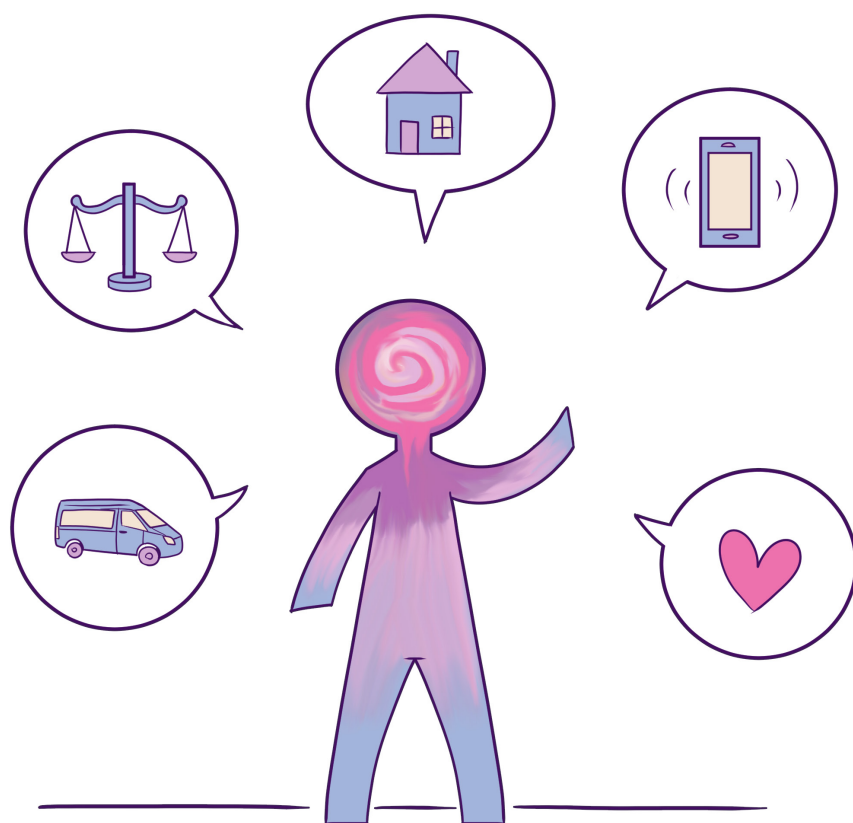


# Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: **Social Security**



# Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill

## Social Security



### Easy Read



**Social Security** is when the government give money to people who need help with their everyday living expenses.

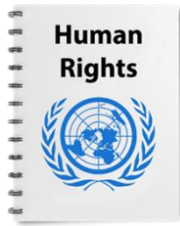


Social Security can also be called **benefits**.

People get benefits because they:

- are unable to work
- can only work part-time
- need help with everyday living expenses.





Social Security is a human right.



Social Security is also essential to make sure that other human rights are protected.



Social Security can be used to help reduce inequalities.



Social Security is important for disabled people, including neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



Social Security can help neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities live more independent lives.



Social Security can help neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities take part in social activities.



Social Security can make it easier for disabled people to get a job or learn new skills.



There is not a lot of information on how many neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have a job.



We know people with learning disabilities are less likely to have a job than other disabled people and people who are not disabled.

## What did the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) think?



The Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) is a group made up of neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to help advise the Scottish Government on this Consultation.



LEAP said people should not have their benefits taken away if they work more than 16 hours a week.



LEAP said people with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people should not have to be assessed again for certain benefits if they have already been assessed.



LEAP members thought rules on how to apply for benefits need to be simpler.



LEAP said people may need support to understand how to apply for Social Security and understand the rules.



LEAP members felt that a **diagnosis** for a neurodivergent condition should not be needed to give people Social Security.



A **diagnosis** is an official medical judgement that a doctor gives to confirm a condition or illness.





This is because it can take a very long time for some people to get a diagnosis.

People need money to live while waiting for a diagnosis.



LEAP said the government need to better manage benefits when neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities start a job or stop working.



LEAP thought neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities need help to understand the benefits system better and the difficulties in it.



LEAP thought neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities should have accessible information on Social Security.

# What happens now?



Most benefits in Scotland are given by the UK Government.



This includes:

- **Income Based Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Universal Credit**
- **Tax Credits.**







**Employment and Support Allowance** is a benefit for people who have a disability or a health condition which makes it difficult for them to work.



**Universal Credit** is a benefit for people who do not work or do not have enough money to live off.



A person can get Universal Credit even if they work over 16 hours a week, if the job does not pay them enough.



The UK government are working to make all benefits part of **Universal Credit** soon.



The Scottish Government have asked the UK Government to make a lot of changes to the benefits they control.



The Scottish Government believe some of the rules about claiming benefits from the UK Government are not fair.



Some benefits are delivered in Scotland by **Social Security Scotland**.



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Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

**Social Security Scotland** is controlled by the Scottish Government.



Social Security Scotland  
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Social Security Scotland give 13 different benefits in Scotland.



This includes the **Adult Disability Payment** and the **Child Disability Payment**.



The **Adult Disability Payment** has been designed by talking to people who are involved with the benefits system or disabled people who have claimed benefits in the past.



The assessments for **Adult Disability Payment** do not have any tests or medical examinations.



People will still be given these disability payments even if they have a job or their carers get a job.



If Social Security Scotland tell someone that their application for benefits was not successful, that person can ask them to look at it again.



This is known as a **review**.



People can challenge a review if they feel it is unfair towards them.



People can apply for a one-off payment while they are challenging a review.



This is known as **Short-term Assistance**.



**Short-term Assistance** does not need to be paid back if the review is unsuccessful.



The Scottish Government has recently made improvements to the way **Adult Disability Payment** is made in Scotland.



But they are currently doing a review of the **Adult Disability Payment** system so they can keep improving it in the future.



The **Child Disability Payment** was introduced to help pay for some of the extra costs that come with caring for a disabled child or young person.



It is available to children from 3 months old to 18 years old.



This **Child Disability Payment** will be paid out to every child with a disability and does not depend on how much money their household earns.



## Independent Advocacy



A service called the Social Security **Independent Advocacy** Service was launched in 2022.



**Independent advocacy** is a way for an individual's voice to be heard, and not being influenced by the views of others.

It helps people have more control over their own lives.

**VoiceAbility**

The service is delivered by an independent advocacy organisation called VoiceAbility.





The service supports disabled people to access and apply for benefits from the Scottish Government.



This is a free service and anyone who identifies as disabled can use it.

## Client Experience Panel



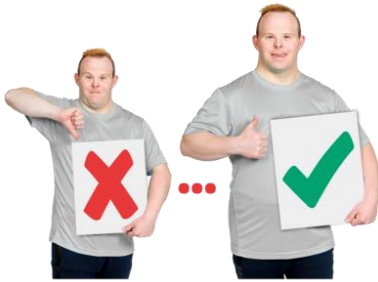
Social Security Scotland has worked closely with a group called the **Client Experience Panel** when designing their benefits system.



The **Client Experience Panel** are a group of people who have lived experience of using the social security system.



The Scottish Government is continuing to work with this panel to help improve the benefits system in the future.



## Accessible Communication



Accessible

Social Security Scotland has said they have a **duty** to communicate with people in a way which is accessible to everyone.



A **duty** is something an organisation must do. If they do not do it, they are breaking the law.

## What can the **Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill** do?



The Scottish Government has said that they are not able to make some of the changes the **Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)** has asked for.



This is because most benefits are controlled by the UK Government.



The Scottish Government said that some of the changes the LEAP has asked for are already being made through the new Social Security system in Scotland.



The Scottish Government said it could look at including the following things in the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill:



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- The Bill could make Social Security Scotland say what they are doing to make all their communication with neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities accessible.



- The Bill could make all staff who give advice to people on benefits have training on learning disability and neurodivergence.



- The Bill could make Social Security Scotland say how many people that claim benefits are neurodivergent and how many people that claim benefits have a learning disability.

## What do you think?

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

1. Which of these proposals do you agree with? Please tell us why.

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

2. Which of these proposals do you not agree with? Please tell us why.

**Questions**

1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

3. Is there anything else that we should consider which is relevant to this topic?