

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Disability Payment: high level statistics to 30 June 2023

Key figures

- From 26 July 2021 to 30 June 2023, 36,325 part 1 applications were received for Child Disability Payment.
- In total, 25,635 applications were processed with a decision made by 30 June 2023. Of these, 83% were authorised, whilst 13% were denied and 4% were withdrawn in this time period.
- The median average processing time has decreased from 105 working days in March 2023, to 102 working days in June 2023. The proportion of applications processed in 141 or more working days increased from 11% in March 2023, to 16% in June 2023.
- Between 26 July 2021 and 30 June 2023, the total value of Child Disability Payments issued was £298.0 million. Of this total, £97.6 million was issued to new applicants and £200.3 million was issued to clients who have transferred to Child Disability Payment.
- As of 30 June 2023, it is estimated that 67,000 children and young people were in receipt of Child Disability Payment. Of this total, 21,055 were new applicants and 45,940 were people who had their award transferred to Child Disability Payment.

Frequency of publications

The next publication will be released in November 2023.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: 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 30 June 2023 (see [how data was collected](#)). It includes figures for approximately one year and eleven 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 Statistics³.

³ For more information on experimental statistics please see the [UK Statistics Authority website](https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/).
<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 30 June 2023, there were 36,325 part 1 applications for Child Disability Payment registered. There were 28,520 part 2 applications received in this period **[Table 1]**.
- In the current quarter, from April to June 2023, there were 5,350 part 1 applications registered. The number of part 1 applications registered in the previous quarter, from January to March 2023, was 5,515 **[Table 1]**.
- As of 30 June 2023, there were 4,835 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, 25,635 applications were processed with a decision made by 30 June 2023. Of these, 83% of the applications were authorised, whilst 13% were denied and 4% were withdrawn in this time period **[Table 1]**.
- The total number of applications that were processed in the current quarter, from April to June 2023, was 5,160. In the previous quarter, January to March 2023, there were 4,380 applications processed. June 2023 had the most applications processed in any month since the benefit launched, with 1,990 **[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 less than 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. In June 2023, those authorised for the higher mobility level peaked at 16% compared to previous months **[Table 4]**.

Application channel

- Application channel refers to the method of application used to complete the part 1 application.
- Around 78% of applications received by 30 June 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 5]**.
- 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 30 June 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 6]**.
- The proportion of applications authorised was similar across the age groups, ranging from 82% in the 11–15 age group to 84% in both the 0-4 and the 5–10 age groups. The exception to this was in the 16–18 age group, where withdrawn applications accounted for the highest percentage of processed applications at 45%, followed by authorised and denied applications, each accounting for 27% of processed applications **[Table 6]**. 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 7]**.
- Across the period 26 July 2021 to 30 June 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 77% in Na h-Eileanan Siar to 80% in Perth and Kinross. In all other local authority areas, which have been accepting applications for less time, more than 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.
- For this publication, processing times have been calculated for applications from all channels, where previously the processing times were only based on online applications. Also, an update was implemented in June 2023 to extract more part 2 dates into the data extract where previously they were missing. These changes have resulted in small changes to the retrospective data for previous months in this table, and a 3 day decrease in the median average processing time when comparing the current published data up to March 2023, with the previous publication. These changes do not affect the overall trend of the data – while there has been a slight decrease in the median for each previously published month, the processing times show the same trend of generally increasing over time. Please note that some part 2 dates are still missing, but this table is published to provide an indication of processing times where possible. For further details, see the [data extraction issues](#) section of the background note.
- The median⁴ average processing time for all applications processed since July 2021 was 77 working days. The median average processing time decreased from 105 working days in March 2023 to 102 in June 2023 [**Table 8a**].
- This is the first time that the median average processing time has decreased since launch, from a peak of 112 working days in May 2023 to 102 working days in June 2023. Prior to this, the median average processing time had gradually increased across each month from December 2021 to May 2023 [**Table 8a**].
- The proportion of applications processed in over 140 working days, or seven months, increased from 11% in March 2023 to 16% in June 2023 [**Table 8a**].
- The proportion of decisions completed within seven months decreased from 89% in March 2023 to 84% in June 2023 [**Table 8b**].
- The proportion of decisions completed within five months gradually decreased in each month from 100% in March 2022 to 36% in May 2023. In June 2023, the proportion of decisions completed within five months increased for the first time since March 2022, to 47% [**Table 8b**].

⁴ 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 30 June 2023 was £298.0 million. Of this, £97.6 million was to new applicants and £200.3 million was to people who had their award transferred. **[Table 9]**.
- The total number of payments issued is now over 1.5 million. The care component accounted for 58% of the total number of payments made, whilst the mobility payments (including Accessible Vehicles and Equipment scheme payments) issued accounted for 42%.
- Care payments accounted for £226.0 million of the payments issued, whilst the mobility payments (including Accessible Vehicles and Equipment scheme payments) issued accounted £72.0 million **[Table 9]**. In previous publications Accessible Vehicles and Equipment scheme payments were not included in the overall mobility figure. This will account for differences seen when comparing previous publications to the current publication.
- In June 2023, the total value of payments issued was £31.5 million **[Table 9]**.
- 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 £41.4 million, followed by Fife at £22.1 million and North Lanarkshire at £21.8 million **[Table 10]**.

Caseload

- As of 30 June 2023, it is estimated that 67,000 children and young people were in receipt of Child Disability Payment, of which 21,055 (31%) were authorised new applicants **[Table 11]**.
- Of the total caseload, 45,940 (69%) were children and young people who had had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. This number has increased in each month since March 2022 from 2,515 up to 46,160 in May 2023. Following this, it decreased in June 2023 to 45,940 **[Table 11]**. As young people aged 16-18 who had their award transferred move to Adult Disability Payment, this number will decrease. Further information on the case transfer process can be found in the [background note](#).
- 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

Excerpt from Table 11: Proportion of caseload by award and client type in June 2023

Client type	Both care and mobility	Care only	Mobility only
All	71%	28%	0%
New applicants	55%	45%	0%
Case transfers	79%	21%	0%

- It is estimated that of the new applicants, 20,955 were in receipt of a care award and 11,650 were in receipt of a mobility award as of 30 June 2023 **[Table 11]**.
- Of those who had their award transferred, 45,815 were in receipt of a care award and 36,350 in receipt of a mobility award as of 30 June 2023 **[Table 11]**. 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 June 2023, 55% received both care and mobility awards, and 45% received care only awards **[Table 11]**.
- Of those who had their award transferred, 79% received both care and mobility awards, and 21% received care only awards **[Table 11]**.

Caseload by award level

Excerpt from Table 12: Proportion of caseload by care award level and client type in June 2023

Client type	Highest care award	Middle care award	Lowest care award	Not awarded care
All	38%	52%	10%	0%
New applicants	39%	42%	19%	0%
Case transfers	37%	57%	5%	0%

- Of the children and young people in receipt of Child Disability Payment in June 2023, there were 38% who received the highest care level, 52% received the middle care level, and 10% received the lowest care level. A small number of clients on the caseload were not awarded care (i.e. received mobility only awards) **[Table 12]**.
- Both new applicants and clients who had their award transferred had a similar proportion of the caseload with highest care awards, at 39% and 37% respectively **[Table 12]**.
- New applicants had a lower proportion of middle care awards, with 42% compared to 57% for clients who have had their award transferred. New applicants had a higher proportion of lowest care awards, with 19% compared to 5% for clients who have had their award transferred **[Table 12]**.

Excerpt from Table 13: Proportion of caseload by mobility award level and client type in June 2023

Client type	Higher mobility award	Lower mobility award	Not awarded mobility
Total	10%	61%	28%
New applicants	7%	48%	45%
Case transfers	12%	68%	21%

- Of the children and young people in receipt of Child Disability Payment in June 2023, 10% received the higher mobility level, 61% received the lower mobility level and 28% were not awarded (i.e. received care only awards) **[Table 13]**.
- New applicants had a lower proportion of higher mobility awards, with 7% compared to 12% for clients who have had their award transferred. New applicants also had a lower proportion of lower mobility awards, with 48% compared to 68% for clients who have had their award transferred. The key difference in the mobility awards is that a larger proportion of the new applicants caseload do not have a mobility award, at 45% compared to 21% for clients who have had their award transferred **[Table 13]**. The table below shows that excluding those not awarded, the ratio of higher to lower mobility awards is similar for new applicants and clients who have had their award transferred (13% and 87% compared to 15% and 85% respectively).

Excerpt from Table 13: Proportion of caseload by mobility award level and client type in June 2023 excluding those not awarded mobility

Client type	Higher mobility award	Lower mobility award
Total	14%	86%
New applicants	13%	87%
Case transfers	15%	85%

Excerpt from Table 14: Proportion of caseload by award levels and client type in June 2023

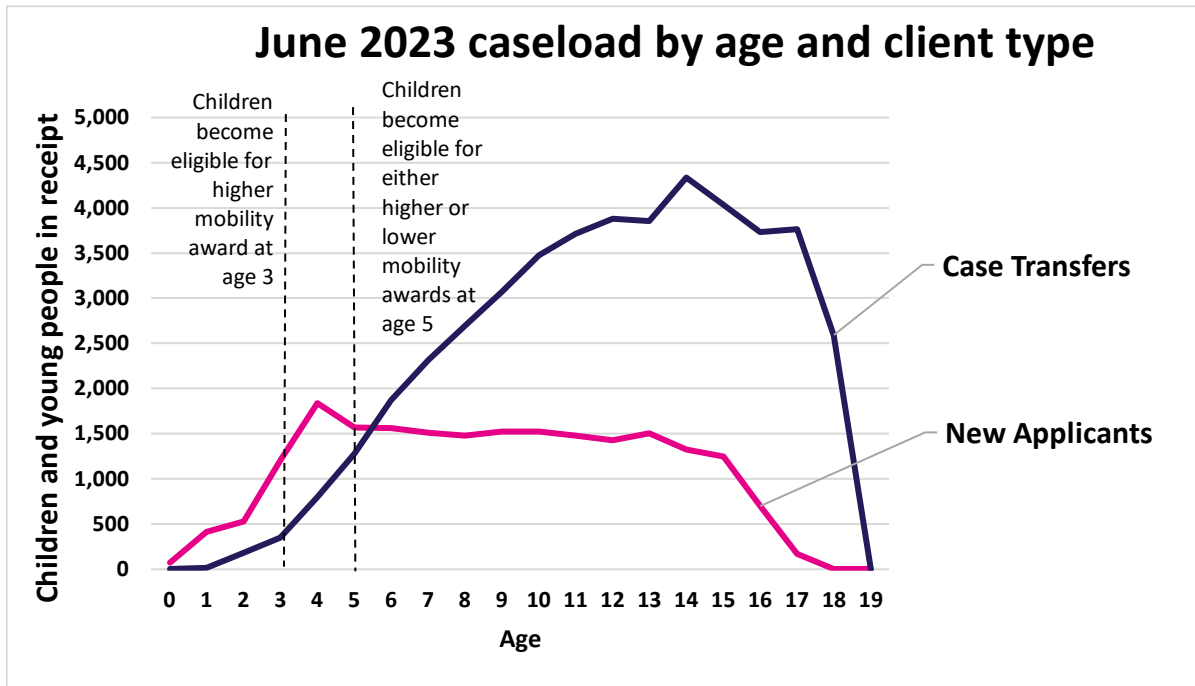
Client Type	Mobility Higher Level				Mobility Lower Level				Mobility Not Awarded		
	Care Highest Level	Care Middle Level	Care Lowest Level	Care No Award	Care Highest Level	Care Middle Level	Care Lowest Level	Care No Award	Care Highest Level	Care Middle Level	Care Lowest Level
All	8%	2%	0%	0%	23%	35%	4%	0%	7%	16%	6%
New applicants	6%	1%	0%	0%	19%	22%	7%	0%	13%	19%	12%
Case Transfers	9%	2%	0%	0%	24%	41%	3%	0%	4%	15%	2%

- The most common combination of award levels for both new applicants and clients who have had their awards transferred, is lower mobility and middle care level. However, clients who have had their awards transferred have a higher proportion of this award combination, with 41% of the caseload compared to 22% of the caseload for new applicants [Table 14]. As mentioned above, the higher proportion of new applicants not awarded for mobility will contribute to these differences.

Caseload by age

- The age profile of new applicants and children who have had their award transferred is shown in Table 15 and Chart 1 below.

Chart 1: Caseload in June 2023 by age and client type



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

Client type	0 – 4	5-10	11-15	16-18
All	8%	36%	40%	16%
New applicants	19%	44%	33%	4%
Case transfers	3%	32%	43%	22%

- The new applicants caseload is generally much younger than those who have had their award transferred, with 19% of the new applicants being aged 0-4, compared to 3% of clients who have had their award transferred. Only 4% of the new applicants are aged 16-18, compared to 22% of clients who have had their award transferred **[Table 15, Chart 1]**. The differences in age profiles of the clients may contribute towards some of the differences seen in award levels and types.
- 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 primary disability condition

- The most common category of condition was Mental and Behavioural disorders, which accounted for 75% of the caseload (50,330) in June 2023. Within that category, the most common primary disability condition was Autism (ICD10 code F84.0) with 26,685 clients, followed by ADHD (ICD10 code F90.0) with 7,575 clients **[Table 16]**. Further information on the disability condition categories can be found in the [disability conditions](#) section of the background note.

Caseload by Special Rules for Terminal Illness Status

- Of the 67,000 children and young people in receipt of Child Disability Payment in June 2023, 60 of these were receiving an award with Special Rules for Terminal Illness **[Table 17]**.

Caseload by local authority

- The number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment in June 2023 was highest in Glasgow City with 14%. This was followed by Fife, South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire which each accounted for 7% **[Table 18]**.

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

- There were 1,685 re-determinations requested by 30 June 2023. Of these, 1,300 were requested by new applicants, and 385 by clients being transferred **[Table 19]**.
- The requests from new applicants represents 5.1% of the total number of decisions made since the launch for new applicants by 30 June 2023. In the month of June 2023, the requests from new applicants represented 7.1% of the total number of decisions made that month **[Table 19]**.
- By 30 June 2023, 1,430 re-determination requests had been decided. Of these, 83% were allowed or partially allowed and 13% were disallowed **[Table 19]**.
- Of the completed re-determinations, new applicants and clients with their award transferred had the same proportion of allowed or partially allowed, at 83% each **[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
Total	13%	83%	4%
New applicants	14%	83%	4%
Case transfers	10%	83%	7%

- Overall, 98% of re-determinations were closed within 56 days **[Table 19]**.
- There were 55 appeals received by 30 June 2023, of which 20 had been decided. Of these, 81% were upheld in the clients' favour and 19% were not upheld **[Table 20]**.

Background to Child Disability Payment

The Scotland Act 2016⁵ devolved new powers to the Scottish Parliament in relation to social security, including responsibility for disability benefits which had been administered in Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions. On 1st 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. 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 replaces Disability Living Allowance for Children
- Adult Disability Payment which replaces 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 www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment.

⁵ 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 has now completed the transfer process for over 99% of children and young people who were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland. As of 30 June 2023, 46,925 children and young people had their award transferred to Child Disability Payment caseload. The current caseload at June 2023 is lower than this as clients with transferred awards are beginning to leave the caseload due to age and other potential factors.

A case transfer begins when Department for Work and Pensions first sends over a person's case data to Social Security Scotland. This usually 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 responsibility for making the payments. The Department for Work and Pensions will publish information on the cases that are still being paid by them.

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 applied for Child Disability Payment straight away.

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 regarding the child or young person's eligibility for Child Disability Payment . Applicants can withdraw their application on behalf of the individual 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 the individual's 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 on behalf of the individual 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) they are entitled to.

Individuals who are entitled to the highest rate of the care component can also receive Child Winter Heating Payment which is a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over winter.

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, 2022/23 and 2023/24 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	2023/24	
Lowest rate	£23.70	£24.45	£26.90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help for a significant part the day
Middle rate	£60.00	£61.85	£68.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent help during the day or prolonged or repeated attention at night, or • Continual supervision during the day or another person to be awake for a prolonged period or frequent intervals at night to avoid substantial danger, or • Gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day or at night
Highest rate	£89.60	£92.40	£101.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent help during the day and prolonged or repeated attention at night, or • Continual supervision during the day and another person to be awake for a prolonged period or frequent intervals to avoid substantial danger, or • Gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day and at night, or • Are terminally ill

Mobility component	Weekly amount			Level of help needed
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
Lower rate	£23.70	£24.45	£26.90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can walk but need help and or supervision to move outdoors most of the time
Higher rate	£62.55	£64.50	£71.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot walk or are virtually unable to walk outdoors, or • They could become very ill if they try to walk, or • They have a severe visual disability, or

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have no legs or feet, (regardless of the use of artificial limbs), or • They are both blind and deaf, or • They have a severe mental impairment with severe behavioural difficulties and qualify for the highest rate of the care component, or • They are terminally ill
--	--	--	--	---

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 death⁶. 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 individuals' 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.

⁶ 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.

- Individuals who qualify under special rules will be automatically entitled to the highest rate of the component part(s) (care and mobility) they are entitled to.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules will not be subject to review.

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 17 July 2023 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 30 June 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 30 June 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 and June 2023, changes were 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 5, 12 and 13 (Initial Awards by level and Payments by award level) that were provided in the previous publication, have been removed from the current publication. This is due to caseload by award level now being included in tables in the current publication. Table 16 provided in the previous publication has also been removed as sex of child was included as an additional one off table for that 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.

Tables detailing disability condition and award levels by caseload have been added to the current publication.

The methodology for calculating caseload by award type (Table 11) has been revised to use the award level extract which contains information on a client's award and any changes to their award type and award level over time. More information on this is included in the [caseload \(new applicants and case transfers\)](#) section below.

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

The methodology used for this publication uses a 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.

A data cut from 17 July 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 30 June 2023.

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) and award level (e.g. lower, middle, higher), the caseload extract was linked to an award level extract which contains information on a client's award and any changes to their award type and award level over time. The award level extract had to undergo cleaning in order for it to be used alongside the caseload extract. This process involved the loss of 4% of the award level data set due to anomalies within the extract. As a result of this when the award level extract was linked to the caseload extract, 4% of cases did not link to any award type or level information. In these instances the initial award type and level information from the applications extract have been used. However, where there were any award changes to accessible vehicle leases, these have been used to update the mobility awards. Therefore in a small number of cases there will be a limited indication of award changes that have happened since the client applied.

Comparison of new award type caseload methodology with previously published award type caseload methodology

The previous publication identified award type by linking the caseload extract to the payments extract, which details whether a client receives a care, mobility or accessible vehicles and equipment payment. When a client was still to receive their first payment, the initial award in the applications extract was used as the award type.

The new methodology uses the award level extract to determine award type. This will identify the current award type at an earlier stage as, similar to the caseload extract, it

identifies 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.

See the below table for a comparison of the two methods for June 2022, December 2022 and June 2023. Please note that this methodology change does not affect the overall total monthly caseload figures, it only affects the proportions within each award type. The difference is minimal for those awarded both care and mobility. This is the category that has the highest number of clients. Variability increases with the other award types, but these categories also have smaller numbers, so a small change in numbers could result in a high percentage change. The highest percentage changes occur for those in receipt of mobility and accessible vehicles and equipment awards. It is likely that one of the reasons for this is that accessible vehicles and equipment awards are being identified earlier in the process compared to the previous methodology that used the payments extract.

Month	Client Type	% change of those in receipt of care only	% change of those in receipt of mobility only	% change of those in receipt of both care and mobility	% change of AVE
June 2022	All	-1%	-14%	1%	23%
	New applicants	3%	7%	-3%	58%
	Case transfers	-7%	-25%	2%	22%
December 2022	All	3%	-22%	-1%	2%
	New applicants	5%	7%	-4%	16%
	Case transfers	1%	-32%	0%	2%
June 2023	All	5%	-26%	-2%	2%
	New applicants	6%	8%	-4%	12%
	Case transfers	4%	-40%	-1%	1%

Caseload by Special Rules for Terminal Illness Status

Table 18 contains 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.

Methodology and definitions: Disability Condition

The Disability Condition data included in this publication is based on the Primary Disability Condition which is recorded in the application information data extract. This Primary Disability condition is recorded by the case manager during the processing of the application and is determined based on the supporting information that has been provided.

The data is recorded using codes which were developed based on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10 (ICD10)⁷ standard, published by the World Health Organisation. The codes recorded are a subset of the broader ICD10 groupings. These are then aggregated into the ICD10 'chapters' for publication purposes.

As a part of the development process the newly developed condition codes were matched with the condition codes from Disability Living Allowance to allow for case transfers to be moved to the new system.

Disability Condition Code Testing

As part of the quality assurance process of the Disability Condition data, an exercise was carried out in consultation with a Social Security Scotland Clinical Operations practitioner, who is a medical professional, to verify whether case managers were selecting the most appropriate disability condition code when processing applications. A sample of 370 applications were supplied to the practitioner who then provided the disability conditions that they would have selected based on the supporting information available.

The results show that for 86% of the sample, the condition selected by the case managers and by the Clinical Operations practitioner matched at the ICD10 'chapters' that have been aggregated for publication purposes. Of those that didn't match, the majority were applications where the case manager had selected a disability condition code relating to a lack of diagnosis, or 'to be determined', but the Clinical Operations practitioner was able to select a condition based on the supporting information available. As a result of this quality assurance exercise, from November 2022 practitioner colleagues' expertise was utilised more frequently to make decisions on disability condition codes. Since then, the prevalence of 'to be determined' condition codes has decreased.

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.

There is an ongoing data extraction issue where a number of applications that have been processed with a decision do not have a part 2 received date appearing in the extract.

⁷ [International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10 \(ICD10\)](#)

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

In August 2022 and June 2023 changes were implemented in the data extracts to try and resolve this issue. Following these changes, the proportion of applications processed without a part 2 date has fallen, however the issue has not been fully resolved.

We are continuing to assess these issues and progress towards a solution, with a view to improving the data being captured and extracted. In this publication we have included all applications that have a part 2 received date available regardless of the application channel. This has been done following the most recent change to the data extract in June 2023.

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 applications⁸

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

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 processed applications that do have a part 2 received date populated. This may introduce bias to the calculation, if for some reason the applications which don't have a part 2 received date extracted have a longer or shorter processing time. **[Table 9]**.
- The unknown number of applications denied with a part 2 received date missing in the extract could bias this number if for example these took a longer or shorter time to process on average.

⁸ 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.

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.

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

Information on duration of award is intended to be included later in the year.

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.

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>

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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

Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Vicki Yoong

Social Security Statistics

Telephone: 0131 244 7232

e-mail: MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

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

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

If you would like to be consulted about statistical collections or receive notification of publications, please register your interest at www.gov.scot/scotstat

Details of forthcoming publications can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications

Crown Copyright

You may use or re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. See: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/