

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement, April eligibility date 2023 and Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2023

Key figures

To date, 84,325 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to carers who were eligible in April 2023.

In Scotland in February 2023, there were:

- 83,407 carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance
- 84,836 people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- 129,641 people in receipt of Attendance Allowance
- 1,123 people in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, at May 2023 will be released in November 2023. Carer's Allowance Supplement, October 2023 eligibility date will be released in February 2024.

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 for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

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

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2023. This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance Supplement at the April 2023 eligibility date. This publication also includes an update of Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics for previous eligibility dates from 2018/19 to 2022/23.

Carer's Allowance Supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government. The [Background Note](#) has further detail on eligibility dates.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

The Scotland Act 2016³ gives Scottish Parliament powers over Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, which had been administered to Scottish clients by the Department for Work and Pensions. In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. From 1 April 2020, executive competency for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance was also transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. Severe Disablement Allowance is closed for new applications and so the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer it on the Scottish Government's behalf while individuals remain in receipt.

The statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance are being published as official statistics in accordance with Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics⁴ to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

The statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement are being published as experimental statistics, which 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

³ Information is provided on the [Scotland Act 2016 website](#).

⁴ The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

an early stage." These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics⁵.

⁵ For more information on experimental statistics please see the [Office for Statistics Regulation website](#).

Carer's Allowance Supplement at April 2023 Eligibility Date

Payments

- To date, 84,325 Carer's Allowance Supplement payments have been made to carers who were eligible in April 2023 [**Table 1, Chart 1**].
- Each payment was for £270.50. Carer's Allowance Supplement was uprated by 10.1% compared to the previous eligibility date where each payment was for £245.70. The total expenditure for April 2023 was £22.8 million, an increase by over £1 million compared to October 2022 when it was £21.6 million. The increase in expenditure is due to the uprating.
- The number of carers paid so far for April 2023 is 3,390 lower than for October 2022. However, this is likely to increase as the April 2023 figure does not yet include any backdated payments. The [Background note](#) shows that the number of carers receiving payments for previous eligibility dates has increased by around 2% to 6% in subsequent publications. These increases are due to backdating of payments to carers that are found to have been eligible for past dates in subsequent scans done by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Age, gender and local authorities

- For the April 2023 eligibility date, 69.0% of payments were made to female carers, while 30.9% of payments were made to male carers [**Table 1**].
- Overall, the number of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments increased with age band up to age 39 followed by a slight decrease for age 40 to 49 and a further increase from age 50 up to 64. Relatively few payments were made to those aged 65 and over [**Table 2, Chart 2**].
- The proportion of payments made to carers aged 50 and over was 46.0%, compared to 10.4% to those aged under 30 [**Chart 2**].
- The proportion of payments made to carers aged 65 and over was 4.1%, compared to 0.5% to those aged under 18 [**Chart 2**].
- The local authorities with the greatest percentage of carers receiving payments were Glasgow City with 15.8% of payments, North Lanarkshire with 8.3% and Fife with 7.7% [**Table 3, Chart 4**].

Chart 1: Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by eligibility date - April 2018 to April 2023

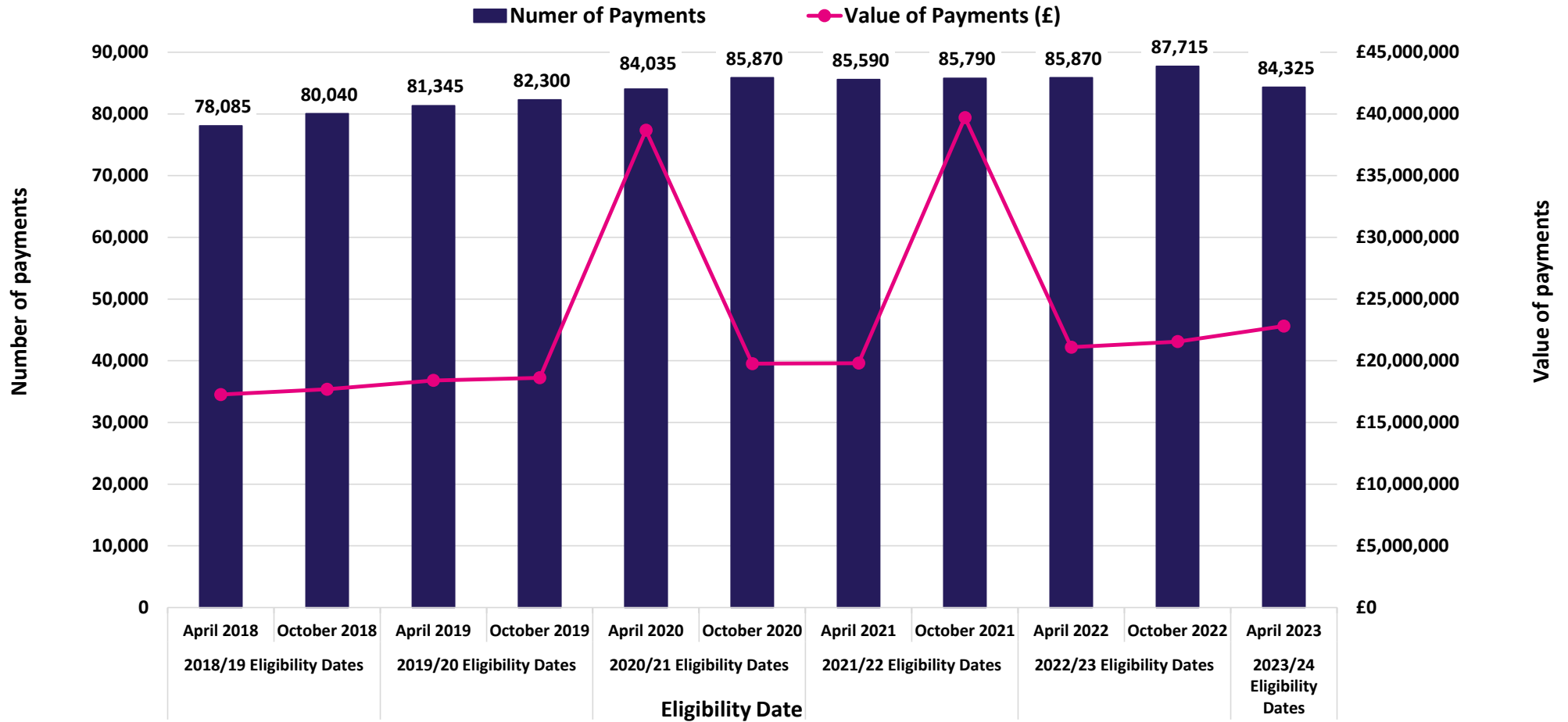


Chart 2: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by age band - April 2023 eligibility date

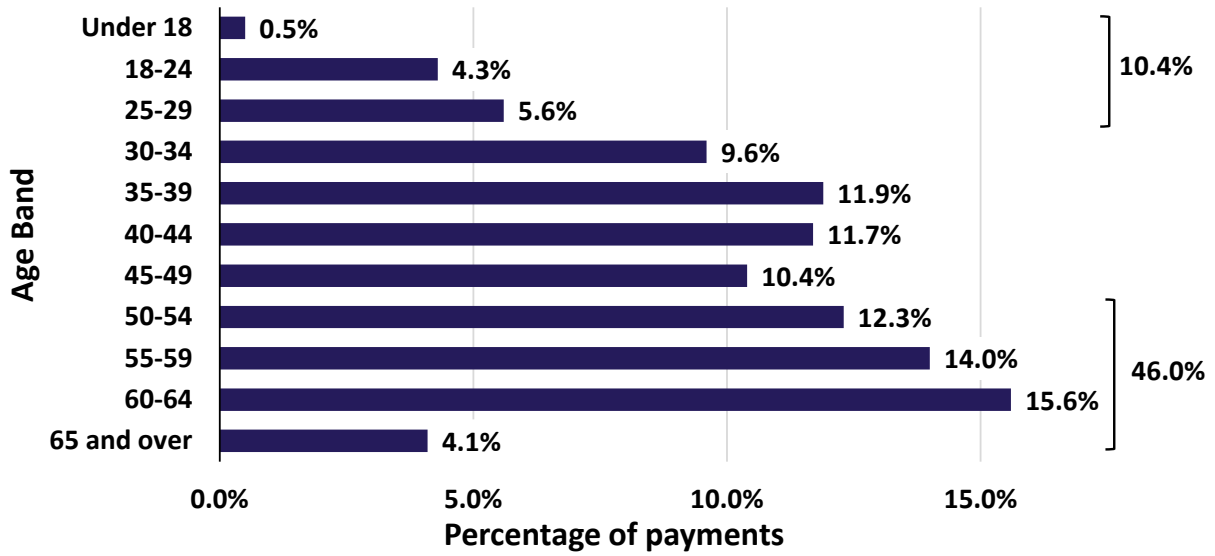


Chart 3: Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by age band - April 2018 eligibility date compared to April 2023 eligibility date

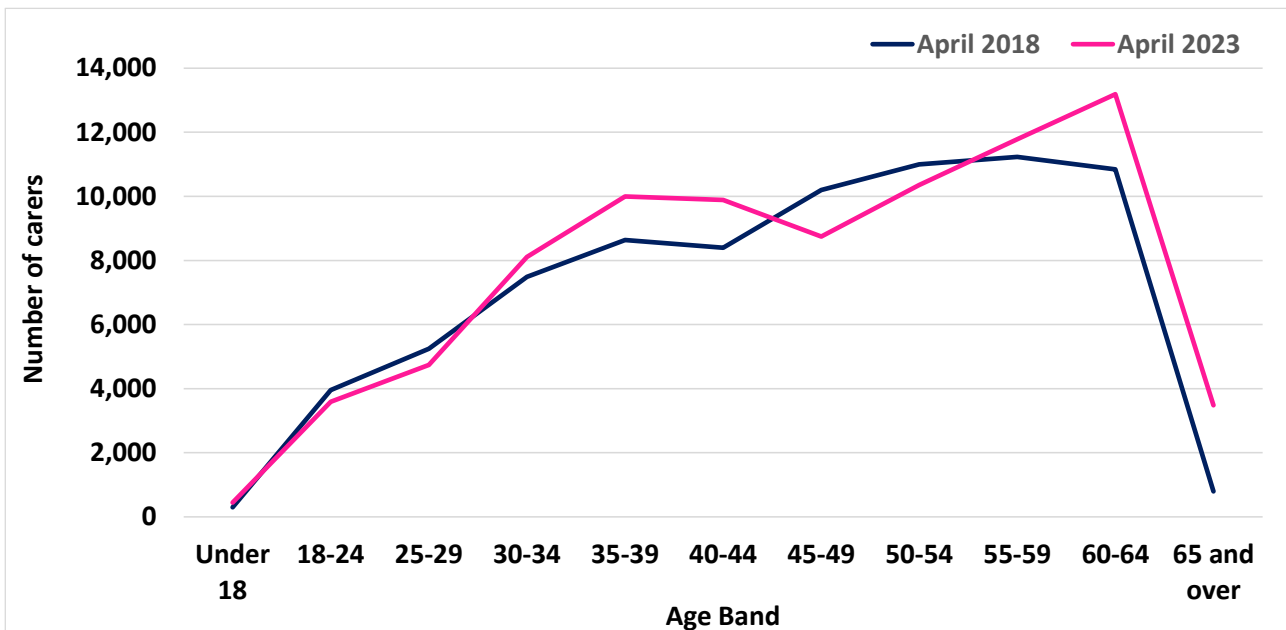
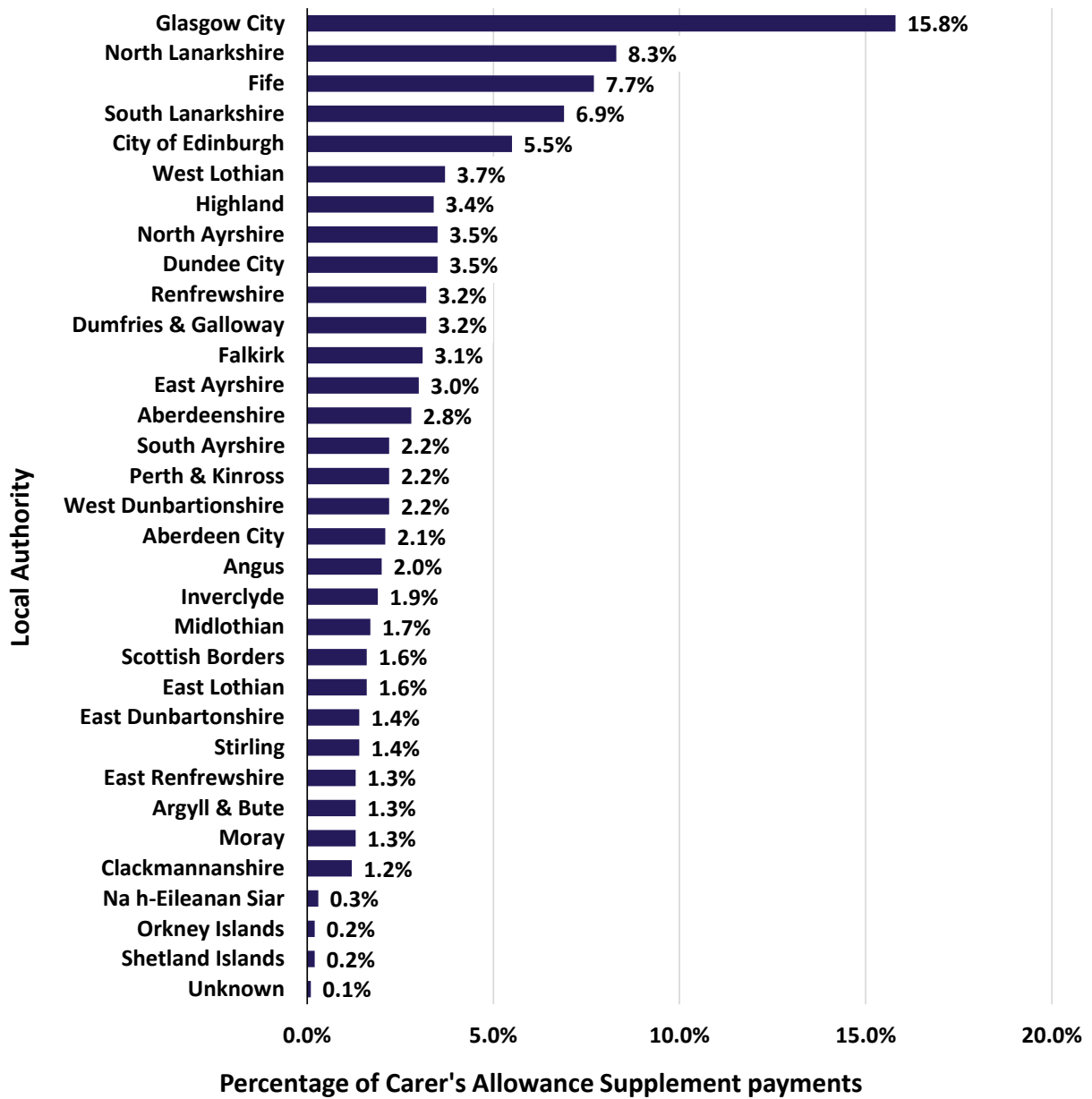


Chart 4: Percentage of Carer's Allowance Supplement payments by Local Authority - April 2023 eligibility date



Carer’s Allowance Supplement Payments since September 2018

Number of Carers

- Since September 2018, 920,970 Carer’s Allowance Supplement payments have been made to 148,515 carers [Table 1, Table 4].
- The number of carers receiving payments increased between each eligibility date from 78,085 in April 2018 to 87,715 in October 2022 with one slight drop from 85,870 in October 2020 to 85,590 in April 2021 [Table 1, Chart 1].
- The number of carers receiving payments in April 2023 at 84,325 was lower compared to the 87,715 October 2022 figure. As explained in the payments section and in the [Background note](#), these may yet increase if backdated payments are made.

Expenditure

- In total, £255.4 million has been paid to carers since 2018 [Table 1, Chart 1]. The excerpt from Table 1c with added total expenditure per financial year is shown below.

Excerpt from table 1c: Carer’s Allowance Supplement expenditure, by eligibility date

Financial year	Payment value	Expenditure		
		April	October	Total
2018/19	£221.00	£17.3 million	£17.7 million	£34.9 million
2019/20	£226.20	£18.4 million	£18.6 million	£37 million
2020/21	April: £460.20 October: £230.10	£38.7 million	£19.8 million	£58.4 million
2021/22	April: £231.40 October: £462.80	£19.8 million	£39.7 million	£59.5 million
2022/23	£245.70	£21.0 million	£20.9 million	£41.9 million
2023/24	£270.50	£22.8 million	Payments due in December 2023	£22.8 million

Due to the Coronavirus Carer’s Allowance Supplement, total expenditure for the April 2020 and October 2021 eligibility dates is around double the expenditure for the other eligibility dates. Figures are subject to revision – more recent data are most likely to change.

Age Band

- The proportion of carers in each age band has remained relatively stable since the April 2018 eligibility date, with the greatest change being in the '65 and over' age band.
- The number of carers in the '65 and over' category more than quadrupled from 795 at the April 2018 eligibility date to 3,480 at the April 2023 eligibility date. As a proportion, this was an increase from 1.0% in April 2018 to 4.1% by April 2023 [**Table 2, Chart 3**]. This increase is also reflected in the [Carer's Allowance statistics](#) at February 2023.
- The main reason for this is likely to be increases in State Pension Age for both men and women⁶. Carers stop receiving Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement if they start receiving State Pension and this increases their income over a threshold amount. Therefore as State Pension age rises, the age at which some carers will stop receiving Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement will also rise. This means there will be more carers in the higher age bands remaining in receipt of Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement.

Gender

- The proportion of male and female carers has remained similar since the April 2018 eligibility date, with just over two thirds of carers being female, and just under one third being male across each eligibility date [**Table 1**].

Local Authority

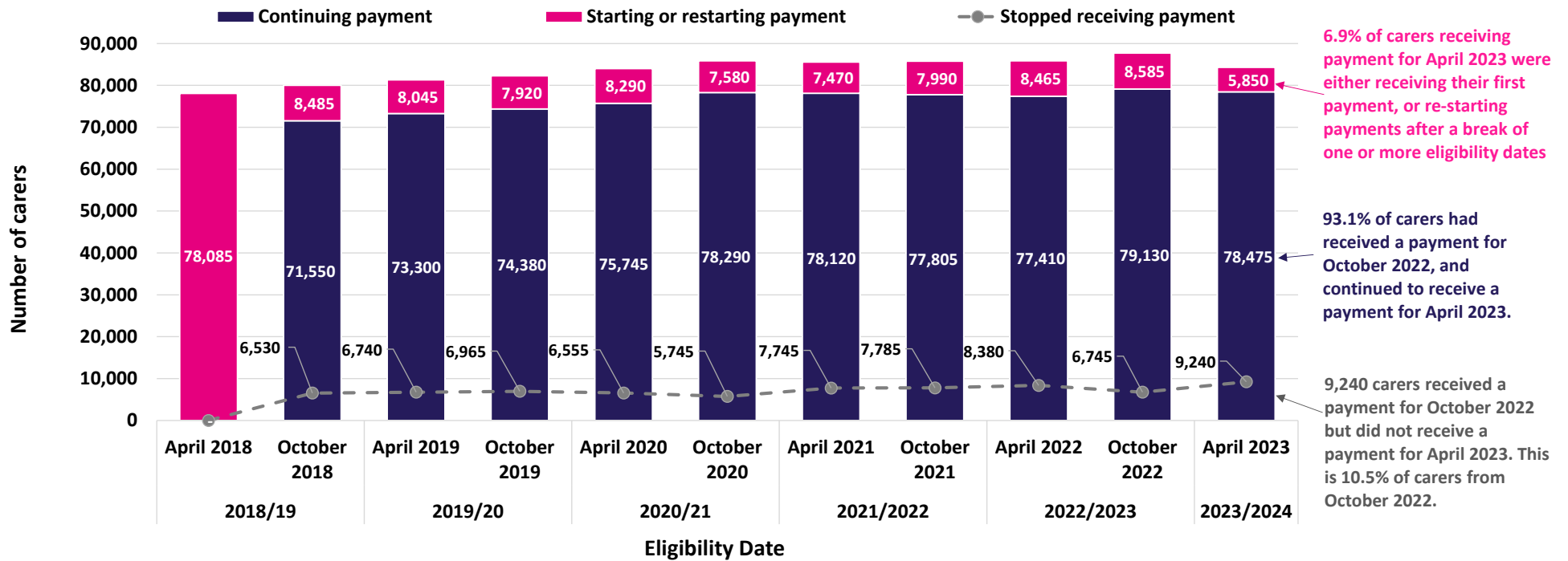
- The percentage of carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance Supplement in each local authority was similar across all eligibility dates, changing by less than one percentage point between each eligibility date in each local authority [**Table 3**].

⁶ Women's State Pension age increased to 65 between April 2016 and November 2018. From December 2018, the State Pension age for both men and women started to increase and will reach 67 by 2028. For more information, see the [GOV.UK website](#).

Carers since September 2018

- At each eligibility date from October 2018 onwards, around 89% to 93% of carers receiving payments had also received a payment at the previous date, and around 7% to 11% had not received a payment at the previous date **[Table 5, Chart 5]**.
- Of the carers that had not received a payment on the previous date, most were receiving a payment for the first time, and a smaller proportion were receiving a payment after a break of one or more eligibility dates **[Table 5]**.
- Of the 84,325 carers eligible in April 2023, the data currently shows that 93.1% had received a payment for October 2022 **[Table 5]**.
- An additional 5.9% were receiving a payment for the first time in April 2023, and 1.0% were receiving a payment after a break of one or more eligibility dates **[Table 5]**.
- Of the 87,715 carers eligible in October 2022, 10.5% were no longer eligible by April 2023 **[Table 5]**.
- These figures are likely to change in future updates to the statistics due to backdating. In particular, analysis of previous eligibility dates shows that the number of carers found to have stopped receiving payments for the last eligibility date may decrease, and the number starting or re-starting receiving payments for this date may increase.

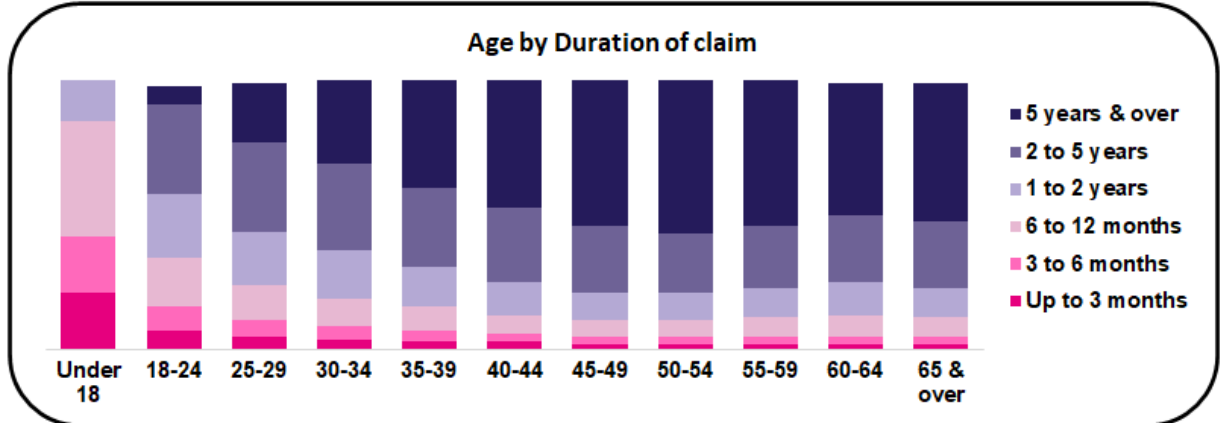
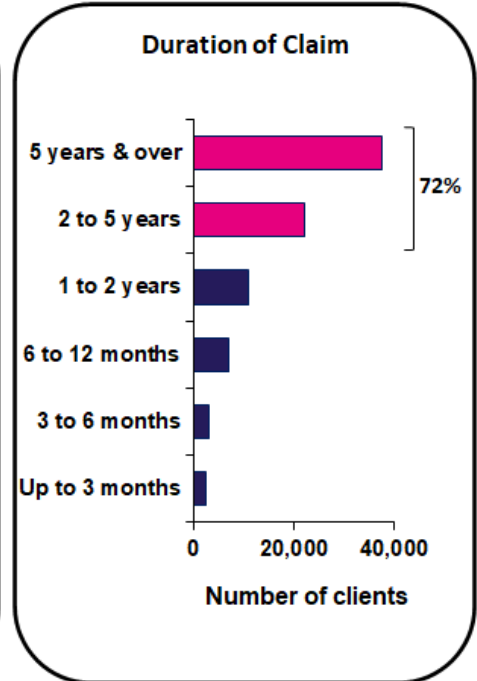
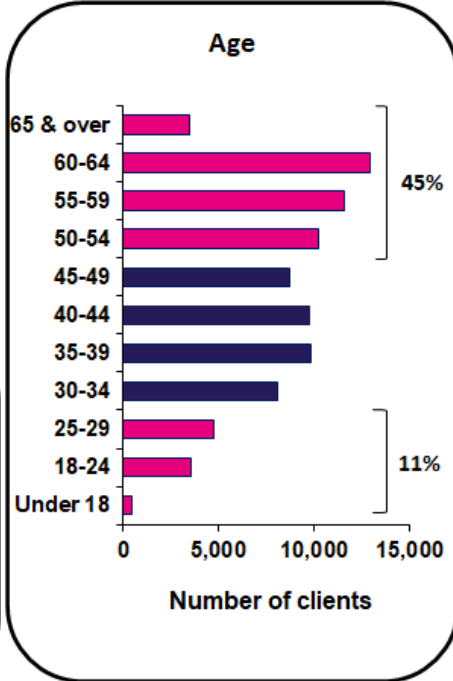
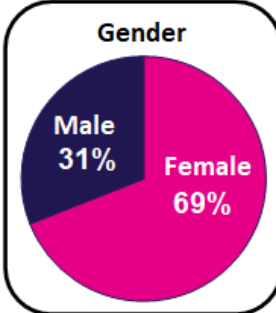
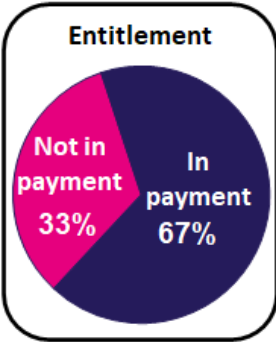
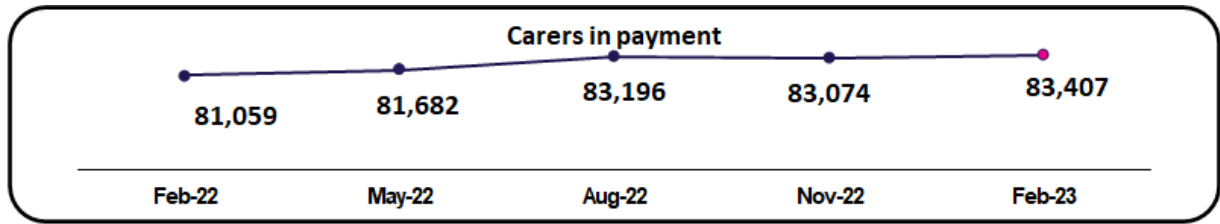
Chart 5: Carers by eligibility date



Carer's Allowance at February 2023

- In February 2023, there were 83,407 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is a slight increase, less than 1%, compared to the last quarter when there were 83,074 carers at November 2022. It is an increase of 3% since February 2022 when there were 81,059 carers [**Carer's Allowance Table S1**].
- A further 40,935 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive payments [**Carer's Allowance Table S1**]. This is typically people who are entitled to Carer's Allowance but are also eligible for another benefit such as a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, which they receive instead of Carer's Allowance (see [Background Note](#)).
- Around 69% of Carer's Allowance clients were female and 31% were male [**Carer's Allowance Table S2**].
- Of the Carer's Allowance clients in receipt of payments, 45% were aged 50 or over, whereas only 11% were under the age of 30 [**Carer's Allowance Table S3**].
- Around 72% of clients have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for two years or more. In total, 45% have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for five years or more [**Carer's Allowance Table S4**].

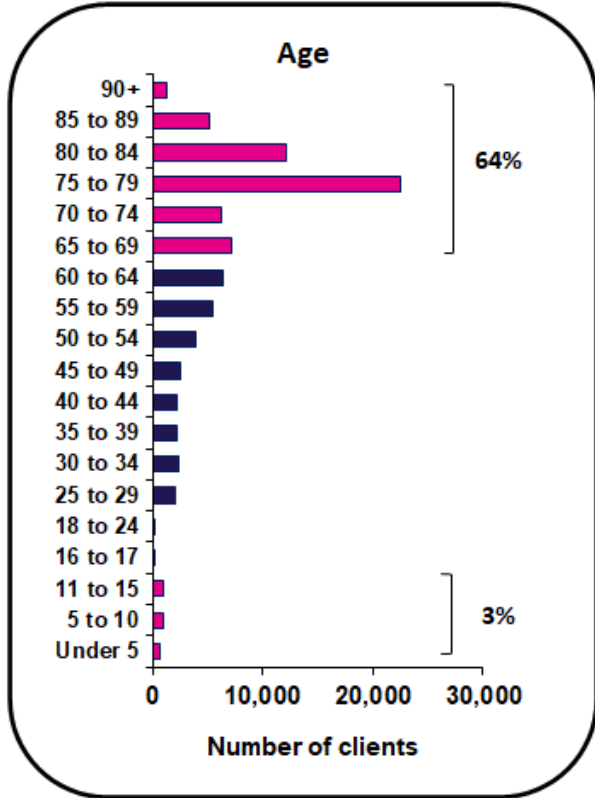
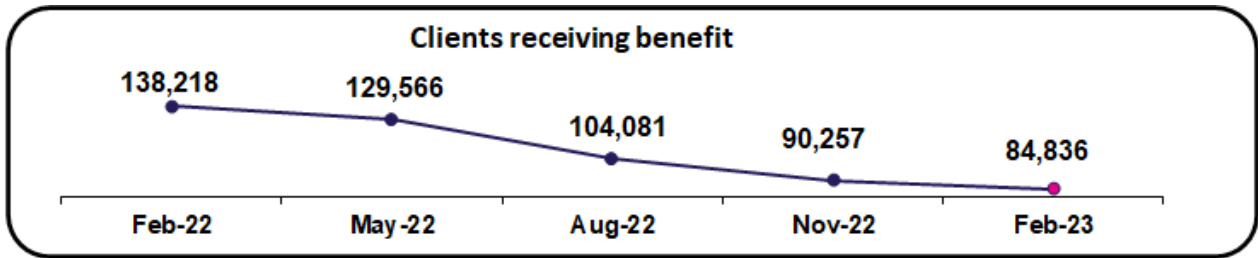
Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance at February 2023



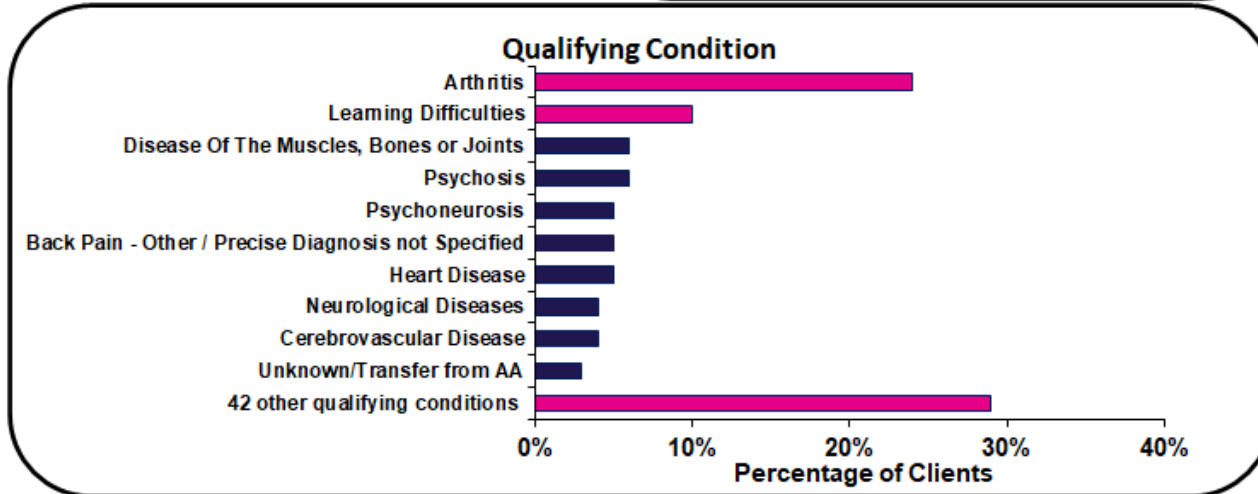
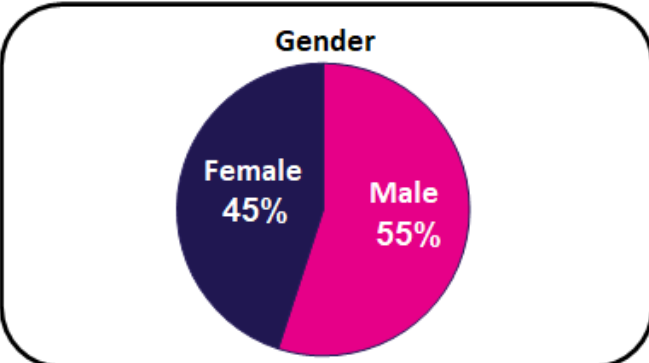
Disability Living Allowance at February 2023

- At February 2023, there were 84,836 people in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a 6% decrease since the last quarter when there were 90,257 at November 2022. It is a decrease of 39% since February 2022 when there were 138,218 [**Disability Living Allowance Table S1**].
- Around 55% of Disability Living Allowance clients were female and 45% were male [**Disability Living Allowance Table S2**].
- Around 3% of Disability Living Allowance clients are aged under 16, and 64% are aged 65 and over [**Disability Living Allowance Table S3**].
- Only 33% of Disability Living Allowance clients are aged between 16-64 [**Disability Living Allowance Table S3**]. This is because Disability Living Allowance is ending for people aged 16 to 64. While people under 16 can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance, it is closed for new claims from those over 16. Working aged people aged 16 and over can make new claims for Personal Independence Payment, and those with existing Disability Living Allowance claims are being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. People who have reached State Pension age can apply for Attendance Allowance, although those born on or before 8 April 1948 with an existing Disability Living Allowance claim can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance.
- Nearly all the clients have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for two years or more. In total, 98% have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for five years or more. The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over meaning the duration of claim of each will continue to rise (see [Background Note](#)) [**Disability Living Allowance Table S4**].
- Around 73% of Disability Living Allowance clients received both the mobility and care element (see Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance).
- Of all the Disability Living Allowance clients, in terms of the care award, 32% are on the middle rate, 28% receive the highest rate, 24% are on the lowest rate and 16% do not receive any care award [**Disability Living Allowance Table S5**].
- Of all the Disability Living Allowance clients, in terms of the mobility award, 63% receive the higher rate, 26% receive the lower rate and 11% do not receive any mobility award [**Disability Living Allowance Table S6**].
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis which accounted for 24% of clients, followed by Learning Difficulties which accounted for 10% of clients [**Disability Living Allowance Table S7**].

Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance clients at February 2023



		Mobility Rate		
		Higher	Lower	Nil
Care Award Rate	Higher	20%	6%	2%
	Middle	17%	12%	3%
	Lower	12%	6%	6%
	Nil	13%	3%	-



Child Disability Payment and Disability Living Allowance: Caseload at February 2023

- From 26 July 2021 in certain pilot local authorities, and from 22 November 2021 nationally, new applications were taken in Scotland for Child Disability Payment for children aged under 16. This benefit is replacing Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland (see [Background Note](#)). Data on new applications and payments issued for this time period is available (see [Social Security Scotland](#)).
- There is a transitional period to allow the administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Disability Living Allowance for existing clients 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 in phases. This case transfer process began on 11 October 2021.
- The Disability Living Allowance figures are presented to the end of February 2023, relating to a period following the launch of Child Disability Payment. This overlap accounts for new applications for Child Disability Payment being accepted in pilot areas for around nineteen months and nationally for around fifteen months.
- In order to accurately reflect the active caseload for Child Disability Payment, the number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment and Disability Living Allowance in Scotland has been calculated. However, it is important to note that Social Security Scotland and the Department for Work and Pensions are unable to use the same methodology to calculate caseload (see [Background Note](#)). As a result, the two figures are presented separately as an estimation of the active caseload in Scotland. An explanation of the limitations is included in the publication [Background Note](#) and caution is advised when considering the use of these figures.
- As of 28 February 2023, it is estimated that 60,200 children aged 0 -18⁷ were in receipt of Child Disability Payment [**Disability Living Allowance Table S8**]. This estimated caseload, or number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment, is a statistic derived by Social Security Scotland. It is calculated based on identifying all cases who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet. The caseload includes 15,270 new applicants and 44,930 clients who have been transferred.

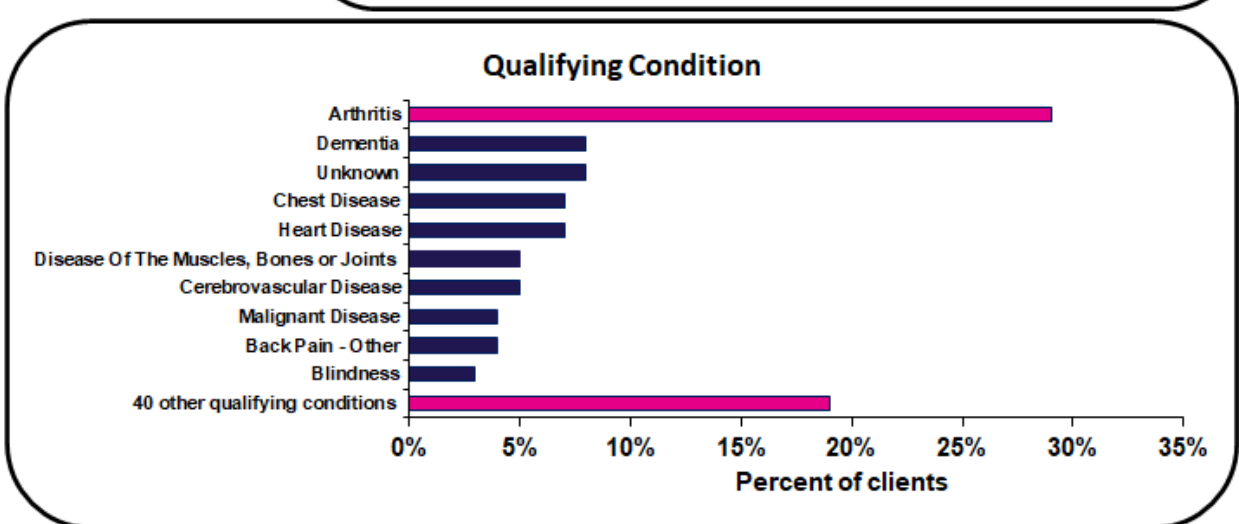
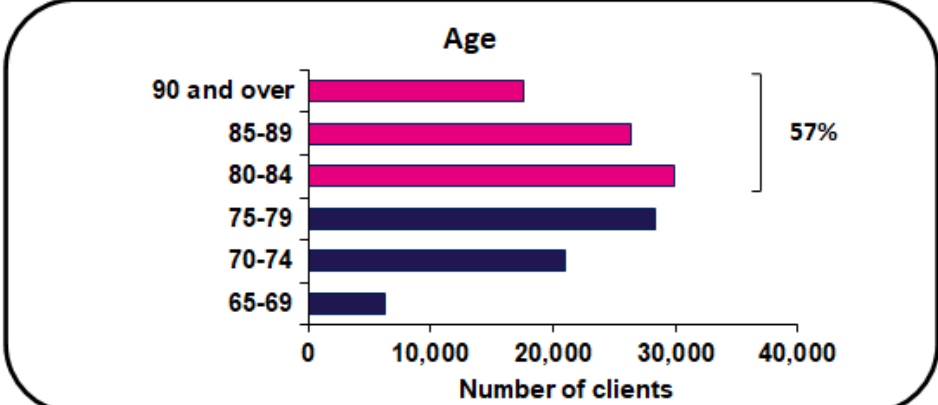
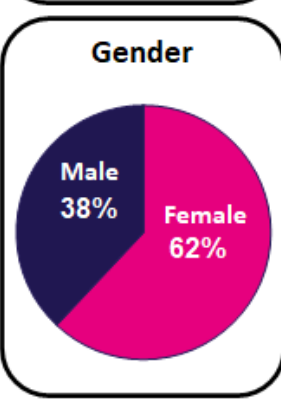
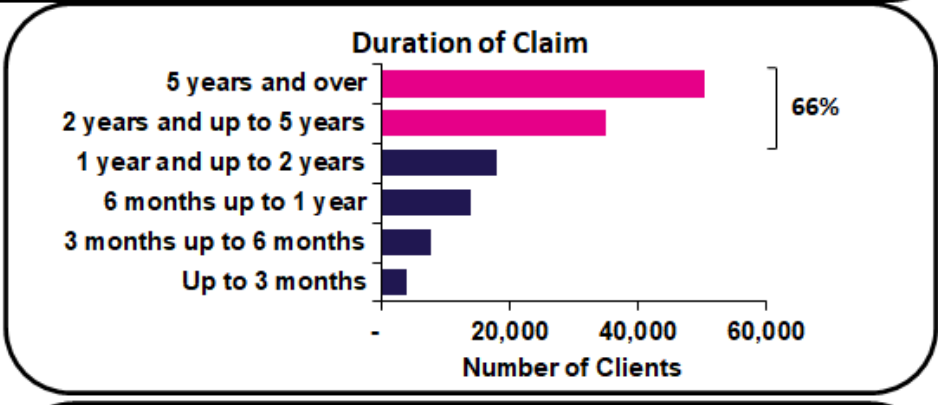
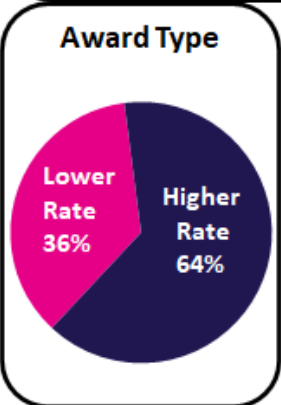
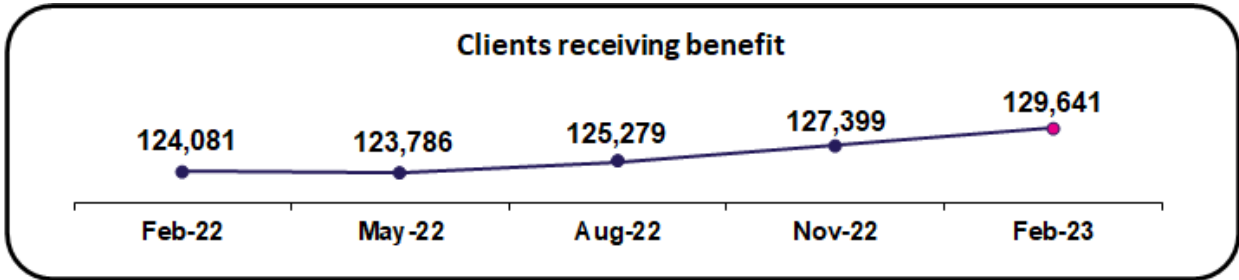
⁷ A key difference from Disability Living Allowance administered by the Department for Work and Pensions is that Social Security Scotland have extended the eligibility for Child Disability Payment from 16 to 18 years old. This is only where the applicant has already been in receipt of assistance before they were 16.

- At February 2023, there were 2,721 children aged 0 – 18⁵ in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance [**Disability Living Allowance Table S8**]. The Department for Work and Pensions use a true point-in-time measure of the number of children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance on the final day of the publication reporting period. In this publication, this is 28 February 2023 (see [Background Note](#) for comparison of different measures).

Attendance Allowance at February 2023

- At February 2023, there were 129,641 people in Scotland in receipt of Attendance Allowance. This is an increase of 2% since the last quarter when there were 127,399 at November 2022. It is an increase of 4% since February 2022 when there were 124,081 [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**].
- A further 17,089 people were entitled to Attendance Allowance but did not receive a payment [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**]. This is likely to be because they are eligible for another benefit with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Attendance Allowance, such as State Pension.
- Around 62% of Attendance Allowance clients were female and 38% were male [**Attendance Allowance Table S2**].
- Of the Attendance Allowance clients in receipt of payments, 57% were aged 80 or over [**Attendance Allowance Table S3**].
- In total, 66% of clients have been receiving Attendance Allowance payments for two years or more, with 39% receiving the payment for five years or more [**Attendance Allowance Table S4**].
- Around 64% of Attendance Allowance clients received the higher rate and 36% received the lower rate [**Attendance Allowance Table S5**].
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis, which accounted for 29% of clients, followed by Dementia and Unknown, which both accounted for 8% of clients [**Attendance Allowance Table S6**].

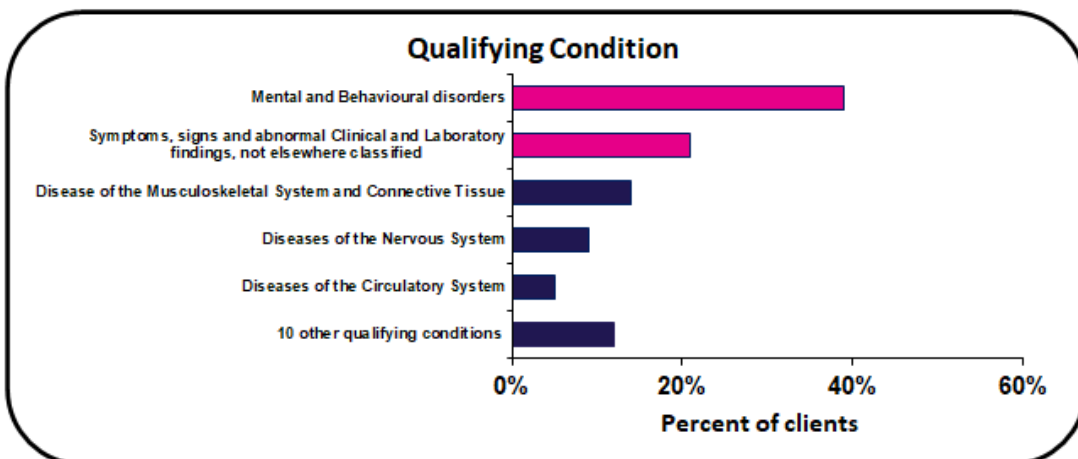
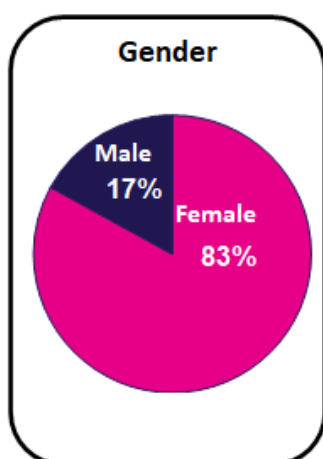
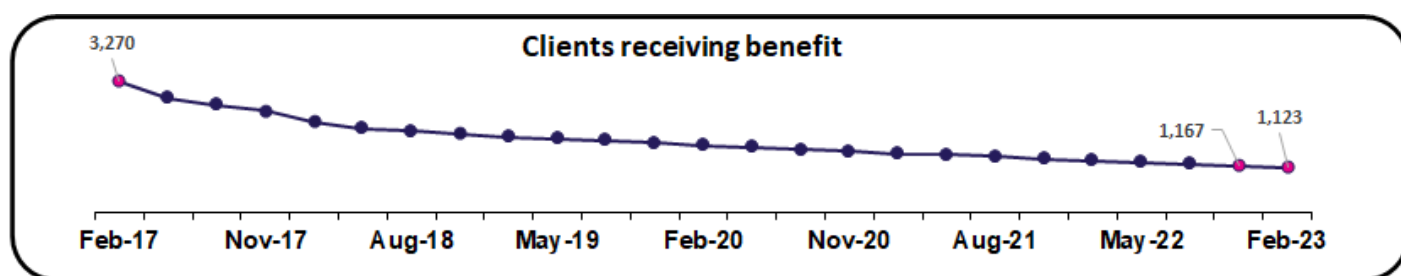
Summary Panel: Attendance Allowance at February 2023



Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2023

- At February 2023, there were 1,123 people in Scotland in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance. This is a decrease of 4% since the last quarter when there were 1,167 at November 2022. It is a decrease of 66% since February 2017 when there were 3,270 people in receipt [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S1**]. Severe Disablement Allowance is a closed benefit, so the caseload will continue to decrease each year. For further detail, see the [Background Note](#).
- Around 83% of Severe Disablement Allowance clients were female and 17% were male [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S2**].
- The most common disabling condition was Mental and Behavioural disorders which accounted for 39% of clients, followed by 'Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified' which accounted for 21% of clients [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S3**].

Summary Panel: Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2023



Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is for people who spend at least 35 hours a week providing regular care to someone who has a disability. It 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
 - Child Disability Payment - the middle or highest care rate
 - Adult Disability Payment - either rate of the daily living component

- In 2023/2024 the carer must have earned no more than £139 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 they are 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 two of the last three 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 may occur as a temporary suspension of the Carer's Allowance payments, if the client is in hospital. Otherwise, this is because the client receives another benefit instead (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds the 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 incomes and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

During the outbreak of coronavirus, some Carer's Allowance rules were relaxed. To allow for self-isolating on the part of the carer or cared for person, care did not need to take place in the physical presence of the cared for person as it usually does. Where caring did not take place due to coronavirus, this did not count as a break in care, and Carer's Allowance continued to be paid. These rules reverted to normal from 1 September 2021.

Background to Carer's Allowance Supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date. While the Department for Work and Pensions continues to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf, Carer's Allowance Supplement is provided as a separate payment from Social Security Scotland.

The payment was initially set at a level which would raise Carer's Allowance to the equivalent of the current rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 25 and over, however following uprating the combined payment now exceeds the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance.

Carer's Allowance Supplement payments are paid twice a year, based on eligibility at specific eligibility dates in April and October. The table below shows the month and amount of payments issued per eligible date in the last five financial years.

Eligibility date	Month payments issued	Payment amount
15 April 2019	June 2019	£226.20
14 October 2019	December 2019	£226.20
13 April 2020*	June 2020*	£460.20*
12 October 2020	December 2020	£230.10
12 April 2021	June 2021	£231.40
11 October 2021**	December 2021**	£462.80**
11 April 2022	June 2022	£245.70
10 October 2022	December 2022	£245.70
10 April 2023	June 2023	£270.50

*The Scottish Government issued an extra Carer's Allowance Supplement payment of £230.10 in June 2020. This payment was issued to provide some more support for carers during coronavirus. Carers receiving a payment for the 13 April 2020 eligibility date will get a total payment of £460.20, made up of £230.10 standard Carer's Allowance Supplement, plus £230.10 Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement. If a Carer's Allowance claim is backdated to include 13 April 2020 they will receive the extra payment. In the statistics this is counted as one payment with a value of £460.20.

** The Scottish Government issued an extra Carer's Allowance Supplement payment of £231.40 in December 2021. Carers receiving a payment for the 11 October 2021 eligibility date will get a total payment of £462.80, made up of £231.40 standard Carer's Allowance Supplement, plus £231.40 Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement. If a Carer's Allowance claim is backdated to include 11 October 2021 they will receive the extra payment. In the statistics this is counted as one payment with a value of £462.80.

To be eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement you must:

- be getting Carer's Allowance payments on the eligibility date;
- and live in Scotland on the eligibility date;
- or if living outside of the United Kingdom, have a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland and live in the [European Economic Area](#), Switzerland or Gibraltar on the eligibility date.
- The person you are caring for does not have to live in Scotland.

It is possible for carers to have a temporary break in Carer's Allowance Supplement payments due to a temporary suspension of Carer's Allowance, as described above.

Background to Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance is for people who became disabled before the age of 65 and who have extra care or mobility needs (difficulty getting around).

It is made up of two components, care and mobility. A person might be eligible for one or both components. The rates for each are found in the tables below.

The value of payments for Disability Living Allowance were updated in April 2022. The below tables indicate the value of payments preceding the uprating in April 2022 as well as the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2022/2023 rates).

Care component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2021/2022	2022/2023	
Lower Rate	£23.70	£24.45	Help for some of the day or with preparing cooked meals
Middle Rate	£60.00	£61.85	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
Higher Rate	£89.60	£92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

Mobility component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2021/2022	2022/2023	
Lower Rate	£23.70	£24.45	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher Rate	£62.55	£64.50	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind, severely sight impaired

Children under 16 years of age in Scotland can qualify for Child Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Disability Living Allowance for Children. They may qualify for the care component and/or the mobility component. They could qualify for the highest rate of the mobility component if they are aged 3 or older and the lowest rate if they are aged 5 or older. Their needs should be substantially in excess of those of a child of the same age who does not have a disability. Children under 16 cannot qualify for the lower rate of the care component through the 'cooking test' route as this only applies to individuals 16 years or older.

People who are terminally ill (i.e. have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 12 months) automatically qualify for the higher rate care component from birth. They can also qualify for the mobility component if they satisfy the normal rules.

The Department for Work and Pensions have changed this definition of terminal illness from 6 months to 12 months from April 2023 onwards, allowing those who have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 12 months to be eligible for. The data in this publication covers to February 2023 and as such only the previous 6 month rule applies to this data.

Disability Living Allowance can be awarded for a fixed or an indefinite period. People can continue to receive the allowance after reaching age 65 if they continue to satisfy the entitlement conditions.

From 8 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment for new applications.

From 28 October 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions has been inviting Disability Living Allowance working age recipients to apply for Personal Independence Payment if:

- the department received information about a change in care or mobility needs which meant their award had to be renewed;
- the client's fixed term award was due to expire;
- children turned 16 years old (unless they have been awarded Disability Living Allowance under the special rules for terminally ill people);
- or the client chose to apply for Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance.

From July 2015, the remaining Disability Living Allowance working age recipients have started to be invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. However, since 1 April 2020, the Department for Work and Pensions have stopped proactively sending these invites to Disability Living Allowance working age recipients who live in Scotland.

Child Disability Payment replaces Disability Living Allowance for Children in Scotland and launched nationally on 22 November 2021.

Adult Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Personal Independence Payment, has been receiving applications as part of a pilot since 21 March 2022. This was followed by a gradual rollout before national launch on 29 August 2022.

Background to Child Disability Payment and Disability Living Allowance: Caseload

Active Caseload for Child Disability Payment in Scotland

In order to accurately reflect the active caseload for Child Disability Payment, the number of children in receipt of Child Disability Payment and Disability Living Allowance in Scotland has been calculated. However, it is important to note that these benefits each use a different methodology to calculate caseload. As a result, the two figures are presented separately as an estimation of the active caseload in Scotland and caution is advised when considering the use of these figures.

Social Security Scotland Child Disability Payment Caseload Measure

The methodology used in this publication to estimate caseload, or number of children in receipt, of Child Disability Payment, reported by Social Security Scotland is consistent with the methodology used in the last release to be found on the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

A data cut from 16 July 2023 has been used to produce statistics on all cases who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in each caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet.

The Department for Work and Pensions Disability Living Allowance Caseload Measure

The methodology used to calculate caseloads for Disability Living Allowance identifies claims from their entitlement start date until the claim ends. The Department for Work and Pensions use a point-in-time measure of the number of people entitled to Disability Living Allowance on the final day of the publication reporting period. For the latest release the reference date is 28 February 2023 ([see the Department for Work and Pensions methodology statement](#)).

Comparison of caseload methodology for Disability Living Allowance and Child Disability Payment

The Disability Living Allowance publication and the Child Disability Payment (CDP) statistics are not directly comparable due to methodology differences:

The Disability Living Allowance statistics show the number of people with an entitlement to Disability Living Allowance from the date their entitlement began, whereas the Child Disability Payment statistics only include those customers that are in receipt of or have been approved for a payment and cover from the date the case is approved for payment. [For more information on this please see Child Disability Payment background methodology note.](#)

Additionally, the Disability Living Allowance caseload snapshots are produced using time delay of four months to capture retrospective changes. This data is then frozen and is not subject to changes from one publication to the next. For Child Disability Payment the data extract used for publication is cut roughly two weeks after the end of the month being reported on, and the data is revised with each publication as a new data extract is used.

Background to Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is for people of State Pension age or older with a disability that is severe enough that they need someone to help look after them. For example, the individual may need help with washing, dressing or eating, during the day or at night.

Attendance Allowance is currently administered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Scottish Government under agency agreement.

To be eligible for Attendance Allowance, an individual must have reached [State Pension age](#) and have:

- A physical disability (including sensory disability, for example blindness), a mental disability (including learning difficulties), or both
- a disability that is severe enough for the individual to need help caring for themselves or someone to supervise them, for their own or someone else's safety
- have needed help for at least 6 months (unless they are terminally ill)

If a person is terminally ill, i.e. they are not expected to live for more than 12 months, there are 'special rules' (Please note that the Department for Work and Pensions changed this definition from 6 months to 12 months from April 2023 onwards. This publication covers to February 2023 and as such only the previous 6 month rule applies to this data):

- there's no qualifying period for how long they have had the illness
- if eligible, they will automatically get the higher rate of Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is usually paid every 4 weeks at 2 different rates – depending on the level of help needed.

The value of payments for Attendance Allowance were updated in April 2022. The below tables indicate the value of payments preceding the uprating in April 2022 as well as the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2022/2023 rates).

Rate	Weekly amount		Level of help you need
	2021/2022	2022/2023	
Lower Rate	£60.00	£61.85	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher Rate	£89.60	£92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

A person cannot receive Attendance Allowance if they already have an award of [Disability Living Allowance](#), [Personal Independence Payment](#) or [Adult Disability Payment](#).

Background to Severe Disablement Allowance

Severe Disablement Allowance is for people below the State Pension age who cannot work for 28 weeks in a row because of illness or disability.

Severe Disablement Allowance is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Scottish Government under agency agreement. It was closed to new entrants and replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance. Recipients that are now over the State Pension Age will continue to receive Severe Disablement Allowance unless their circumstances change. Recipients that are still under the State Pension Age are now being asked to undertake a re-assessment of their award by:

- Completing a questionnaire and returning it by the deadline
- Potentially attending a face-to-face Work Capability Assessment

If the re-assessment shows they cannot work, they will be transferred automatically onto [Employment and Support Allowance](#). They will continue to get Severe Disablement Allowance until that date.

Since Severe Disablement Allowance is a closed benefit, the caseload will continue to decrease each year.

A person's Severe Disablement Allowance is not usually affected if they:

- do volunteer work
- work for less than 16 hours a week on average and earn up to £167 a week
- work and earn up to £167 a week, if the work is done as part of a treatment programme or is supervised by someone from a local council or voluntary organisation
- work and earn up to £167 a week and are exempt from personal capability assessment

About the data

Carer's Allowance Supplement data quality

Backdating

To take account of backdating, each eligibility scan identifies those people that have retrospective entitlement for previous Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. The data in this publication includes those found to be eligible during the latest scan for up to three payments before the latest eligibility date. The statistics for the latest eligibility date will not include retrospective entitlement until the next eligibility scan. Future scans may continue to identify additional people who are retrospectively entitled for any previous eligibility date. Because of this, there may be an undercount for the latest eligibility date, and smaller undercounts for earlier eligibility dates.

The table below illustrates how figures for total number of carers at each eligibility date have changed between statistics publications, and percentage increase in figures between publications:

		Published number of carers / payments										
		April 2018 eligibility date**	October 2018 eligibility date**	April 2019 eligibility date**	October 2019 eligibility date**	April 2020 eligibility date**	October 2020 eligibility date	April 2021 eligibility date	October 2021 eligibility date	April 2022 eligibility date	October 2022 eligibility date	April 2023 eligibility date
Publication (and date published)	April 2018 eligibility date (Feb 2019)	77,620*										
	October 2018 eligibility date (May 2019)	77,620*	75,760									
	April 2019 eligibility date (August 2019)	77,990 (+0.5%)	79,680 (+5.2%)	77,740								
	October eligibility date 2019 (February 2020)	78,080 (+0.1%)	79,950 (+0.3%)	80,900 (+4.1%)	78,125							
	April eligibility date 2020 (August 2020)	78,080	80,030 (+0.1%)	81,230 (+0.4%)	82,045 (+5.0%)	80,185						
	October eligibility date 2020 (February 2020)	78,080	80,060 (+0.0%)	81,335 (+0.1%)	82,290 (+0.3%)	83,750 (+4.4%)	83,820					
	April eligibility date 2021 (August 2021)	78,080	80,035 (-0.0%)	81,340 (+0.0%)	82,300 (+0.0%)	83,910 (+0.2%)	85,690 (+2.2%)	82,590				
	October eligibility date 2021 (February 2022)	78,085 (+0.0%)	80,035	81,340	82,300	84,030 (+0.1%)	85,805 (+0.1%)	85,270 (+3.2%)	81,920			
	April eligibility date 2022 (August 2022)	78,085	80,035	81,340	82,300	84,035 (+0.0%)	85,845 (+0.0%)	85,500 (-0.3%)	85,495 (+4.4%)	81,680		
	October eligibility date 2022 (February 2023)	78,085	80,035	81,340	82,300	84,035	85,860 (+0.0%)	85,560 (+0.1%)	85,730 (+0.3%)	85,595 (+4.8%)	84,885	
	April eligibility date 2023 (August 2023)	78,085	80,040 (+0.0%)	81,345 (+0.0%)	82,300	84,035	85,870 (+0.0%)	85,590 (+0.0%)	85,790 (+0.1%)	85,870 (+0.3%)	87,715 (+3.3%)	84,325
Total % change to date		0.60%	5.65%	4.64%	5.34%	4.80%	2.45%	3.63%	4.72%	5.13%	3.33%	n/a
Backdated payments to date		465	4,280	3,605	4,175	3,850	2,050	3,000	3,870	4,190	2,830	n/a

*no additional backdating occurred between these publications as they were based on the same scan.

**backdating occurs for up to three past payments, no further backdating is expected for this eligibility date.

There has been relatively little change in the figure for April 2018 eligibility date. This is mainly due to the first publication for this eligibility date being ten months after the date itself, with backdated payments already having been made by the time data was first published.

For the eligibility dates October 2018 to October 2022 the table shows that the figure originally published has increased by between 2.5% to 5.7% in each case, with most of the increase occurring between the first and second times that data for these eligibility dates has been published. It is likely that the figure for the April 2023 eligibility date will also increase when the statistics are updated in future when backdated payments are made.

Gender

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

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

Local Authority

A small number of carers (105 at the April 2023 eligibility date, which is less than one per cent) have 'unknown' local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the postcode address file used for statistical analysis.

Postcodes are provided in the data we receive and are updated in the case of a client changing address. As a result, postcodes reflect the latest address of the clients and may not be the same as the address at the time of past eligibility dates. Therefore a small number of addresses may not reflect the correct local authority at the time of the payment.

Rounding

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

How Carer's Allowance Supplement data is collected

The Department for Work and Pensions runs a scan of the information they hold on those in payment of Carer's Allowance twice a year to identify those eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement on each of the eligibility dates. Scans are run around six weeks after each Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility date. The Department for Work and Pensions then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to make Carer's Allowance Supplement 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 Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility date is later considered to have been eligible on

that date. In order to capture these people, each scan of the Department for Work and Pensions 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 Scotland will then pay Carer's Allowance Supplement for one or more periods of eligibility as determined by the data transfer.

A cut of data is extracted from the Social Security Scotland payments system in the month following Carer's Allowance Supplement payments being made. This includes information about each carer that received a payment for any one of the eligibility dates going back to 2018/19. For each carer the data extract includes their title, postcode, whether they have received a payment for each of the eligibility dates, and their age at each of those eligibility dates. This data is used to produce statistics on numbers of carers receiving a Carer's Allowance Supplement for the most recent eligibility date, and also to update payments figures for all previous eligibility dates.

How Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data is collected

The Department for Work and Pensions holds information on those in payment of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, and publishes quarterly statistics on the [UK Government website](#).

The Department for Work and Pensions produce summary tables for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly statistical summaries, and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics and the quality of the statistics is available on the [UK Government website](#).

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data are subject to the Department for Work and Pensions' rounding techniques for disclosure control.

Comparisons between Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement Statistics

The eligibility for Carer's Allowance Supplement 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 here and by the Department for Work

and Pensions⁸. However, there are a number of differences between these two sets of data. The key differences are:

- Reference date – Carer’s Allowance Supplement data refers to eligibility dates which are in mid-April or mid-October each year. Carer’s Allowance data refers to the end of February, May, August or November each year.
- Backdating – Carer’s Allowance Supplement data is taken from scans carried out around six weeks after each eligibility date, except for the April 2018 eligibility date where the scan was run in August 2018. Therefore the April 2018 data has more than seven months of backdating and all other data has one month of backdating. Carer’s Allowance 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 Carer’s Allowance Supplement. This will include eligible carers who subsequently become entitled to a payment, including cases which may have temporarily been suspended from payment. Carer’s Allowance data will exclude those who are later found to be ineligible for Carer’s Allowance as part of their backdating adjustments.
- Geography – the Department for Work and Pensions use different postcode address files to identify those who receive Carer’s Allowance who are living in Scottish postcodes.

Further breakdowns of Carer’s Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data

The data for Carer’s Allowance in Scotland is available in more detail on [Stat-Xplore](#). This includes further information about Personal Independence registrations, payments, mandatory reconsiderations and appeals, and also data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies.

⁸ Carer’s Allowance statistics are published as part of the [Department for Work and Pensions’ benefits statistics collection](#).

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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.socialsecurity.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.

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