



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Carer's Allowance Supplement, April eligibility date 2018

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering the October eligibility 2018 will be released in May 2019.

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: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/03/18798>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) for eligibility date April 2018. This supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the CAS eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at:

www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/SocialSecurityforScotland

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.*" These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority. They have not been designated as National Statistics³.

Main findings

- Since September 2018, 77,620 CAS payments have been made to carers who were eligible in April 2018. Each payment was £221, giving a total expenditure of £17.2m.
- Over two thirds of CAS payments were made to female carers (53,210 payments, 68.6%), while 31.4% payments were made to male carers (24,345 payments).
- Two thirds of CAS payments were made to carers aged between 40 and 64 (51,350 payments, 66.2%), and nearly a third of CAS payments were made to carers aged between 18 and 39 (25,175 payments, 32.8%) **[Chart 1]**.
- Only a small proportion of CAS payments were made to carers aged 65 and over (790 payments, 1.0%) or under 18 (300 payments, 0.4%) **[Chart 1]**.
- The local authorities with the greatest numbers of carers receiving CAS payments were Glasgow City (12,730, 16.4%), North Lanarkshire (6,570, 8.5%), Fife (5,835, 7.5%), South Lanarkshire (5,570, 7.2%) and City of Edinburgh (4,615, 5.9%) **[Chart 2]**.

³ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/assessment-and-designation-of-experimental-statistics.html>

Chart 1: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by age band – April 2018 eligibility date

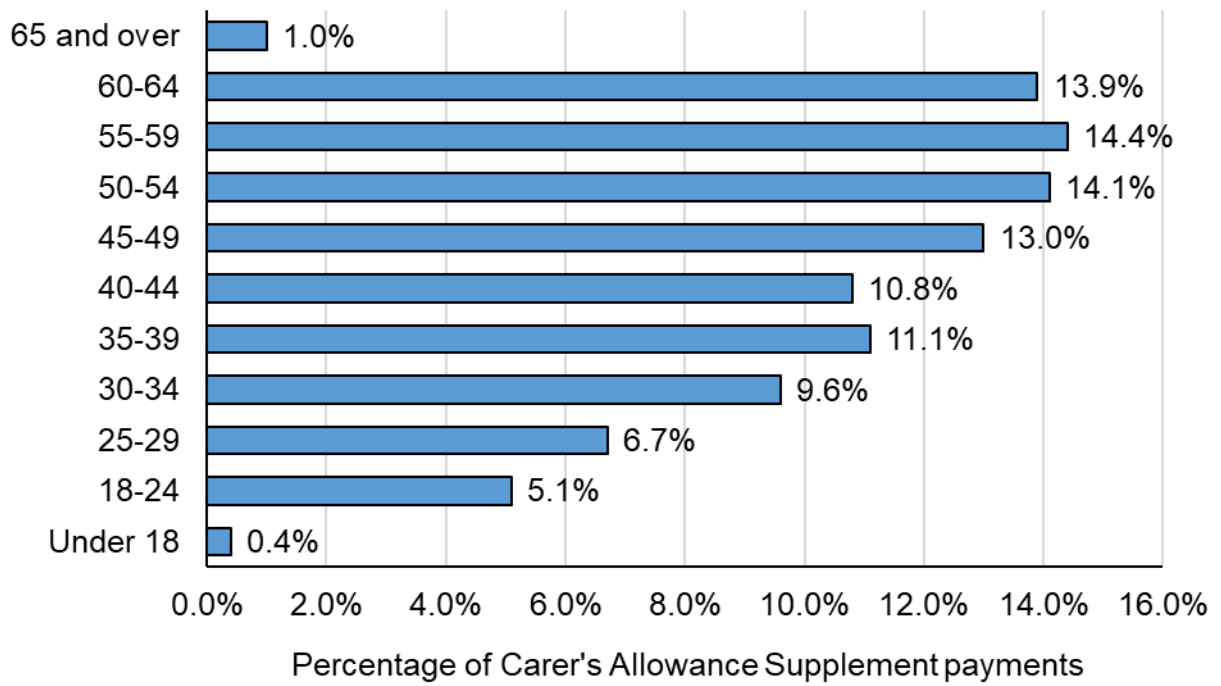
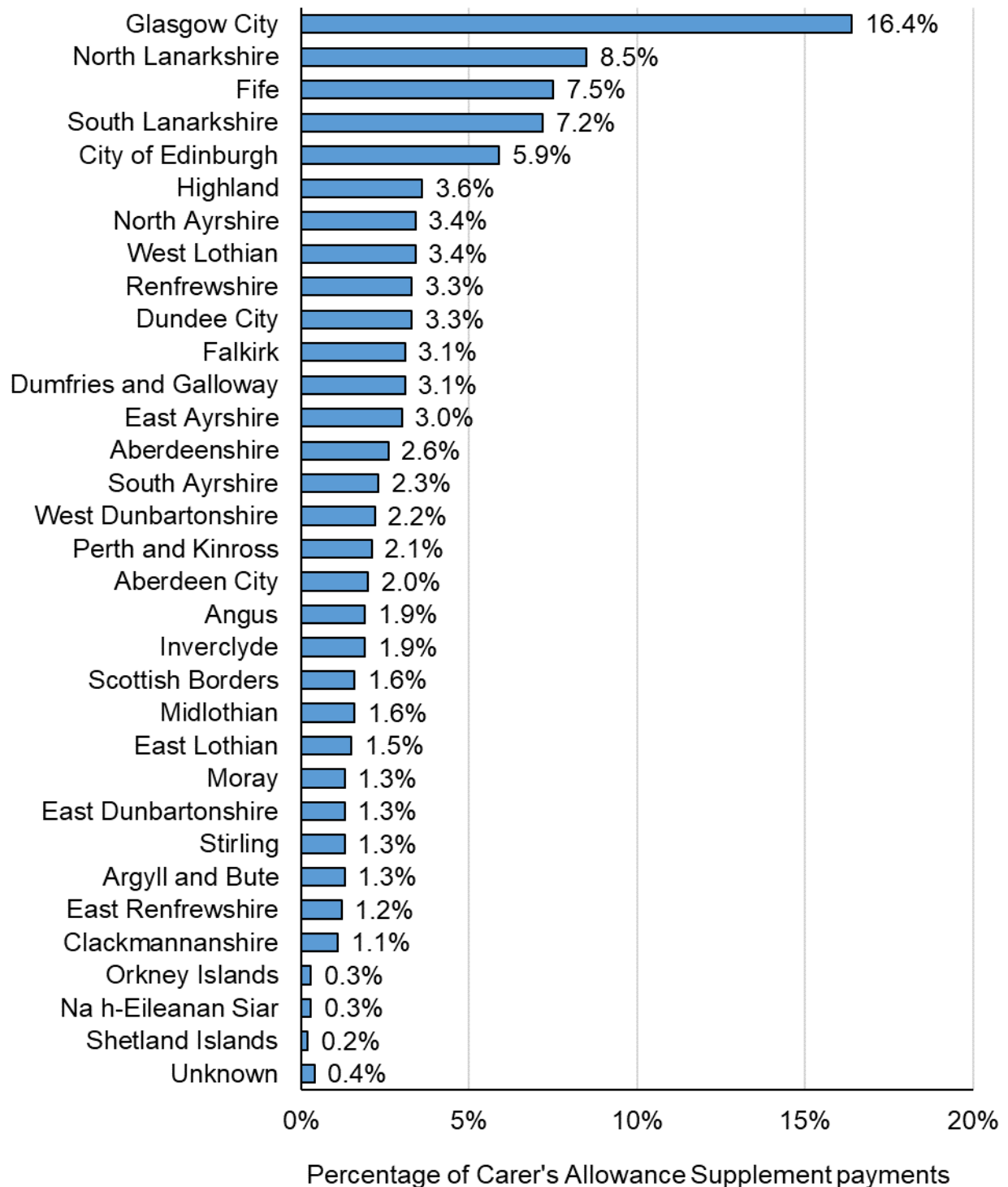


Chart 2: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by local authority – April 2018 eligibility date



Background to the Carer's Allowance Supplement

The Scotland Act 2016⁴ gives Scottish Parliament powers over a number of social security benefits which had been administered to Scottish claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. More information on Carer's Allowance can be found [below](#).

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. During this time, Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be eligible to receive CAS, which will raise their Carer's Allowance to the equivalent of the current rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 25 and over.

CAS payments are paid twice a year. Payments for those eligible for CAS on the April 2018 eligibility date – 16 April – began in September 2018. These were the first payments made by Social Security Scotland.

In 2018/19 each payment was £221. This will rise to £226.20 for 2019/20.

To be eligible for CAS the person you care for does not have to live in Scotland, but you must:

- live in Scotland on the qualifying date;
- be getting Carer's Allowance payments on the qualifying date.

About the data

How the data is collected

DWP holds information on those in payment of Carer's Allowance, and it runs a scan of this data twice a year to identify those eligible for CAS on each of the eligibility dates. It then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to make CAS payments.

In some instances, payment of Carer's Allowance can be backdated, which may mean that someone who did not receive Carer's Allowance on the CAS eligibility date is later considered to have been eligible on that date. In order to capture these people, each scan of the DWP data will identify people who have retrospective entitlement to earlier eligibility dates, as well as identifying those in receipt of Carer's Allowance on the most recent eligibility date. Social Security

⁴ The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

Scotland will then pay CAS for one or more periods of eligibility as determined by the data transfer.

The April 2018 eligibility date scan was run in August 2018, and the October 2018 eligibility date scan was run in November 2018.

Data Quality

To take account of backdating, the data in this publication includes those found to be eligible from the April 2018 eligibility date scan, as well as those identified in the October 2018 eligibility scan as having retrospective entitlement for April 2018. Future scans may identify additional people who are retrospectively entitled to CAS for the April 2018 eligibility date, therefore there may be a small undercount in this data.

Gender data are based on 'title'. Title was supplied for every carer. 'Unknown' gender includes carers with titles where gender cannot be identified, i.e. 'Dr', 'Rev' and 'Captain'.

Age is based on age at the eligibility date. In a very small number of cases age band is 'unknown'.

A small number of carers (335, <1%) have 'unknown' local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the postcode address file used for statistical analysis.

Payments figures have been rounded to the nearest five, and expenditure figures to the nearest £1,000 for disclosure control.

Comparisons with DWP Carer's Allowance Statistics

The eligibility for CAS is dependent on a person being in payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date. The data is therefore similar to the Carer's Allowance statistics published by DWP at May 2018⁵. However, there are a number of differences between these two sets of data. The key differences are:

- Reference date – CAS data refers to 16 April 2018, while DWP data refers to May 2018.
- Backdating – CAS data is taken from scans carried out in August and November 2018, and therefore currently includes seven months of backdating. DWP data includes up to four months of backdating.
- Eligibility – all those who receive a payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date will receive CAS. This will include eligible carers who subsequently become entitled to a payment, including cases which may have temporarily been suspended from payment. DWP data will exclude those who

⁵ Carer's Allowance statistics are published as part of DWP's benefits statistics collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>

are later found to be ineligible for Carer's Allowance as part of their backdating adjustments.

- Geography – they use different postcode address files to identify those who receive Carer's Allowance who are living in Scottish postcodes.

Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance was introduced on 5th July 1976. To be eligible for carer's allowance:

- The person being cared for must already get one of these benefits:
 - Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
 - Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
 - Attendance Allowance
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
 - Armed Forces Independence Payment
- The carer must earn no more than £120 a week after tax and expenses.
Expenses can include:
 - 50% of the carer's pension contributions
 - some of the costs of caring for the carer's children or the disabled person while you're at work
- And the carer must also:
 - be 16 or over
 - spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
 - have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)
 - normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces
 - not be in full-time education
 - not be studying for 21 hours a week or more
 - not be subject to [immigration control](#)

Some carers might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Some carers are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but they do not actually receive a payment. This is because they receive another benefit (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance. Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, only the amount of Carer's Allowance which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on

low income and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) may receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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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:

[//www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/SocialSecurityforScotland](http://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/SocialSecurityforScotland)

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact SocialSecurityStats@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/statistics

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