



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Personal Independence Payment at April 2021

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Personal Independence Payment at July 2021, will be released in September 2021.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Personal Independence Payment in Scotland at April 2021. Personal Independence Payment is replacing Disability Living Allowance for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64. This summary covers both new claims to Personal Independence Payment and claims made by those with an existing claim for Disability Living Allowance (known as Disability Living Allowance reassessments).

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

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#personalindependencepaymentstatistics>

These statistics are being published as official statistics in accordance with Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics³ to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

³ <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/>

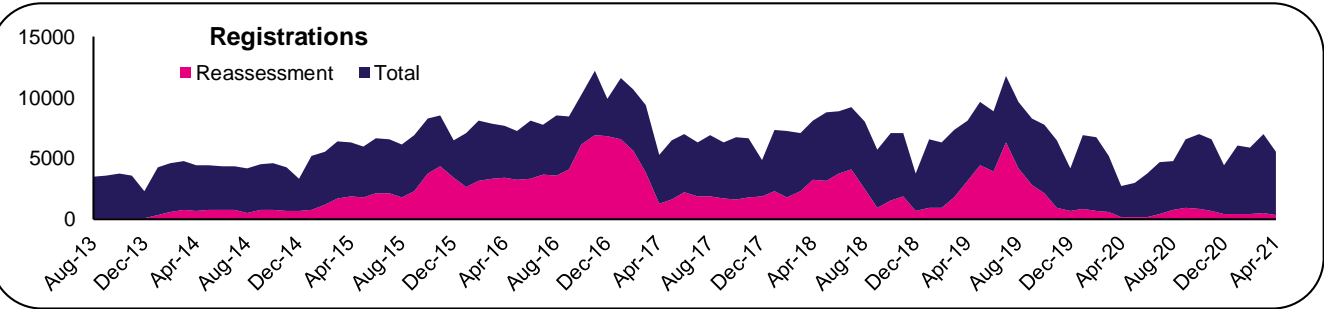
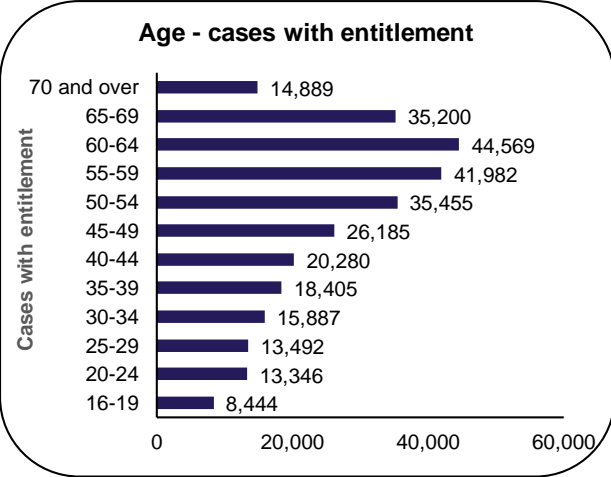
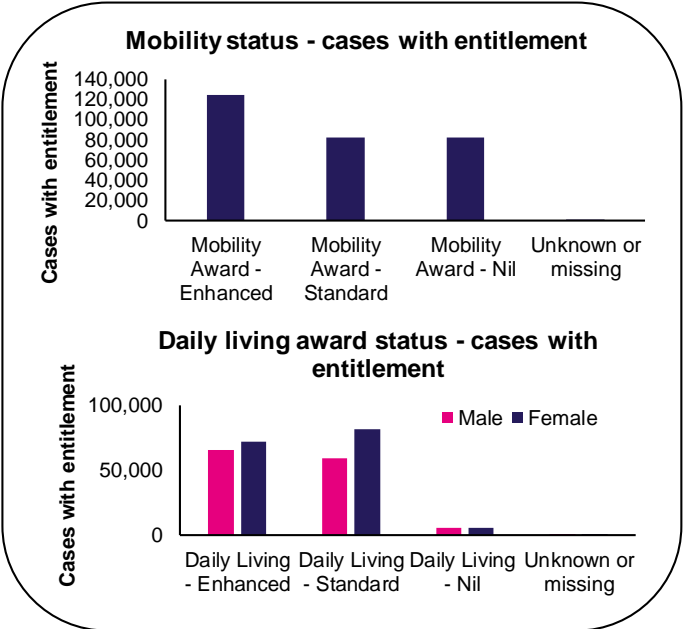
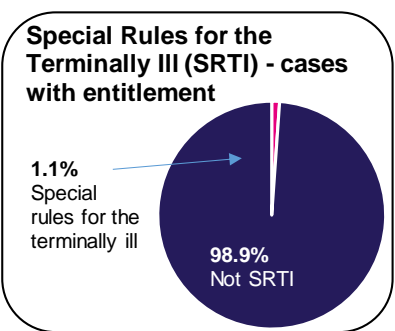
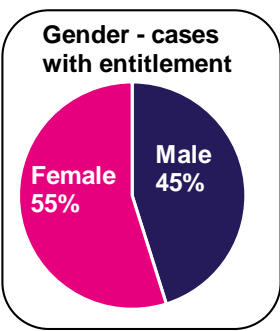
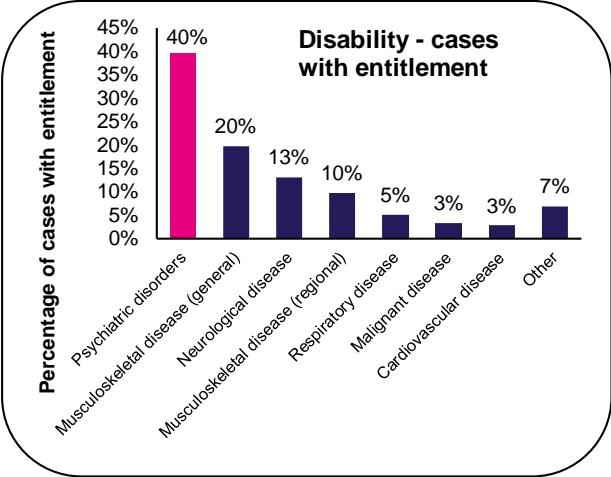
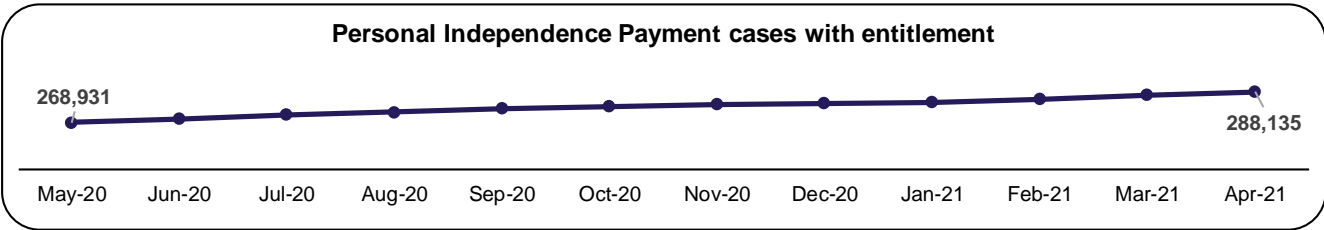
Personal Independence Payment at April 2021

- In April 2021, there were 288,135 people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland. Special rules for the terminally ill applied to 3,196 (1.1 per cent) of these claimants [**Table 1**].
- The four most common disabling conditions account for 82 per cent of claims, with 'Psychiatric disorders' (40 per cent), followed by 'Musculoskeletal disease (general)' (20 per cent), 'Neurological disease' (13 per cent) and Musculoskeletal disease (regional) (10 per cent) [**Table 2**].
- Over half (55 per cent) of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland were female, and 45 per cent were male [**Table 3**].
- The number of cases with entitlement increases with age up to the most common age band of '60-64' (44,569 cases, 15 per cent). From age 65 and over the number of cases decreases, with only 14,889 cases (five per cent) in the 70 and over age band. This is because people are generally unable to start a new claim for Personal Independence Payment after they reach State Pension Age (see [Eligibility](#) section). In the 16-19 age group 64 per cent of claimants are male compared to 36 per cent female. From age 30 and above more than half of claimants are female [**Table 3**].
- Over two thirds (72 per cent) of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment were receiving a Mobility Award in April 2021. Of those entitled to Personal Independence Payment, 43 per cent were receiving the Enhanced Mobility Award, 28 per cent were receiving the Standard Mobility Award, and the remaining 28 per cent were not receiving a Mobility Award. This varies with age, with over half (57 per cent) 16-19 year olds in receipt of Personal Independence Payment getting the enhanced mobility award. This decreases to 35 per cent for ages 30-39 and then increases again up to the age band of 70 and over (53 per cent) [**Table 4**].
- In April 2021, 96 per cent of males and 97 per cent of females entitled to Personal Independence Payment were receiving Daily Living Award. Just over half of males (51 per cent) were receiving the Enhanced Daily Living Award compared to 45 per cent for females. For males, 45 per cent were receiving the Standard Daily Living Award, and four per cent were receiving no Daily Living Award. For females, 51 per cent were receiving the Standard Daily Living Award, and three per cent were receiving no Daily Living Award. The percentage of people receiving the enhanced living award is highest for 16-19 year olds. For males, 80 per cent of 16-19 year olds receive the enhanced living award and for females 73 per cent. This compares to between 43 and 52 per cent for males and females in all age groups from 30 and above [**Table 5**].

- There were 5,531 registrations for Personal Independence Payment in April 2021, 6 per cent of which were reassessments⁴. The number of registrations was low from April to June 2020, but has increased from August 2020 onwards. From April to June 2020 COVID-19 may have led to changes in customer behaviour as fewer applications were being received, and reassessments were suspended from late March until late July due to COVID-19. Reassessments are currently only on a voluntary basis, and new invitations for reassessments are not yet being sent out, as explained further in the [background section](#) [**Table 6**].
- Special Rules for the terminally ill applied to three per cent of registrations in April 2021. This is similar to previous months, where the percentage has been three per cent for the last 11 months [**Table 6**].

⁴ A reassessment is where a working age recipient of Disability Living Allowance is assessed for Personal Independence Payment, which is replacing Disability Living Allowance.

Summary Panel: Personal Independence Payment claimants to April 2021



Background to Personal Independence Payment

Payment

Personal Independence Payment is provided to support working age clients with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health.

Personal Independence Payment in Scotland

The Scotland Act 2016⁵ gives Scottish Parliament powers over a number of social security benefits which had been administered to Scottish clients by the Department for Work and Pensions. From 1 April 2020, Personal Independence Payment became one of the 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. More information on Personal Independence Payment can be found [below](#).

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 Personal Independence Payment on Social Security Scotland's behalf. In the future, the Scottish Government plans to replace Personal Independence Payment with Adult Disability Payment.

Introduction of Personal Independence Payment

From 8 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment. It began as a controlled start, for new claims from people living in a limited area in the North West and part of the North East of England. On 10 June 2013, Personal Independence Payment was introduced for new claims for the remaining parts of Great Britain.

From 28 October 2013, using a structured roll out to postcode areas, the Department for Work and Pensions has been inviting Disability Living Allowance working age recipients to claim Personal Independence Payment if:

- the department received information about a change in care or mobility needs which meant their claim had to be renewed;
- the claimant'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 claimant chose to claim Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance.

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

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

Additionally, any recipients of Disability Living Allowance for Children who live in Scotland and who turn 16 on or after 1st September 2020 will be able to continue getting Disability Living Allowance until they turn 18. However, they are still eligible to apply for Personal Independence Payment if they choose to.

Eligibility

You can get Personal Independence Payment whether you're working or not. It is non-means-tested, non-contributory and tax-free; it is not linked to a person's ability to work and it is available equally to people in or out of work. It is not intended to be a substitute for a person's earnings.

You must be aged 16 or over and usually have not reached [State Pension age](#) to claim. Personal Independence Payment can be claimed by adults under the State Pension age, and people already on the benefit when they reach State Pension age will continue to receive it if their condition hasn't changed.

You must also have a [health condition or disability](#) where you:

- have had difficulties with daily living or getting around (or both) for 3 months
- expect these difficulties to continue for at least 9 months

Personal Independence Payment is made up of two parts. You may get the mobility part of Personal Independence Payment if you need help going out of moving around. You may get the daily living part of Personal Independence Payment if you need help more than half of the time with things like:

- preparing or eating food
- washing, bathing and using the toilet
- dressing and undressing
- reading and communicating
- managing your medicines or treatments
- making decisions about money
- engaging with other people

The amount you get depends on how your condition affects you, not the condition itself. You'll be assessed by a health professional to work out the level of help you can get.

You usually need to have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years, and be in one of these countries when you apply. If you've recently returned from living in an [EEA country](#), you might be able to get Personal Independence Payment sooner.

There are [different rules if you're terminally ill](#), where you can claim more quickly if your doctor or a medical professional has said you might have less than 6 months to live.

More information on eligibility can be found on the Department for Work and Pensions [Personal Independence Payment webpage](#).

Registration and awards

A 'registration' is recorded when a claimant has completed the initial Personal Independence Payment claim process. Following this a claimant completes a 'Part 2' form, an Assessment Provider conducts an assessment, and DWP makes a decision on the application. Not all registrations will result in an award.

Personal Independence Payment is comprised of two components: daily living and mobility, both of which can be paid at enhanced or standard rate. A claimant's need for one component does not affect the need for the other component. Claimants who are terminally ill and who are not expected to live more than 6 months are automatically entitled to the enhanced rate of the daily living component.

Personal Independence Payment 'claims with entitlement' statistics show a total for all entitled cases. It shows both the number of people in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended (e.g. if they are in hospital or in prison at a point in time).

Impact of COVID-19

Operational measures implemented by Department for Work and Pensions in late March in response to COVID-19 included the suspension of routine reassessments of disability benefits i.e. Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment reassessments. Some Disability Living Allowance reassessment activity restarted in late July for voluntarily claims for Personal Independence Payment, although new invitations to claim Personal Independence Payment for working age Disability Living Allowance claimants are not currently being sent out.

COVID-19 provisions were put in place in late March 2020 and the Department for Work and Pensions continues to review and amend working practices where appropriate moving forwards.

About the data

How Personal Independence Payment data is collected

The Department for Work and Pensions holds information on those in payment of Personal Independence Payment, and publish quarterly statistics at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics>

They produce summary tables for Personal Independence Payment in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly publications, and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

Personal Independence Payment data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Personal Independence Payment statistics and the quality of the statistics is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-statistics-background-and-methodology/pip-statistics-background-information-and-methodology>.

Personal Independence Payment data are subject to the rounding techniques for disclosure control that are used by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Further breakdowns of Personal Independence Payment data

The data for Personal Independence Payment in Scotland is available in more detail on Stat-Xplore <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>. 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.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

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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.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-at-november-2019-summary-statistics>

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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