

Payment of Adult Disability Payment

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Introduction

1. This chapter relates to the payments for an individual who is entitled to Adult Disability Payment. It sets out the rules for payment of Adult Disability Payment.

Components of Adult Disability Payment

2. Adult Disability Payment has two components:
 - the daily living component
 - the mobility component

Each component is payable at different rates. The rate and components an individual is entitled to are based on what entitlement criteria they meet as set out in the regulations for Adult Disability Payment. The components and rates are:

- the daily living component at the standard and enhanced rate¹
- the mobility component at the standard and enhanced rate²

*1 ADP regs, reg 5 (3)
2 ADP Regs, reg 6 (3)*

3. For more information on the daily living component, see the Daily Living Component Introduction. For more information on the mobility component, please see the Mobility Component Introduction.

Short Term Assistance (STA)

4. An individual can apply for short-term assistance when:
 - a new determination of entitlement results in an existing award being stopped or reduced; and
 - they ask for a re-determination or appeal¹.

1 SS Act 2018 Schedule 10 Part 1 para 1

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5. The amount of short term assistance payable is the difference between the total amount paid under the
- earlier determination
 - new determination¹.

1 SS Act 2018 Schedule 10 part 2 para 2 (3)

6. The payment method of STA should be the same as it was for the earlier determination of Adult Disability Payment.¹

1 SS Act 2018 Schedule 10 Part 2 para 2 (4)

When a payment can be made

7. Adult Disability Payment should be paid every four weeks, in arrears, for the period ending on the day before payment reaches the bank account for awards made under normal rules ¹ In awards made under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness, payment is made weekly in advance ²

1 ADP regs, 36(b)(i)

2 ADP regs, 36(b)(ii)

8. The first payment should be adjusted to include any arrears due before settling into a 4 week payment cycle. Arrears will be calculated from the date of application, providing that:
- the individual has submitted Part 2 of their application within the 8 week timeframe specified in the Regulations (unless a good reason for lateness is applicable¹)
 - the Backwards Test was satisfied at the time of application (unless the special rules for terminal illness apply)
 - there are no periods spent in legal detention, hospital or similar institutions for 28 days or more to take into account (subject to exceptions relating to the age of the person and where the stay over 28 days takes place)

1 ADP regs 35(5) and (6)

2 ADP regs 36(b)(ii)

9. Should a young person, who is eligible for Child Disability Payment, apply for Adult Disability Payment and then be determined as eligible, their Adult Disability Payment payment cycle should be the same as their existing Child Disability Payment payment cycle.
- If the young person's final 4 week Child Disability Payment payment cycle is due to end on 21st April, their first 4 week Adult Disability Payment payment cycle should begin on 22nd April. They would then receive their first Adult Disability Payment payment on the same day that they would have received a payment of Child Disability Payment had that award continued, on the 20th May.¹
 - If the young person's final Child Disability Payment payment, under Special Rules for Terminal Illness, is due to end on 21st April. Their first Adult Disability Payment payment cycle, under Special Rules for Terminal Illness,

should begin on 22nd April. This will also mark the date for their first weekly, in advance, Adult Disability Payment payment and is the same day that they would have been paid had their Child Disability Payment award continued.²

1 ADP regs, reg. 58((2)(a)(i))

2 ADP regs, reg. 58((2)(a)(ii))

Example: Entitlement to CDP ends due to entitlement to ADP

Farah is 17 and is entitled to Child Disability Payment. She has been invited to apply for Adult Disability Payment as she will turn 18 on 20th April. Farah completes part 1 and 2 of her Adult Disability Payment application and submits them on 3rd April.

A case manager makes a determination on 18th April that Farah is entitled to Adult Disability Payment. Farah's next payment of Child Disability Payment, after the determination that she is eligible for Adult Disability Payment, is due to be paid on 5th May. Farah's entitlement to Child Disability Payment will then end and entitlement to Adult Disability Payment will begin on the 6th May.

Farah's payment cycle, established during her Child Disability Payment award, is then maintained during her Adult Disability Payment award and her first payment of Adult Disability Payment will be made on 2nd June.

Rates and form of payment

10. Adult Disability Payment is usually paid via bank transfer to a nominated bank account.

11. An individual may not have access to a bank account. If this is the case, Social Security Scotland will contact them to establish a suitable payment method.

12. The rate at which the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment is paid is either (2023-24 rates):

- the standard rate, which is **£68.10** per week, equals **£272.40** every 4 weeks (the daily equivalent is **£9.73**)
- the enhanced rate, which is **£101.75** per week, equals **£407** every 4 weeks (the daily equivalent is **£14.54**)

1 ADP regs, reg.33(1)

13. The rate at which the mobility component of Adult Disability Payment is paid is either: (2023-24 rates)

- the standard rate, which is **£26.90** per week, equals **£107.60** every 4 weeks (the daily equivalent is **£3.84**)
- the enhanced rate, which is **£71.00** per week, equals **£284** every 4 weeks (the daily equivalent is **£10.14**)

1 ADP regs, reg.33(2)

14. The amount of benefits increases in April every year to reflect inflation. This is known as the Annual Uprating. Clients are informed of what their new rate of benefit will be by an Uprating Notice letter which is sent around February each year from 2023 onwards. Processes have been put in place for the small number of new awards made between 21 March and 10 April 2022 and clerical letters will be issued.
15. For individuals entitled to Adult Disability Payment from 21 March to 10 April 2022, they will manually need to be advised of the up-rating which takes place on the 11 April 2022.

Payment of Adult Disability Payment when an individual has applied while being entitled to Child Disability Payment

16. A young person may apply for Adult Disability Payment while they are entitled to Child Disability Payment.¹ There is a different process for calculating when entitlement for Adult Disability Payment begins for these individuals. If an individual in receipt of Child Disability Payment is determined to have entitlement to Adult Disability Payment, their entitlement to Adult Disability Payment starts on the day immediately after the end of the young person's current payment cycle of their Child Disability Payment award, following the Adult Disability Payment determination. They can continue to receive Child Disability Payment until their first payment of Adult Disability Payment.²

1 ADP regs, reg. 58(1)

2 ADP regs, reg. 58(2)

17. Where an individual, who was not entitled to Child Disability Payment, is determined to be entitled to Adult Disability Payment, their entitlement can be backdated to the date they applied for Adult Disability Payment¹. This cannot happen for an individual who is in receipt of Child Disability Payment immediately before being entitled to Adult Disability Payment because they cannot be eligible for Adult Disability Payment and Child Disability Payment at the same time.²

1 ADP regs, reg. 35(3)(4)(5)(6)

2 ADP regs, reg. 4(c)

18. If the young person is determined to be entitled to a higher Adult Disability Payment award than their Child Disability Payment award, they should be paid the amount of Adult Disability Payment they would have received had they not been entitled to Child Disability Payment when they applied for Adult Disability Payment.¹ This additional payment should be backdated to the date of application, reduced by the value of the Child Disability Payment that they received in the period between the Adult Disability Payment application date and the date of determination.² This additional payment will be paid alongside their first payment of Adult Disability Payment following the date of determination.

1 ADP regs, reg. 58 (3)

2 ADP regs, reg. 58 (4)

19. If the young person's Child Disability Payment award is higher than their new Adult Disability Payment award, no additional payment is required. They are not expected to repay any Child Disability Payment paid during the application process for Adult Disability Payment.

Example: Young person is eligible for an additional payment with their first Adult Disability Payment payment

Helen is seventeen years old and is sight impaired. She has been eligible for the lowest rate of the care component and the lower rate of the mobility component for Child Disability Payment since November 2021. She submitted Part 1 of her application for Adult Disability Payment on 15 May 2023, and Part 2 on 1 June 2023, as a result her application date is treated as 15 May 2023. As Helen completed her application while she is still eligible for Child Disability Payment, her eligibility for Child Disability Payment will continue until a determination is made on her application for Adult Disability Payment.

A Case Manager determines that Helen is eligible for Adult Disability Payment on 1 September 2023, when she is still eligible for Child Disability Payment, and awards her the Standard rate of the Daily Living Component and the Standard rate of the Mobility component. They set the date for Helen's first Adult Disability Payment cycle to begin on 16 September, the day after their last Child Disability Payment.

Using the 2023/24 rates of Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment, Helen has been in receipt of £53.80 per week since 15 May 2023, but she would have received £95/week if she had been in receipt of Adult Disability Payment had she not had entitlement to Child Disability Payment immediately before. Helen is entitled to the £700.40 difference that she would have been paid in accordance with regulation 35 of the Adult Disability Payment regulations.

20. An individual may no longer be entitled to Child Disability Payment at the point in time that they are determined to be eligible for Adult Disability Payment.¹ This will normally be because they have turned 18 before submitting Part 2 of the Adult Disability Payment application. If the individual submits Part 1 of the Adult Disability Payment application while being in receipt of Child Disability Payment, and submits Part 2 in line with ADP regulation 58(1)(b) and (c), Adult Disability Payment entitlement starts from the date of determination and they may be entitled to an additional payment of Adult Disability Payment. In this scenario, the first payment of Adult Disability Payment should be reduced by the value of the Child Disability Payment paid in the period between the date the Adult Disability Payment application was made and the date of determination.

1 ADP Regs 58(2)(b)

Overlapping benefits

21. Where an individual is entitled to both:

- the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment, and
- Constant Attendance Allowance

at the same time, the amount of Adult Disability Payment should be reduced by the amount of Constant Attendance Allowance paid. Where the amount of Constant Attendance Allowance is equal to or more than Adult Disability Payment, the amount of Adult Disability Payment will be calculated at £0¹.

1 ADP regs, reg.34(4) and (5)

22. Constant Attendance Allowance supports individuals who become ill or disabled because of an accident or disease in the course of employment. Constant Attendance Allowance can be paid to individuals who are 16 years old or above.

Example: an individual who is entitled to Constant Attendance Allowance and Adult Disability Payment

Ali is entitled to the enhanced rate of the daily living component (**£407** every 4 weeks) and the standard rate of the mobility component of Adult Disability Payment. He also receives the intermediate rate of Constant Attendance Allowance (**£498.60** every 4 weeks) following a severe injury sustained while at work.

Because the amount of Constant Attendance Allowance is greater than the amount Ali is entitled to as Adult Disability Payment, he is paid the Constant Attendance Allowance in full and the Adult Disability Payment is reduced to **£0** (also known as 'extinguished').

If the amount of Constant Attendance Allowance was the same as for Adult Disability Payment, the effect on Adult Disability Payment would be the same – reduced to **£0** while receiving full payment of Constant Attendance Allowance.

If however, Ali was entitled to a lower rate of Constant Attendance Allowance, eg. the part-time rate (**£166.20** every 4 weeks), he would be paid this in full and a balance of **£240.80** paid as Adult Disability Payment every 4 weeks.

Other benefits

Armed Forces Independence Payment

23. Armed Forces Independence Payment is a benefit paid to ex service personnel who have sustained injuries in the course of service within the British Armed Forces that have resulted in severe disability. The amount of benefit paid is the same as the amount of enhanced daily living and mobility components of Adult Disability Payment.

24. Armed Forces Independence Payment is administered and paid by the Veterans Agency. Like Adult Disability Payment, it is tax free and non means tested, and attracts the same passporting arrangements with the Department for Work and Pensions as Adult Disability Payment. However, there are some differences:

- Once awarded, Armed Forces Independence Payment is paid for life and is not subject to review at any point. It only ends when the recipient dies
- Armed Forces Independence Payment can be paid anywhere in the world and does not depend on being resident or physically present in Great Britain
- Payment of Armed Forces Independence Payment is not affected by admission to hospital, residential care or legal detention

25. A client entitled to Armed Forces Independence Payment cannot be entitled to Adult Disability Payment at the same time. In practice, it is unlikely that Social Security Scotland will receive high numbers of applications for Adult Disability Payment where the client is already receiving Armed Forces Independence Payment because the veterans' welfare advisers who support clients are aware of this. If a client does begin an application, there will be a question in Part 1 of the application form asking if they are receiving or have applied for Armed Forces Independence Payment. If so they will be asked to call Social Security Scotland to discuss further.

Other payment methods

26. It is possible for some or all of an individual's Adult Disability Payment to be paid by an alternative payment method if the recipient agrees¹. This may be the case where the individual both:

- receives the enhanced rate of the mobility component
- chooses to hire or hire-purchase vehicles directly from accredited providers of vehicles to disabled people (known as the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment Scheme, also commonly known as 'Motability')

Social Security Scotland will arrange to pay part or all of the mobility component to the provider until the lease has ended.

1 ADP regs, reg.55 (1)

Who a payment can be made to

27. Where an award relates to an individual who is entitled to Adult Disability Payment, payment should be made to either:

- the individual
- an appointee¹
- someone with legal powers to manage the individual's affairs, such as a Power of Attorney or a Guardian
- someone that the individual has requested receive payment on their behalf.

1 SS Act 2018 sections 85A and 85B

28. Adult Disability Payment can be paid to someone else at any point¹ if the individual requests it. This may follow a change of circumstances or the availability of new information.

1 ADP regs, 33(1)

29. Whether an appointee should receive Adult Disability Payment on behalf of an individual is a formal process. A decision relating to whether an appointment should be made or not can be made at the beginning of an application or when a review of the decision is requested.

30. Anyone holding legal powers such as:

- Power of Attorney
- Guardianship

will have undergone a legal process involving a solicitor and the powers must be Court approved. Formal papers will be lodged with the Office of the Public Guardian. Because a legal process has taken place, anyone holding these powers will supersede an appointee:

- who is approved by either the Department for Work and Pensions or Social Security Scotland
- where the process is less formal and does not involve a solicitor, Court or the Office of the Public Guardian

Example: Payment made to appointee

Jessica is entitled to the enhanced rate of both components of Adult Disability Payment. When applying for the benefit, her partner completes the application form stating Jessica is unable to do so for herself because she has experienced a brain injury which has affected her cognitive ability and memory, and she is now incapable of managing her affairs. Her partner wishes to become appointee and deal with all financial and benefit matters. They provide supporting information from Jessica's consultant confirming their difficulties. Social Security Scotland takes the necessary action to confirm Jessica's partner as appointee and makes payment to them on her behalf.

Example : Payment made to Power of Attorney

Derek has been receiving Adult Disability Payment for 2 years into his own bank account and has been managing his own affairs. Derek's son contacts Social Security Scotland to advise they now hold a signed and registered Power of Attorney for Derek who has developed dementia. They now have the legal right to manage his affairs and payment of Adult Disability Payment will now be made to them on his behalf.

Daily rate payments

31. There are circumstances in which Adult Disability Payment can be paid at a daily rate. This may be applicable to individuals living for a prolonged period in a care home or a residential educational establishment.

32. If the individual has a period of absence from the institution, they may be paid at a daily rate. The daily rate is one-seventh of the weekly rate. This applies as long as the individual has already had the benefit of 28 days grace at an earlier point in their stay, and expect to return to stay in the establishment within 28 days of the period of leave. ¹

1 ADP Regs, reg 34(3)

33. This generally applies to individuals who live in a residential care or hospital setting for most of the week, and go home at the weekend to spend time with family. For example going home on a Friday and returning on Monday. The daily rate should be calculated from the day the individual goes on leave and ends the day after the individual returns to living in a care home¹. In the above example the individual would be paid 4/7ths of the weekly amount of Adult Disability Payment, for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. For more detail on this please refer to the effect of time spent in care homes and residential educational establishments chapter.

1 ADP regs, reg 34(3)

Example : an individual is paid the daily living component while on leave from residential care

Ellie receives the standard rate of both the daily living and mobility components. She goes into long term residential care on 14 April. After 28 days, ie after 12 May, payment of her standard rate daily living stops and standard rate mobility continues. From the end of June Ellie is able to go home and spend time with her family from Friday to Monday every weekend. She leaves the care home on Friday 25 June and returns to the care home on Monday 28 June. As she expects to be readmitted within 28 days, she can be paid the daily living component at a daily rate for the days she spends at home. Payment of **£38.91** can be made which is 4/7ths of the weekly rate of **£68.10** (daily rate **£9.73**) (2021-22 rates)

34. Individuals' families may advise of days spent at home each time this happens.

- on a weekly basis so payment of benefit can be calculated
- on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on how often the individual comes home.

Each time a new calculation will be required.

Terminal Illness

35. An individual who is terminally ill becomes entitled and can be paid from whichever of these dates is earliest¹:

- the date Social Security Scotland receives their application
- the date a Benefits Assistance under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS) form is signed (up to a maximum of 26 weeks prior to application being received).

1 ADP regs, reg 26(5)

36. This date can be no earlier than 21 March 2022.

Over-payments and under-payments

37. There may be occasion where individuals:

- receive a payment, or
- a higher payment than they are entitled to

of Adult Disability Payment or Short-Term Assistance.¹

1 ADP regs, reg 50(1)(b)(i) and (ii)

38. This may mean the individual may be required to repay some or all of what they received in error ²

2 ADP Regs, reg 46

39. Individuals may be due more money than they have received if :

- they have not received all of a component of Adult Disability Payment to which they are entitled¹
- they have received a lower rate than they are entitled to of Adult Disability Payment or Short-Term Assistance²

1 ADP regs, reg 49(1)(b)(i)

2 ADP regs, reg 49(1)(b)(ii)

40. For more information on how payment errors are to be handled please go to the payment error chapter.

Change in amount of payment due to changes in law

41. Rates of Adult Disability Payment will increase in April every year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This is known as 'Up-rating' and individuals will be notified of the increase in advance of it taking effect via an Up-rating Notice letter sent around February each year from 2023 onwards. Processes have been put in place for the small number of new awards made between the 21 March and 10 April 2022 and clerical letters will be issued.

When payment can be stopped

42. Payments of Adult Disability Payment should stop after an individual's entitlement to the benefit ends.

43. Individuals have a right to request payments to stop. In these cases, managers should cancel an award. Individuals can request that payments stop either:

- with immediate effect
- on a specific date¹.

1 Social Security (Scotland Act) 2018 , s 26(2)

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44. Where an individual has requested that payments stop, the case manager or client adviser should ensure that the individual or their representative is clear about the impact that the decision to stop payment of Adult Disability Payment could potentially have. It could mean other benefits in payment because of entitlement to Adult Disability Payment may be affected. For more information, see passporting benefits, operational guidance and an individual's right to stop receiving assistance chapter.
45. When a case manager is notified that an individual entitled to Adult Disability Payment has died, they must make a determination without application¹. Please refer to the death of a client chapter for more information.
- 1 ADP regs. Reg 48(b)*
46. An overpayment can occur when Social Security Scotland is not informed immediately of the death of an individual who is entitled to Adult Disability Payment. If this happens, an individual's estate is liable to Social Security Scotland for any sums paid after death. The value of the overpayment is the amount of assistance paid since the day following the date of death. Social Security Scotland will contact the individual's next of kin, or the person who registered the death, to make further enquiries if this happens.

[END OF CHAPTER]