

## Social Security Scotland Statistics

# Adult Disability Payment: high level statistics to 31 October 2022

### Key figures

- From 21 March to 31 October 2022, 39,170 part 1 applications were registered for Adult Disability Payment. During that period, 18,685 part 2 applications were received.
- In total, there were 5,665 applications processed with a decision made by 31 October 2022. Of these 62% were authorised, 23% were denied and 15% were withdrawn.
- As of the 31 October 2022, 3,470 people were in receipt of Adult Disability Payment. Of this total, 3,135 people were new applicants and 335 were people who had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions' Personal Independence Payment.
- Between 21 March and 31 October 2022, the total value of Adult Disability Payments issued was £6.6 million.
- Since the Adult Disability Payment national launch on 29 August 2022, there have been 26,925 part 1 applications registered across all local authorities in Scotland. Of these, 14% (3,745) were registered in the last three days in August.

### Frequency of publications

**The next publication, covering up to the 31 January 2023, will be released in March 2023.**

**Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup> we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead<sup>2</sup>.**

<sup>1</sup> The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

<sup>2</sup> The forthcoming publication timetable is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

# Introduction

Adult Disability Payment is the replacement for Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance in Scotland, which are delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions. It is the second 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 daily living and mobility costs that a person living with a disability might have.

From 21 March 2022, new applications were taken for Adult Disability Payment for people who lived in the pilot areas of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. The pilot expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022 and further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022 before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022. This publication provides statistics up to 31 October 2022, covering a period of approximately two months after the national launch of Adult Disability Payment.

The application for Adult Disability Payment is in two parts. Once an applicant has filled out part 1 they have eight 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 Adult Disability Payment from 21 March to 31 October 2022 (see the [How the data is collected section](#)).

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 Statistics<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on experimental statistics please see the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

# Main findings

## New applicants

### Applications by month

- As of 31 October 2022, 39,170 part 1 applications for Adult Disability Payment had been registered. Additionally, 18,685 part 2 applications had been received **[Table 1]**.
- Since the Adult Disability Payment national launch on 29 August 2022, there have been 26,925 part 1 applications registered across all local authorities in Scotland. Of these, 14% (3,745) were registered in the last three days in August, 47% (12,630) in September and 39% (10,550) in October 2022.
- As of 31 October 2022, there were 1,805 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. Further information on this can be found in the [Data Extraction Issues section](#).

### Application outcome

- In total, there were 5,665 applications processed with a decision made by 31 October 2022. Of these 62% were authorised, 23% were denied and 15% were withdrawn **[Table 1]**.
- The number of applications processed increased each month, from 20 in March 2022 to 2,310 in October 2022 **[Table 1]**.

### Initial award type

- Of the applications authorised, 72% were given an initial award comprising of both daily living and mobility components, whilst 21% were for daily living only and 7% were for mobility only **[Table 2]**.
- There are two levels which can be awarded for each component, standard and enhanced (see [Payments section](#) of the Background note). The table below presents proportions by level of initial daily living and mobility awards.

#### Excerpt of Table 3 and 4: Initial daily living and mobility awards by level (%)

	Enhanced rate (%)	Standard rate (%)
Initial daily living award	70%	30%
Initial mobility award	66%	34%

- For more detailed information on the combinations of initial awards that clients have been authorised for, see Table 5 in the accompanying Excel tables.

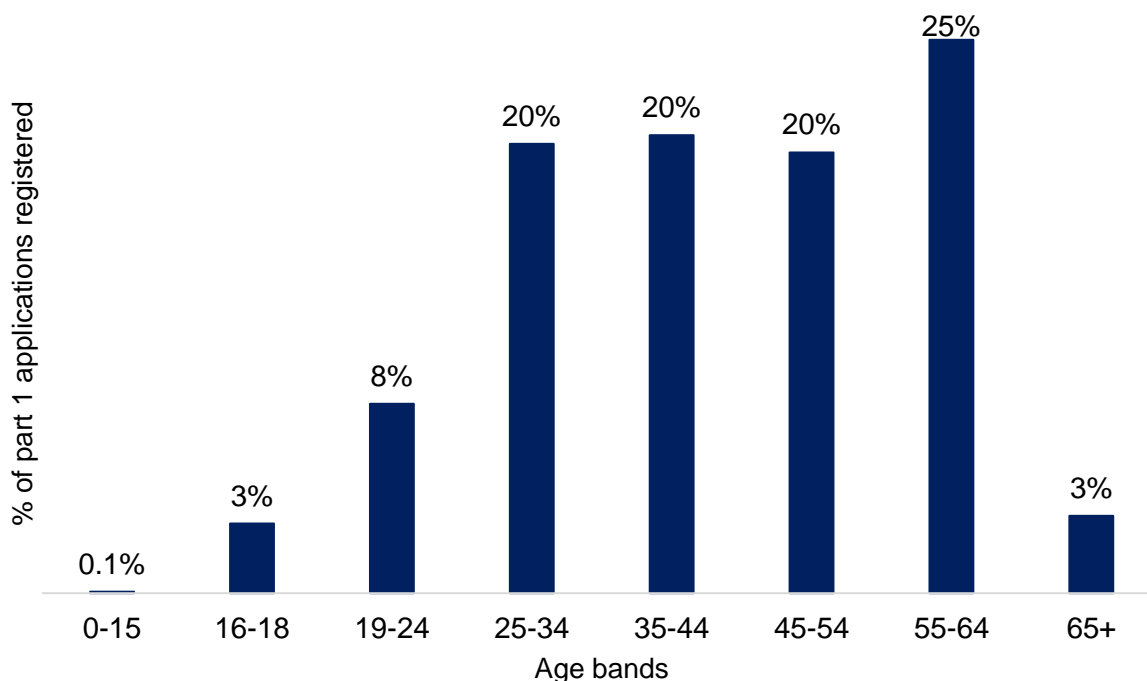
## Application channel

- Application channel refers to the method of application used to complete the part 1 application.
- Almost all applications received by 31 October 2022 were made either online (69%) or via phone (28%). Only a small proportion of applications were made through other channels (see the [Application and decision making process section](#)) [Table 6].

## Applications by age of applicant

- The chart below presents the proportions of part 1 applications registered by age of applicant. The most common age group for applicants was 55 to 64, representing 25% of applications registered. A small number of applications for children under 16 were registered and have been included for completeness [Table 7].

Chart 1: Applications by age of applicant (%)



Note: Age is based on the age of the person when part 1 of the application was registered.

## Applications by local authority

- Part 1 applications were registered from clients in all of the local authorities in pilot areas and, since the national launch on 29 August 2022, in all local authorities in Scotland. Of the applications registered, 11% came from Glasgow City, followed by 10% of applications coming from North Lanarkshire and 9% from South Lanarkshire [Table 8].
- There were also small number of applications that could not be attributed to a postcode, representing less than 1% of applications [Table 8].

## Processing Times

- Processing times for any application received is calculated between the received date of the part 2 application (where available) 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 showed that of applications that had received a decision by 31 October 2022, just over half (51%) were processed in between 31 and 60 working days **[Table 9]**.
- The median<sup>4</sup> average processing time for applications since the launch of the Adult Disability Payment pilot on 21 March 2022 was 48 working days. There has been an increase in the median average processing time since the national launch. The median average processing time for applications awarded decisions was 43 days in August, 46 days in September and 55 days in October 2022 **[Table 9]**.

## New applicants and clients being transferred

- From 13 June 2022, people who get Personal Independence Payment and from 29 August 2022 some people who get Working Age Disability Living Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment in phases. There is an approximately 3 month period before transferred people enter payment with Social Security Scotland. Only those cases that had entered payment with Social Security Scotland as of 31 October 2022 are included in this publication. Further information on the transfer process can be found in the [Case Transfer section](#) of the Background note.

## Payments

- Between 21 March and 31 October 2022, the total value of Adult Disability Payments issued was £6.6 million **[Table 10]**. Of this, £6.3 million was to new applicants and £298,225 was to clients who had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Daily living awards accounted for 67% of payments, with a value of £4.4 million issued, whilst mobility payments issued accounted for 33% and had a value of £2.2 million **[Table 10]**.
- The monthly value of payments issued has increased month on month since the benefit launched, rising from £12,390 in April 2022 to £3.0 million in October 2022 **[Table 10]**.

## Caseload

- Caseload is a derived statistic calculated based on the number of people who had payments made in the final 28 days of the current reporting period. For this

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

publication, this includes people who received a payment from 4 October 2022 to 31 October 2022. Further information on this can be found in the [Caseload Calculation section](#) of the Background note.

- As of 31 October 2022, a total of 3,470 people were in receipt of Adult Disability Payment, with 3,135 (90%) being new applicants and 335 (10%) being people who had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions **[Table 12]**. Further information on the case transfer process can be found in the [Case Transfer section](#) of the Background note.
- Of the new applicants, there were 2,925 in receipt of a daily living award and 2,470 in receipt of a mobility award (of which, 15 in receipt of accessible vehicles and equipment payment) as of 31 October 2022 **[Table 12]**.
- Of people who had their award transferred, there were 325 in receipt of a daily living award and 295 in receipt of a mobility award (of which, 60 in receipt of accessible vehicles and equipment payment) as of 31 October 2022 **[Table 12]**.
- People aged 55 to 64 were the largest age group, making up just over a third (34%) of the caseload (both new applicants and people who had their award transferred) as of 31 October 2022. The second largest age group included people aged 45 to 54, who made up a fifth (20%) of the caseload. People aged 16 to 24 made up the smallest proportion of the caseload, at around 8% **[Table 13]**.
- Looking at the geographical distribution of the caseload, 24% of people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment as of 31 October 2022 lived in Dundee City, followed by people who lived in Perth and Kinross (17%), North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire (both 11%) **[Table 14]**. These local authorities were all included in the pilot phases of Adult Disability Payment.
- Of the people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment, 795 were eligible under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness **[Table 15]**.

## Re-determinations

- There were 160 re-determinations received from new applicants by 31 October 2022 **[Table 16]**. Due to the small number of redeterminations requested by clients transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions, these are not included in this publication.
- By 31 October 2022, 90 re-determinations had been completed. Of these, 65 (75%) were allowed or partially allowed, 15 (17%) were disallowed and 5 (8%) were invalid **[Table 16]**.
- All re-determinations with a decision date by 31 October 2022 were completed within 56 days **[Table 16]**.
- There were no appeals received during the reported time period.



# Background to Adult Disability Payment

The Scotland Act 2016<sup>5</sup> 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 1 April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment 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. However from July 2015, working age recipients have been invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. The Department for Work and Pensions 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, to replace Disability Living Allowance for Children
- Adult Disability Payment, to replace Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance
- Pension Age Disability Payment, to 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, Working Age Disability Living Allowance 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 phases.

Adult Disability Payment is the second of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra daily living and mobility costs that a person living with a disability or long term health condition might have. The pilot launched on the 21 March 2022 for new applicants living in the local authorities of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. The pilot expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022 and further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022 before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022. Further details about the benefit can be found on the [mygov.scot website](https://mygov.scot).

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<sup>5</sup> Information is provided on [the Scotland Act 2016 webpage](#).

## Case Transfers

From 13 June 2022, people who get Personal Independence Payment and from 29 August 2022 some people who get Working Age Disability Living Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment in phases. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance by the end of 2025.

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 people who have a disability and/or health condition that results in additional needs for at least three months, and who can expect to continue to have this disability and/or health condition for at least six months. There is an exception to this if a person is terminally ill, whereby no qualifying period is required (see the [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 client has already been in receipt of assistance before they were 16.

Until the national launch of Adult Disability Payment on 29 August 2022 by Social Security Scotland, new applicants who were 16 or above needed to apply for Personal Independence Payment or Adult Disability Payment depending on whether they were in a pilot area. Applicants who applied for Personal Independence Payment in Scotland prior to the launch of Adult Disability Payment are being transferred to Adult Disability Payment.

## 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 Adult Disability Payment to be made with alternative form. For example, a Scottish client may complete a



Personal Independence Payment form and send it to the Department for Work and Pensions, who will then re-direct it to Social Security Scotland.

Applicants have 8 weeks to complete part 2 of the form following the submission of part 1.

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 does not agree with the decision about their Adult 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. Adult 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 Adult 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 Adult 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**

Adult Disability Payment is made up of two components: a daily living component and a mobility component. Qualifying people will be entitled to a payment to help with their daily living needs.

<b>Daily living component rate</b>	<b>Weekly rates 2022-2023</b>
Standard	£61.85
Enhanced	£92.40

<b>Mobility component rate</b>	<b>Weekly rates 2022-2023</b>
Standard	£24.45
Enhanced	£64.50

Payments are made every 4 weeks, in arrears, with the start date of the application being the application date of the part 1 form. However, where the award is for terminally ill people, payments are paid weekly in advance.

## **Accessible vehicle leases and equipment**

People who get the Enhanced rate of the mobility component of Adult Disability Payment are 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 provides a service similar to the Motability scheme, with leases available for a range of cars, wheelchair accessible vehicles, scooters and powered wheelchairs. Clients who have an existing Motability lease are 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 is made by clinicians, and is based on [guidance prepared by the Chief Medical Officer](#). This definition relates to diseases and conditions that a medical professional judges to be terminal and an individual's 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 is 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 is no requirement for an individual to undergo any further assessment.
- Awards are calculated, at the latest, from the date of application.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules are automatically entitled to the highest rate of the component part(s) (daily living and mobility) of whichever benefit they are entitled to.
- Individuals who qualify under special rules are not 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'.

# 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 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. 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 Adult Disability Payment applications made since 21 March 2022. 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 to 17 November 2022 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 October 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.

## Quality assurance

The data used to produce Official Statistics is 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.

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
- Check application dates are within the expected ranges
- Check that payment date is present where a payment value is present
- 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 Adult Disability Payment statistics may include revisions going back to March 2022. 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 March 2022 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.

Table 11 has been revised to include the value of payments for the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme in the mobility only and both daily living and mobility columns, as a part of the mobility component.

## 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 21 March 2022. 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. 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.

### *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 an application channel has been manually entered incorrectly, the application channel will be classed as 'unknown'. In some instances a valid application for the Adult Disability Payment may arrive in a non-standard format. For example, a Scottish client may mistakenly complete a Personal Independence Payment 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.

The category 'Combined Application Form' includes those applications for which part 1 and part 2 were provided at the same time.

The category of 'other channel' includes applications received through Local delivery as well as any that have a recorded channel of 'In Person' and 'Transferred from DWP'.

### *Age of applicant*

The age that is used for the applicant 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 person when part 1 of the application was registered. In Table 13, which details the age of people that are in the caseload, age is based on the age that the person was 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 and caseload 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 below 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.

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.

Due to issues with the data we have included re-determinations in the processing times calculation. Since redetermination numbers are currently low this will likely have a small impact on processing times. We will look to improve the methodology in future.

As described below 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.

For this publication, we have changed the time categories that have been used to summarise processing times in Table 9 to allow for a greater degree of separation in the higher time categories compared to the previous publication (where the time bands stopped at 81+ days).

## *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 daily living and mobility component rates. The total number of payments presented counts each component of an Adult Disability Payment (e.g. daily living 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 daily living payment for current entitled month, and one daily living payment backdated to entitlement start date).

## **Caseload (new applicants and clients being transferred)**

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

The caseload, or number of adults in receipt of Adult Disability Payment, is estimated by calculating the number of people who have had payments made in the final part of the current reporting period. To do this the applications extract was linked to the payments extract allowing for the identification of people who have received payments in the selected time period and had their cases transferred. In this publication, we have used a 28-day period from the 4 October 2022 to 31 October 2022.

### *Number of people in payment (caseload)*

People in receipt of Adult Disability Payment can be eligible for multiple payments from different benefit components including daily living, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. Additionally, people receiving payments under the special rules for terminal illness will receive multiple payments in a 28-day period as payments are made weekly. These measures count the number of distinct people in receipt of each and any component. The measures do not count people multiple times if they have received multiple payments in the period. The caseload figures for the daily living and mobility components include all people who have received that component, regardless of what other components they have received.

### *Number of people in payment by award type*

This measure counts the number of people who have received separate payments for daily living, mobility and payments for accessible vehicle leases and equipment. Therefore people may be counted in any combination of daily living, mobility and accessible vehicle leases and equipment caseloads if they are eligible for these components.

Cases where eligibility is under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness have an identifier in the core data extract. This is used to determine what cases are under Special Rules for the Special Rules caseload table.

### *Limitations*

There are a few limitations with the chosen methodology:

- A true point-in-time measure of the number of people in receipt of Adult 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 people paid in the last 28 days are no longer eligible on the final day of the reporting period. Equally, it is possible that some people 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 people 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 to 17 November 2022 has been used to produce statistics on applications received and decisions and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 31 October 2022. However due to the time it takes to process Adult 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.

## 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.

Applications that are withdrawn or denied do not always need a part 2 application. For context, applications may be withdrawn due to the client applying from outside local authorities in pilot areas before the national launch, the client being ineligible due to age or for other reasons. Therefore of those that have been denied or withdrawn where a part 2 date is missing, it is unknown how many of these is due to information missing from the extract.

The impact of this is that:

- 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 as the processed applications that are missing a part 2 date in the extract may take longer to process [Table 9].
- In addition, the unknown number of applications denied with a part 2 received date missing in the extract could also bias this number if for example these took a longer time to process on average.

Due to these ongoing issues, the processing times published should be treated with caution, as it is only a subset of applications and is not representative of all applications. However, this measure is published to provide an indication of the processing times where possible.

### *Payments by award type*

The Payments by award type table (Table 11) is produced using a different methodology from the other payments tables. To get an accurate accounting of the different component payments that clients receive for each payment date, the payments data extract is sliced by payment component and reconstituted using the unique application reference number and payment date. This allows the identification of what payments for each benefit component were made for each client at each individual payment date. The way that the data extract is reconstituted leads to a small number of payments, representing less than 1% of the total, to be duplicated. As such, the totals do not match totals in other payments tables.

## **Related Social Security Scotland Publications**

Updated statistics for Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance claimants in Scotland will be available through the [Social Security Scotland 'Publications' webpage](#).

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The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot)

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

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