

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Disability Payment: high level statistics to 31 March 2022

Key figures

- From 26 July to the 31 March 2022, 9,570 part 1 applications were received for Child Disability Payment.
- In total, there were 3,565 applications that were processed with a decision made by 31 March 2022. Of these, 77% of the applications were authorised, whilst 15% were denied. An additional 8% were withdrawn in this time period.
- As of the 31 March 2022, it is estimated that 3,050 children were receipt of Child Disability Payment. Of this 2,500 children were new applicants and 555 were children who had their award transferred to Child Disability Payment.
- Between 26 July and 31 March 2022, the total value of Child Disability Payments issued was £3.25 million. Of this total, £3.0 million was issued to new applicants and a further £253,140 was issued to clients who have transferred to Child Disability Payment.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering up to the 30 June 2022, will be released in August 2022.

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: <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://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 living with a disability might have.

From the 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 to 31 March 2022 ([see how data was collected](#)). It includes figures for approximately eight months of applications and payments.

The [Background section](#) has further detail about the payment and its application process.

All tables referred to within this publication can be found at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/publications>

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:

<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/>

Main findings

New Applicants

Applications by month

- From the 26 July to 31 March 2022, there were 9,570 part 1 applications for Child Disability Payment received. There were also 5,375 part 2 applications registered in this period **[Table 1]**.
- As of the 31 March 2022, there were 1,105 applications in the data used for reporting that did not have a part 2 registration 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 registered measure **[Table 1]** (see Processed applications without a part two registered date section of the [background note](#)).
- The number of part 1 applications received increased substantially from November 2021 onwards due to the launch of the benefit nationally on 22 November 2021. The highest monthly total of part 1 applications received was in March 2022, where 2,170 were received **[Table 1]**.

Application Outcome

- In total, there were 3,565 applications that were processed with a decision made by 31 March 2022. Of these, 77% of the applications were authorised, whilst 15% were denied. An additional 8% were withdrawn in this time period **[Table 1]**.
- In the four months following national launch in November 2021, the proportion of applications authorised increased from 72% in December 2021 to 83% in March 2022 **[Table 1]**.

Award Type

- Of the applications authorised, 50% were authorised for both care and mobility components, whilst 49% were for care only and 1% were for mobility only **[Table 2]**.
- There are three levels that can be awarded for care - the lowest, middle or highest level (see payments section of [background note](#)).
- Of the applications authorised that had a care element within it, 40% were at the highest level, 40% 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 (see payments section of [background note](#)).
- Of the applications authorised that had a mobility element within it, 90% were for the lower level. The remaining 10% were authorised for the higher level **[Table 4]**.
- For more detailed information on the combinations of awards that clients have been authorised for, see Table 5 in the accompanying Excel tables.

Application channel

- Application channel refers to the method of application used to complete the part 1 application.
- Around 74% of applications received by 31 March 2021² were made online and 16% were made via phone. A further 8% were made through alternative applications, where a Disability Living Allowance application was redirected to Social Security Scotland **[Table 6]**.
- A small proportion of applications were made through paper applications or through local delivery (see the application and decision making process section of the [background note](#)) **[Table 6]**.

Applications by age of child

- Approximately 43% of the part 1 applications were made for children aged 5-10, whilst 30% were in the 11-15 age group and 27% were in the 0-4 age group **[Table 7]**.
- The proportion of applications authorised varied between the age groups, ranging from 75% in the 11–15 age group to 79% in the 5–10 age group. **[Table 7]**.

Applications by local authority

- Part 1 applications were received for children living in all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Of the part 1 applications received, 14% were from Glasgow City, followed by 7% in both of Fife and North Lanarkshire respectively. **[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.
- The processing times presented all relate to clients who completed the part 1 of their application online. At present, clients with processed applications that made their part 1 application via other channels, do not have a part 2 application date available to calculate processing times (see [background note](#) for further details).
- The processing times showed that of applications that had received a decision by 31 March 2022, 18% were made within 1 to 20 days, 38% were made within 21 to 35 days and 45% were made in 36 or more days. **[Table 9]**.
- The median⁴ average processing time for applications over the period was 34 working days. Following the national launch, on average⁴ it took 15 days to process an application in December 2021. This had increased to 41 days in March 2022 **[Table 9]**.

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.

Payments

- In total, £3.0 million of payments were issued to approved applicants by 31 March 2022 **[Table 10]**.
- Care awards accounted for 81% of the payments, with a value of £2.4 million issued, whilst the mobility payments issued totaled £557,430 **[Table 10]**.
- In total, 62% of payments issued were to applicants receiving both care and mobility awards, with a value of £1.9 million. This was followed by 37% to applicants receiving a care only award, with a value of £1.1 million. Mobility awards accounted for less than 1% of payments issued **[Table 11]**.
- In total, 56% of care payments issued were for those within the highest care component rate, with a value £1.4 million. This was followed by 37% in the middle care component rate, with a value of £897,250 issued. The lowest care component rate accounted for approximately 7% of the payments. **[Table 12]**.
- Of the mobility payments issued, 77% were for the lower mobility component rate, with a value of £420,770 issued **[Table 13]**.
- It should be noted that percentages in this payments section can differ from the percentage of applications authorised as not all authorised applications will have payments associated with them by the 31 March 2022.

Caseload: New applicants and clients being transferred

- As of 31 March 2022, it is estimated that a total of 3,050 children were in receipt of Child Disability Payment. Of this 2,500 children were new applicants, whilst 555 were children who had had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions.
- This is a derived statistic calculated based on the number of children who have had payments made in the final 28-day interval of the current reporting period. For this publication that includes children in receipt of payment from the 4 March to the 31 March 2022 **[Table 14]**.
- Further information on the calculation can be found in the [background note](#).
- It is estimated that of the new applicants there were 2,475 children in receipt of a care award and 1,310 in receipt of a mobility award as of the 31 March 2022 **[Table 14]**.
- Of the children who had their award transferred, there were 550 children in receipt of a care award and 430 in receipt of a mobility award as of the 31 March 2022 **[Table 14]**.

Clients with their award transferred

- The number of people in receipt of payment as a result of transferring to Child Disability Payment was 555 at the end of March 2022 **[Table 15]**.
- Further information on the case transfer process can be found in the [background note](#).
- By 31 March 2022, 1,300 component payments had been issued to clients who had transferred to Child Disability Payment, totaling £253,140. Care awards accounted for 73% of the payments, with mobility and Accessible

Vehicles and Equipment awards accounting for 22% and 5% of the payments respectively **[Table 16]**.

Re-determinations and appeals: New applicants

- There were 150 re-determinations requested by 31 March 2022. This represents around 4% of the total number of decisions made during this period **[Table 17]**.
- By 31 March 2022, 75 re-determination requests had been decided. Of these 65 were allowed or partially allowed and 10 disallowed **[Table 17]**.
- Fewer than five appeals were received during the reported time period.
- A small number (<5) of re-determinations from clients who had been transferred to Child Disability Payment have not been included as they would be disclosive.

Background to Child Disability Payment

The Scotland Act 2016⁵ devolved new powers to the Scottish Parliament in relation to social security, including responsibility for disabled 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. People can still apply for Disability Living Allowance if they are aged under 16. However 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 will replace Disability Living Allowance for Children
- Adult Disability Payment which will replace 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 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.

⁵ The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

Further details about the benefit can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/child-disability-payment>.

Case Transfers

Since 11 October 2021, children who are aged over 15 and a half to 17 who get Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions have started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Clients under 15 and a half years old will have their award transferred from spring 2022. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children by spring 2023.

A case transfer begins when Department for Work and Pensions first sends over a client's case data to Social Security Scotland. This occurs approximately three months before a client's Disability Living Allowance for children entitlement ends, so that the client's 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, Department for Work and Pensions will continue to make payments to these clients. 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 that they are fully responsible for and have made their first payment to. The Department for Work and Pensions will publish information on the cases that are still being paid by them.

Eligibility

This benefit is for children and young people 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. This is only where the applicant has already been in receipt of assistance before they were 16. New applicants who are 16 or above will currently need to apply for Personal Independence Payment. This will transfer to Adult Disability Payment when it is launched by Social Security Scotland in 2022.

Payments

Child Disability Payment is made up of two components: a care component and a mobility component. Qualifying children 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) of whichever benefit they are entitled to.

The lower rate of the mobility component is available to eligible children who are aged 5 years or older. The higher rate of the mobility component is available for eligible children who are at least 3 years old.

The value of payments for Child Disability Payment were updated in April 2022. The below table indicates the value of payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2021-2022 rates) as well as the value of payments following the updating on 11 April 2022.

Care component rate	Weekly rates 2021-2022	Weekly rates 2022-2023	Level of help needed
Lowest	£23.70	£24.45	Help for some of the day
Middle	£60.00	£61.85	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night, or someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day or at night
Highest	£89.60	£92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or someone who gets renal dialysis at least twice a week during the day and at night, or they are terminally ill

Mobility component rate	Weekly rates 2021-2022	Weekly rates 2022-2023	Level of help needed
Lower	£23.70	£24.45	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher	£62.55	£64.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They 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 • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are terminally ill
--	--	--	---

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.

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

This is a change from the time limited definition which the Department for Work and Pensions currently uses, which defines terminal illness as 'a progressive disease

where death as a consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within 6 months’.

Application and decision making process

The application stage involves a two part application process. The part 1 form gathers key personal details of the client. The impact of the client’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 client will be sent a paper form to complete part 2 of the application. In some instances a client 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 client 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 or young person 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 whether to approve or deny the application. Applicants can withdraw their application 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 their 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 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.

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 2 May 2022 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 March 2022. 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 management information is collected by the Client Experience team at Social Security Scotland. This management information has been used to produce statistics on the number of re-determination requests received and decided up to 23:59 on 31 March 2022.

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 for duplicate child identification numbers. A small number of duplicates were identified and checked. It was determined that these were duplicate 'prospect cases' which are created when clients contact Social Security Scotland without a National Insurance number, and are later replaced once a National Insurance number is received from the applicant. Any such applications are therefore duplicates and are excluded from the statistics.
- 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 [Age of applicant](#) section.
- Check postcode lengths are within the expected ranges and check postcodes that do not match to local authorities – see [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

In the future, 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 100% 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.

For this publication, we have revised the methodology used to calculate payments issued to clients, to bring the Child Disability Payment publication in line with other statistics publications produced by Social Security Scotland. Previous Child Disability Payment publications have used a payment creation date variable from the payments extract to assign payments. For this publication, it is now using a

payment issued date variable, which provides a more accurate reflection of the date that payments were issued to clients.

The effect of this, on average, is that payments are issued around six days after creation, which has reduced the number and value of payments in months covered by the time period in previous publications. The total payments in the previous publication was £394,770 in comparison to this publication where the payments to 31 December 2021 totalled £335,560. These payments previously reported as December 2021 in the last publication will now be issued in January 2022. Previously released versions of these tables have now been superseded. This change impacts on Tables 10, 11, 12 and 13 in the Excel tables.

Methodology and definitions: Caseload

The majority of statistics presented in this publication are cumulative figures, meaning they will continue to increase as new children and young people become eligible to receive Child Disability Payment for the first time but they do not provide any information about how many of those children remain eligible to receive the benefit. In order to more accurately reflect the active caseload for Child Disability Payment, it is important to take into account the flows in both directions, i.e. include any new children who are receiving the benefit, and exclude children who are no longer eligible.

The estimated caseload, or number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment, reported in this publication is estimated by calculating the number of children who have had payments made in the final 28-day interval of the current reporting period. For this publication that includes children in receipt of payment from the 4 March to the 31 March 2022.

Number of children in payment (Caseload)

Children in receipt of Child Disability Payment can be eligible for multiple payments from different benefit components including care, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. Additionally, children receiving payments under the special rules for terminal illness will receive multiple payments in a 28 day period as payments are made weekly. This measure does not count multiple payment components made to children. For example, a child receiving a payment containing components for both care and mobility counts as one payment towards this measure.

Number of children in payment by award type

This measure counts the number of children who have received separate payments for care, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. Therefore children may be counted in both care and mobility caseloads if they are eligible for both components.

Limitations

There are a few limitations with the chosen methodology:

- A true point-in-time measure of the number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment on the final day of the publication reporting period may differ to the derived figure presented in this publication. For example, it is possible that some of the children paid in the last 28 days are no longer eligible on the final day of the reporting period. Equally, it is possible that some children may have recently been approved for the benefit but had not yet received their first payment by the end of the reporting period.
- Payments are made every 4 weeks, in arrears, with the start date of the application being the date that the applicant registered their part 1 form. Therefore this method is unable to count children that are:
 - eligible for payment in the calculated caseload period, but that are not receiving payments yet due to it being their first payment which will be made in arrears.
 - eligible for payment, but their application has yet to be approved, and payments will be backdated to the date of registration of the part 1 form (which would be in the calculated caseload date range).

To take into account the above limitations, with backdating and time between applications being authorised and payments being made, a data cut from 2 May 2022 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 March 2022. However due to the average processing time for Child Disability Payment applications, it is likely the above limitations are still present. 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.

Methodology and definitions: Case Transfers

Case Transfers in payment

The case transfer date was used to select cases that were within the publication period. The applications extract was linked to the payments extract allowing for the identification of children who have transferred and had received payments in the selected time period. A limitation in this method is that, due to payments being made 4 weeks in arrears, it is not possible to currently include cases that are eligible in the publication period date range, but that are still to receive a first payment. This issue is under review.

Case Transfers in payment up to 31 March 2022

Children that have been transferred to Child Disability Payment can be eligible for multiple different benefit components including care, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. Additionally, clients receiving payments under the special rules for terminal illness will receive multiple payments in a 28

day period as payments are made weekly. This measure does not count multiple payments made to clients. For example, someone who has transferred and is receiving Child Disability payments for care and mobility counts only once towards this measure.

Case Transfers in payment award type

Children that have been transferred to Child Disability Payment can be eligible for multiple different benefit components including care, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. In this measure children will be counted under each award paid within this table so may appear across all the different award types if they are eligible.

Payments made to case transfers by month and award type

This measure counts the number and value of payments each month made to children who have transferred. It includes multiple payments made to the same client e.g. where someone is receiving a payment for mobility, care, or accessible vehicle leases and equipment, this will contribute three payments to the total number and value.

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.

Processed applications without a part two registered date

There are 1,105 applications that do not have a part 2 registration date that have been processed with a decision associated with them. All applications with a decision, where a part 1 was made via telephone, paper, claim in alternative or local delivery, do not have a part 2 date present. This issue is being investigated. These applications are not included in the total number of part 2 applications registered in Table 1. They are included in numbers of (a) applications processed and their outcomes [Table 1] (b) award types and levels [Table 2, 3 and 4] and (c) payments issued if they have been approved [Table 10 - 15]. They are not included in processing times due to the absence of a part 2 date to allow for the calculation of this [Table 9]. As a result, the number of withdrawn applications includes 180 applications where it is unknown if the withdrawal came before a part 2 application was registered [Table 1].

Missing and duplicate applications

The data comes from a 100% data cut of the case management system.

The data cut was checked for applications where the applicant was missing a National Insurance number. A small number of these were found and represented temporary 'prospect cases', which are created when clients contact Social Security Scotland without a National Insurance number, and are later replaced once a National Insurance number is received from the applicant. Any such applications are therefore duplicates and are excluded from the statistics.

Clients 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 client. 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 client 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 client 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.

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. The age that is used in this publication is based on the age of the child when part 1 of the application was received. 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 client profiles and data extracts are automatically updated in the case of a client changing address. As a result, postcodes reflect the latest address of clients 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, decision or payment.

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 clients 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 Quality Section](#)). 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.

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 client in the same month as separate payments. This could happen for a client 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 or the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme have been included in the totals, but due to small application numbers (<5) they have not been included in further breakdowns. The number of payments has been rounded to the nearest five and the value to the nearest ten pounds for disclosure control.

When the applications extract was linked to the payments, there were a number of payments that could not be assigned to a care or mobility award level. This has impacted tables 10, 11, 12 and 13. This issue is being investigated.

Re-determinations and appeals

A small number (<5) of re-determinations from clients who had been transferred to Child Disability Payment have not been included as they would be disclosive.

Related Social Security Scotland Publications

Updated statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants 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/statistics

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/