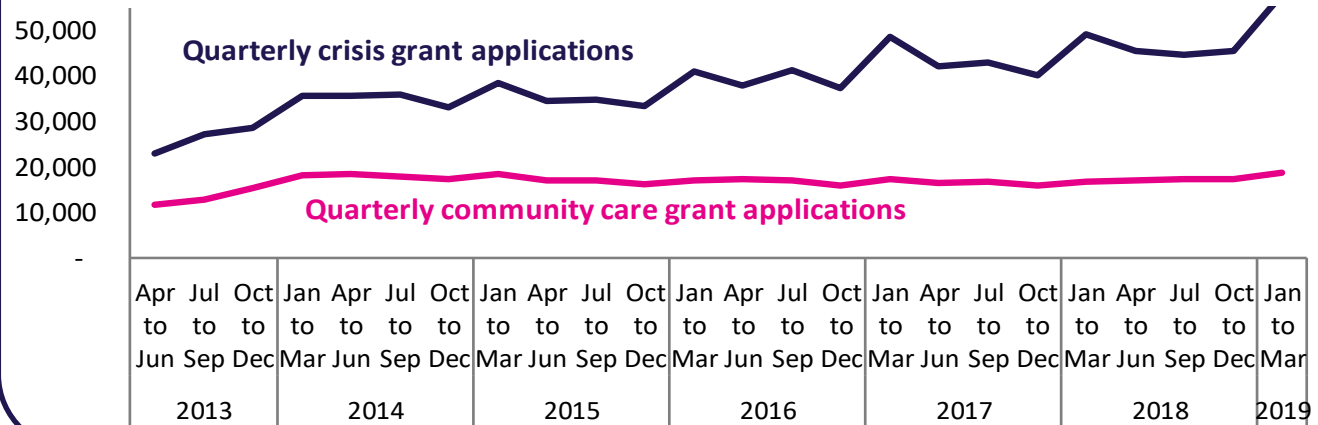
Sources: Scottish Government Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland.

Scottish Welfare Fund – March 2019

National grant scheme run by Local Authorities. Crisis Grants provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency. Community Care Grants (CCGs) enable people to live independently, preventing the need for institutional care.

In 2018/19, a total of **£35.3m** was awarded through the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). This included **£24.8m** on CCGs and **£10.4m** on crisis grants. This was funded by £33m allocated to the SWF by SG and the £2.3m underspend in 2017/18 carried forward from previous years.

In the quarter from January to March 2019 there were **18,615** applications for CCGs and **57,730** for crisis grants. **10,360** CCGs and **37,515** crisis grants were awarded.



CCGs are most commonly awarded for floor coverings, beds and bedding and kitchen appliances.



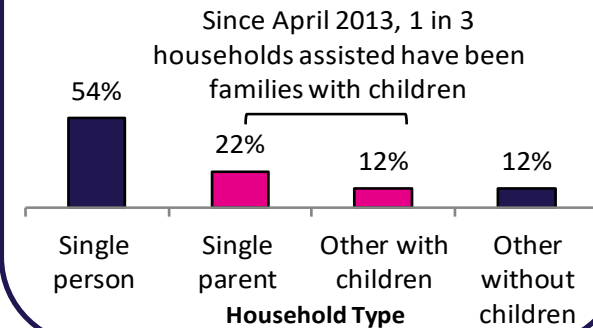
In January to March 2019 the average value of a CCG award was **£608**

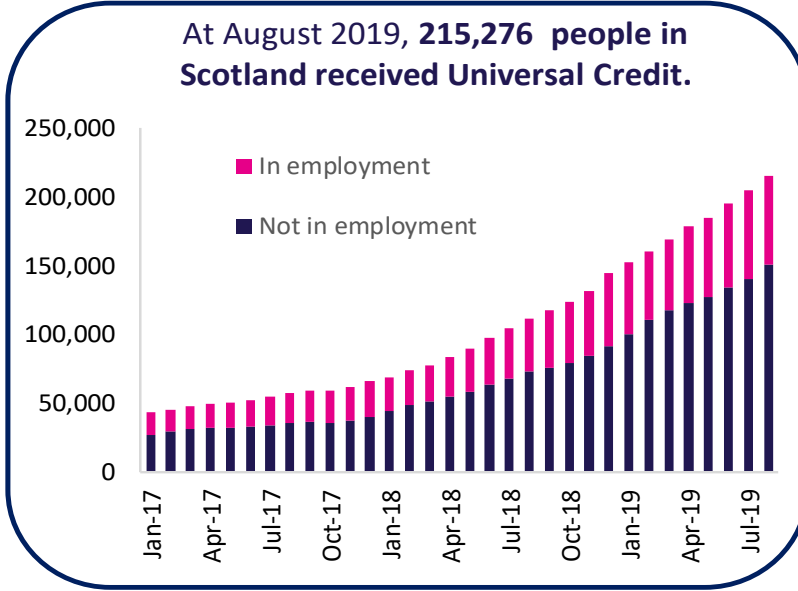
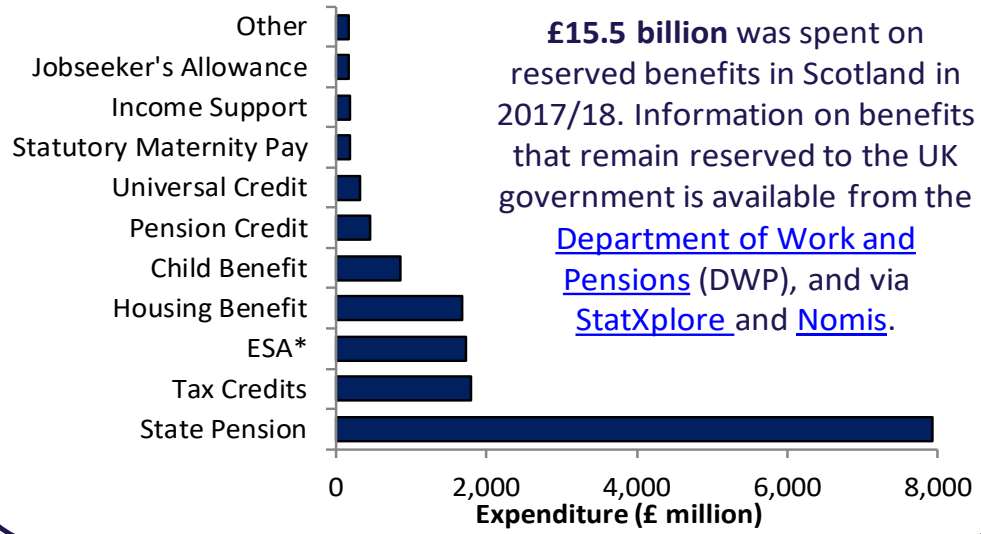
Crisis grants are most commonly awarded for food, essential heating expenses and other living expenses.



In January to March 2019 the average value of a crisis grant award was **£87**

336,880 households have received an award since the SWF scheme began in 2013.

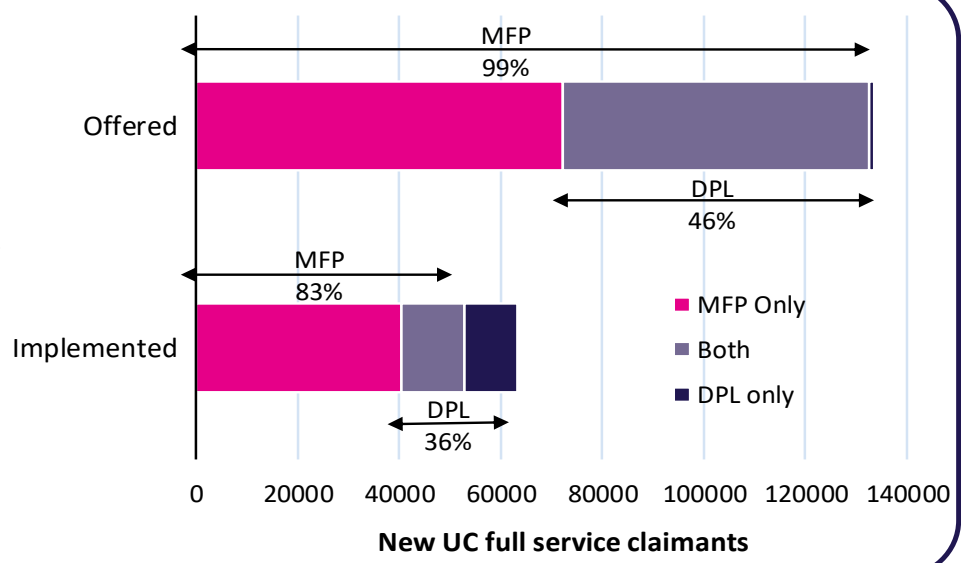




Universal Credit (Scottish choices) give recipients of Universal Credit (UC) in full service areas a choice to have their award paid either monthly or twice monthly (MFP) and/or have the housing costs in their award of UC paid direct to their landlord (DPL).

From October 2017 to end February 2019, a total of **63,360 new claimants** who were offered have taken up one or both choices. Of these claimants **47%** took up at least one of the UC Scottish choices offered to them.

In total from October 2017 to end February 2019, **76,590 people have taken up one or two choices**, either with or without an offer (this includes new, existing and live to full transfer claimants). Of those, 59,760 have chosen MFP and 30,670 have chosen DPL.



Sources: DWP Outturn and Forecast: Autumn Budget 2018, DWP benefit expenditure by Region 1996/97 to 2017/18, HMRC Tax Receipts between England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland. Stat Xplore. Scottish Universal Credit Choices - management information to end February 2019 <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/SocialSecurityforScotland> . *Employment Support Allowance

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Scottish Government News Release 2 <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-child-payment-ahead-of-schedule/>

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AA	Attendance Allowance	IS	Income Support
BSG	Best Start Grant	JSA	Jobseeker's Allowance
CA	Carer's Allowance	PC	Pension Credit
CAS	Carer's Allowance Supplement	PIP	Personal Independence Payment
CWP	Cold Weather Payment	SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
DHP	Discretionary Housing Payments	SP	State Pension
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	SPA	State Pension Age
DWP	Department for Work & Pensions	SSMG	Sure Start Maternity Grant
ESA	Employment & Support Allowance	UC	Universal Credit
FP	Funeral Payment	WA	Widow's Allowance
IB	Incapacity Benefit	WFP	Winter Fuel Payment
IIDB	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit		