

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance statistics to September 2025 and Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics to May 2025

Key figures

In Scotland, to 30 September 2025:

- 42,720 clients were transferred from Disability Living Allowance to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance.
- £33.9 million was issued to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance clients across all local authority areas.

In Scotland in May 2025, there were:

- 275 carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance
- 65,570 people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- 148,938 people in receipt of Attendance Allowance
- 785 people in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance to December 2025, and Severe Disablement Allowance at August 2025, will be released in February 2026.

This is the last publication of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance. The data for Scotland is now available on [Stat-Xplore](#).

Under the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) we publish a [timetable of statistical releases](#) for the twelve months ahead.

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Introduction

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is a replacement for Disability Living Allowance for adults in Scotland, which is currently delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions. Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is administered by Social Security Scotland. It provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a person living with a disability might have.

From 21 March 2025, all adults in Scotland still getting Disability Living Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions will have their award transferred to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. The transfer process happens automatically, with no need for clients to do anything. Social Security Scotland will write to clients in advance of their benefits transferring. There will be no new applications to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance.

This publication provides information on caseload and payments for Scottish Adult Disability Allowance from launch on 21 March 2025 to 30 September 2025. It therefore provides information for just over six months of payments.

This publication also provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at May 2025.

All tables and charts relating to this publication are available in an Excel workbook on the [Social Security Scotland statistics website](#).

This publication does not include an update on recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance or Carer Support Payment 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 latest statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement for the April 2025 eligibility date, that was published in August 2025, is available on Social Security Scotland statistics website as part of the Carer Support Payment publication.

The [Scotland Act 2016](#) 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 responsibility 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 and legal responsibilities for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance were also transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Scottish Ministers.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of these benefits to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to

administer Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and 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 Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance are being published as official statistics in development. Official statistics in development may be new or existing statistics, and will be tested with users, in line with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics.

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 Statistics to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance to September 2025

Main Findings

Payments

Total payments of £33.9 million have been issued.

Over the period from 21 March 2025 to 30 September 2025, 33,375 individuals received Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. In total, 103,095 payments were issued with a value of £33.9 million.

The largest number of payments were issued in the Glasgow City local authority area, where 17,305 payments were issued to 5,370 individual clients, with a total value of £5.6 million.

Caseload

Most clients received both the care and mobility awards.

At 30 September 2025, 42,720 people were on the Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance caseload. Of this total, 78% received both care and mobility awards, 10% received a care only award, while 12% received mobility only.

Of the clients on the Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance caseload, 31% received the highest care award, 34% the middle care award and 23% the lowest care award, while 62% received the higher mobility award and 28% received the lower mobility award.

The most common age band for clients was 80-89 and the local authority area with the most clients was Glasgow City.

At 30 September 2025, the total number of clients on the Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance caseload was 42,720. Of these, 29% were aged 80-89 and 25% were aged 70-79.

Of the 42,720 clients on the caseload, 16% reside in Glasgow City, 9% in North Lanarkshire and 7% in both South Lanarkshire and Fife.

The most common category of primary disability condition for clients was Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue.

The most common condition of clients on the caseload was Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue, accounting for 38%, followed by Mental and Behavioural Disorders, accounting for 25%.

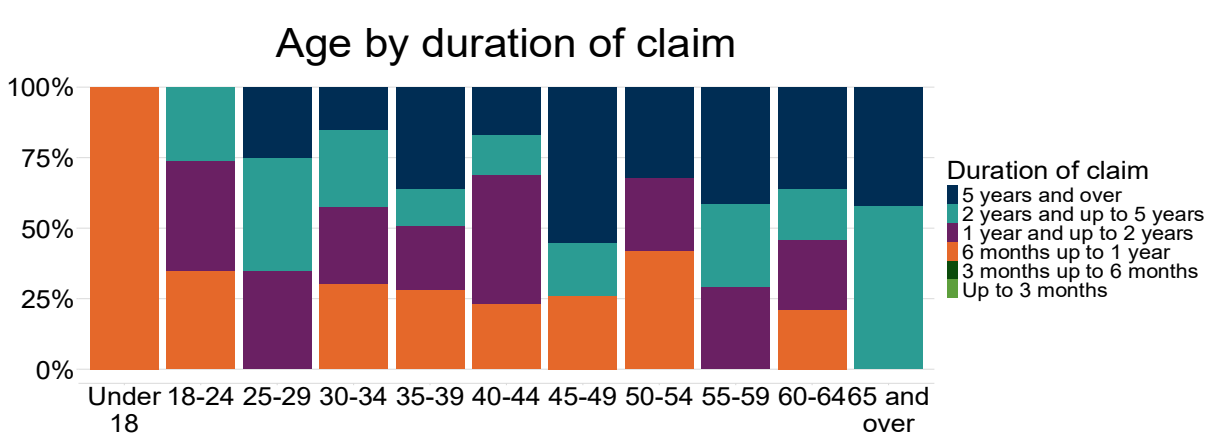
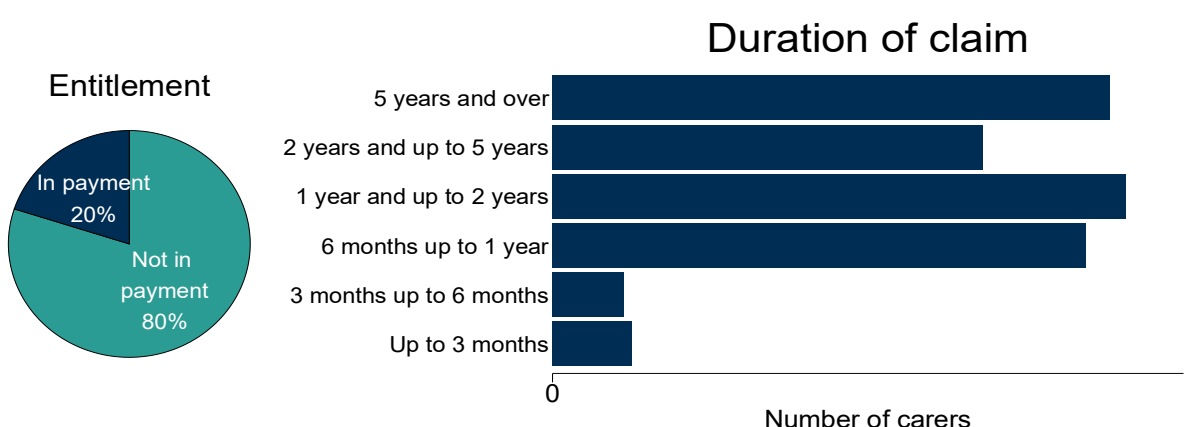
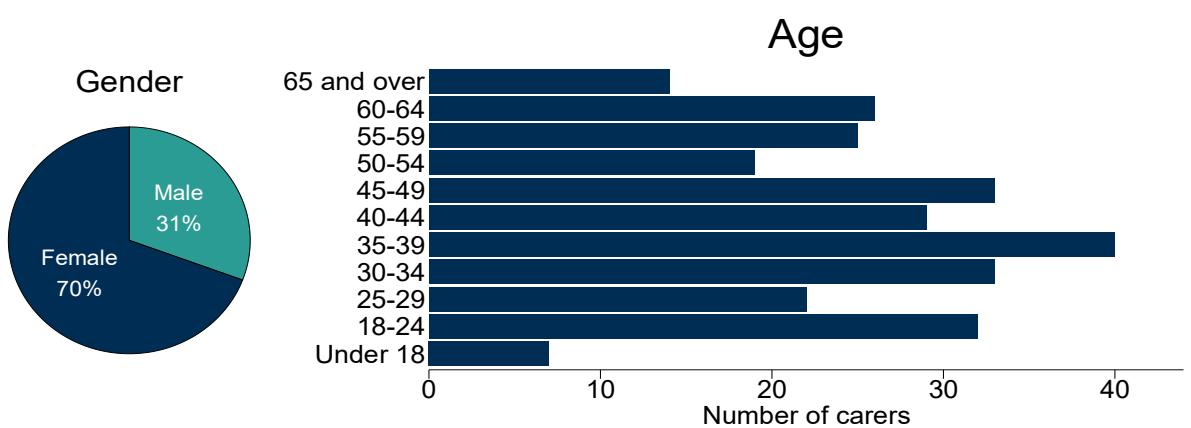
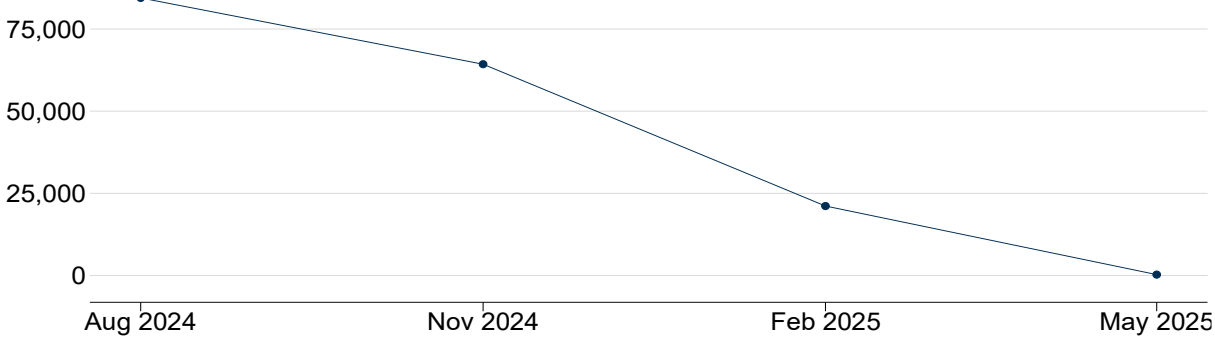
Of those clients with Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue, 72% received both care and mobility awards. Of clients with Mental and Behavioural Disorders, 88% received both care and mobility awards. However, 5% of those clients received mobility only compared to 16% of those with Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue.

Carer's Allowance at May 2025

- In May 2025, there were 275 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is a decrease compared to the last quarter when there were 21,138 carers at February 2025 and since May 2024 when there were 88,059 carers [**Carer's Allowance Table S1**].
- A further 1,130 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 70% of carers in receipt of payment were female and 31% were male [**Carer's Allowance Table S2**].
- Of the carers in receipt of payments, 50% were aged between 30 and 49 years old [**Carer's Allowance Table S3**].
- Around 45% of carers have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for two years or more. In total, 25% have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for five years or more [**Carer's Allowance Table S4**].

Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance at May 2025

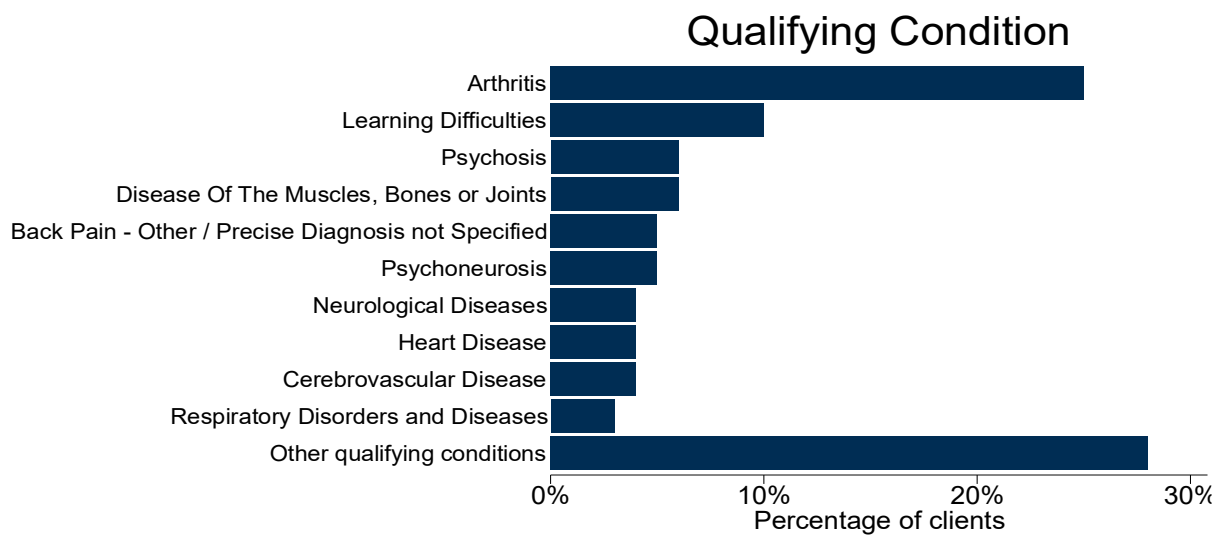
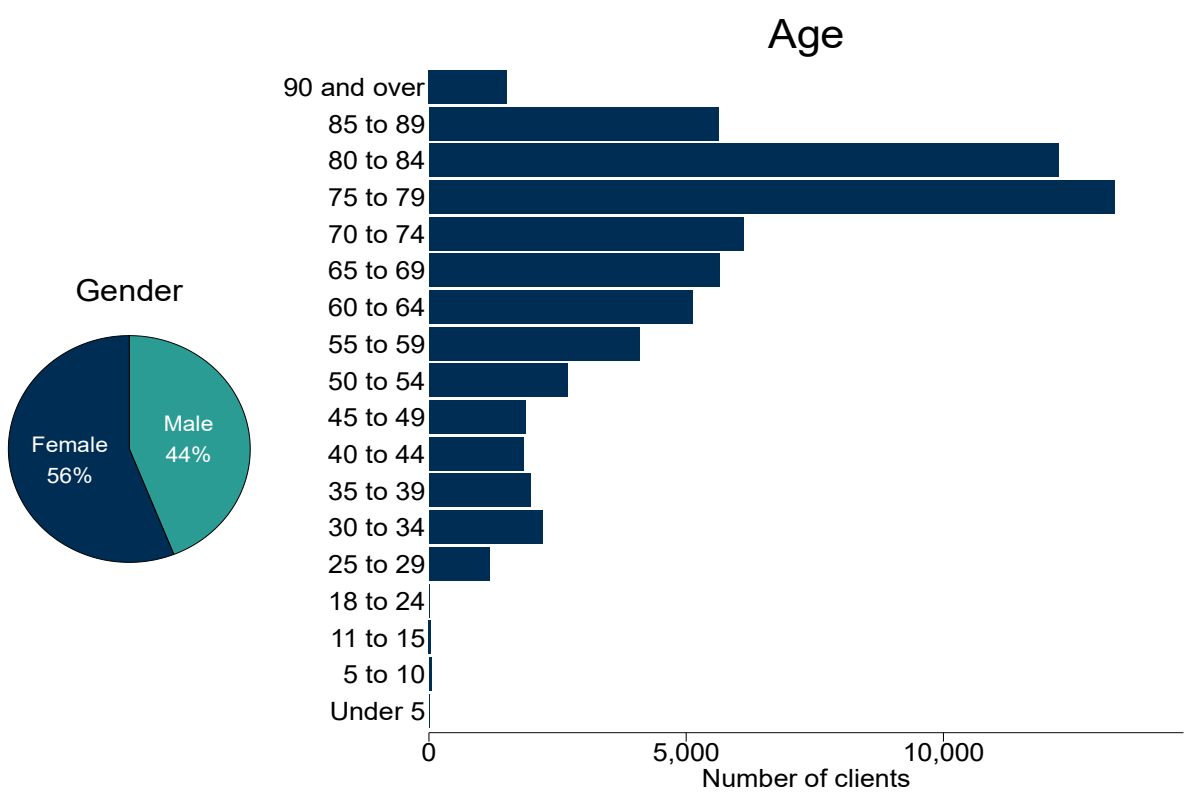
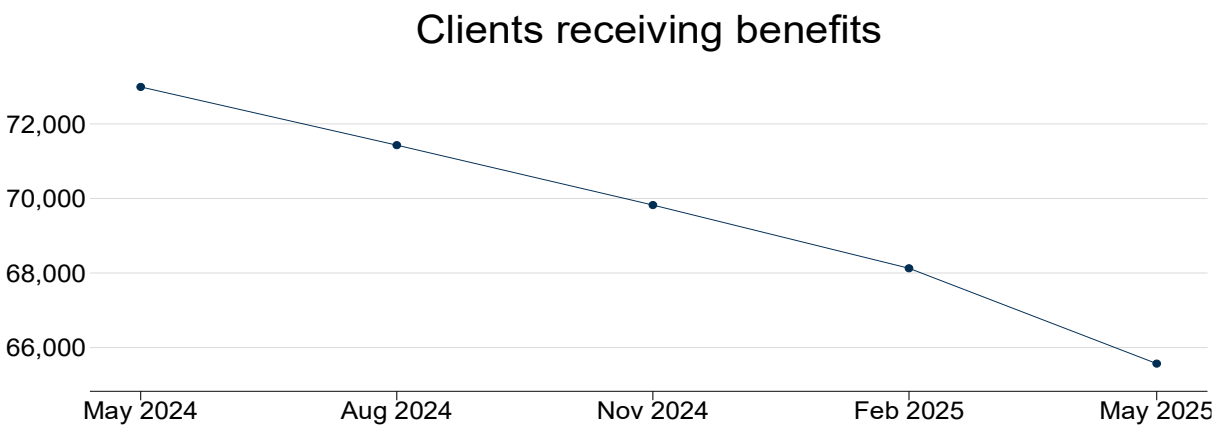
Carers receiving benefits



Disability Living Allowance at May 2025

- At May 2025, there were 65,570 people in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a decrease of 4% since the last quarter when there were 68,127 at February 2025. It is a decrease of 10% since May 2024 when there were 72,992 **[Disability Living Allowance Table S1]**.
- From 29 August 2022, some people who get Disability Living Allowance for adults from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment.
- Around 56% of Disability Living Allowance clients were female and 44% were male. **[Disability Living Allowance Table S2]**.
- Less than 1% of Disability Living Allowance clients were aged under 16, and 68% were aged 65 and over **[Disability Living Allowance Table S3]**.
- Only 32% of Disability Living Allowance clients were aged between 16-64 **[Disability Living Allowance Table S3]**.
- Nearly all clients 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 74% of Disability Living Allowance clients received both the mobility and care element **[Disability Living Allowance Table S8]**.
- Of all the Disability Living Allowance clients, in terms of the care award, 29% receive the highest rate, 32% are on the middle rate, 23% 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, 64% receive the higher rate, 26% receive the lower rate and 10% do not receive any mobility award **[Disability Living Allowance Table S6]**.
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis which accounted for 25% of clients, followed by Learning Difficulties which accounted for 10% of clients **[Disability Living Allowance Table S7]**.

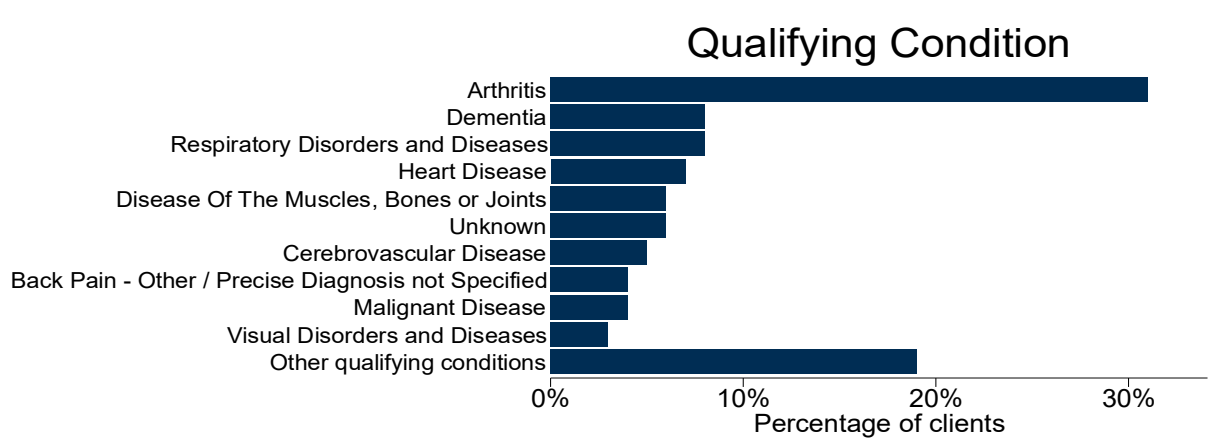
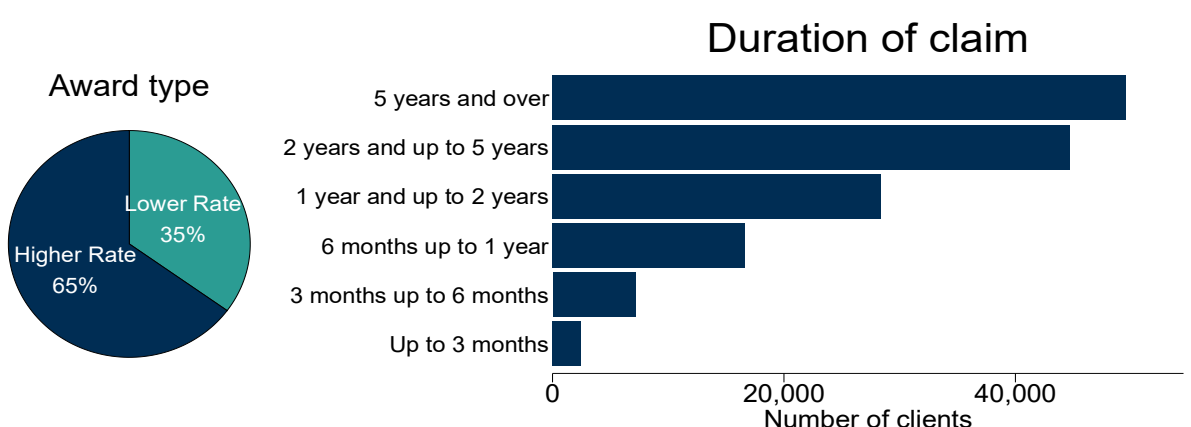
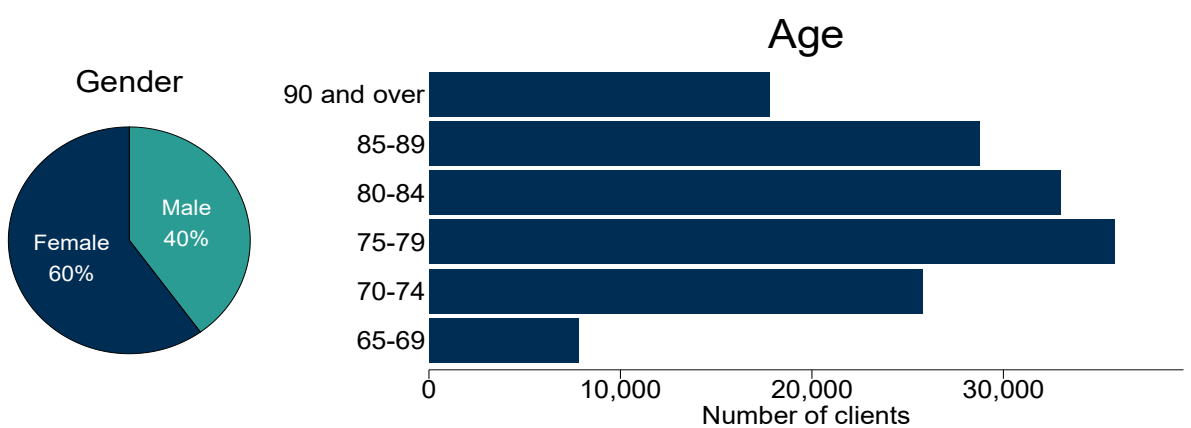
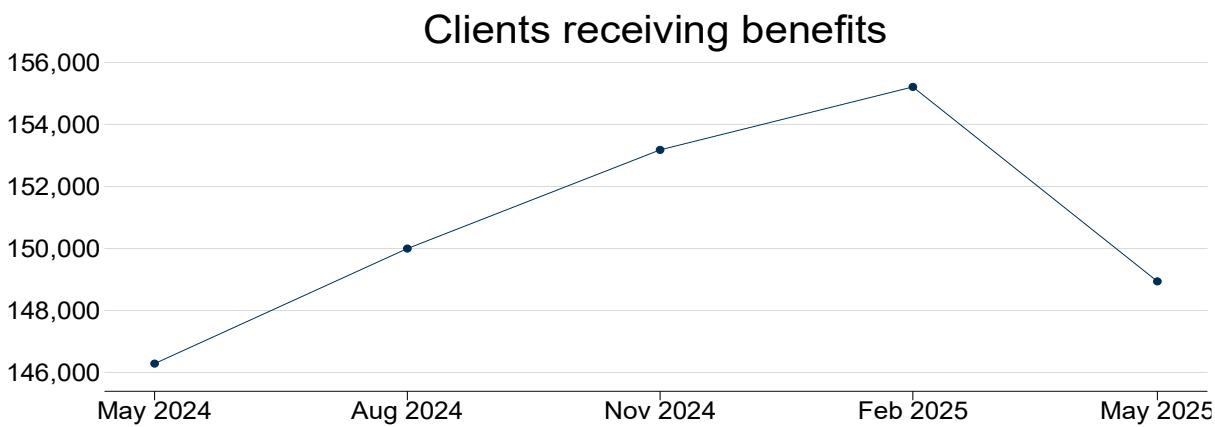
Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance at May 2025



Attendance Allowance at May 2025

- At May 2025, there were 148,938 people in Scotland in receipt of Attendance Allowance. This is a decrease of 4% since the last quarter when there were 155,210 at February 2025. It is an increase of 2% since May 2024 when there were 146,287 [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**].
- A further 13,535 people were entitled to Attendance Allowance but did not receive a payment [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**]. People may be entitled to Attendance Allowance but not receive payment because, for example, they are residing in Alternative Accommodation (e.g. a publicly funded hospital, care home or prison).
- Around 60% of Attendance Allowance clients were female and 40% were male [**Attendance Allowance Table S2**].
- Of the Attendance Allowance clients in receipt of payments, 53% were aged 80 or over [**Attendance Allowance Table S3**].
- In total, 63% of clients have been receiving Attendance Allowance payments for two years or more, with 33% receiving the payment for five years or more [**Attendance Allowance Table S4**].
- Around 65% of Attendance Allowance clients received the higher rate and 35% received the lower rate [**Attendance Allowance Table S5**].
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis, which accounted for 31% of clients, followed by Dementia and Respiratory Disorders and Diseases, which both accounted for 8% of clients [**Attendance Allowance Table S6**].

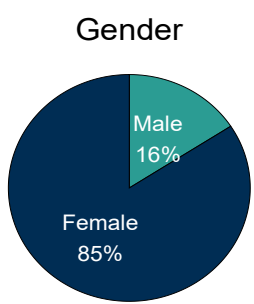
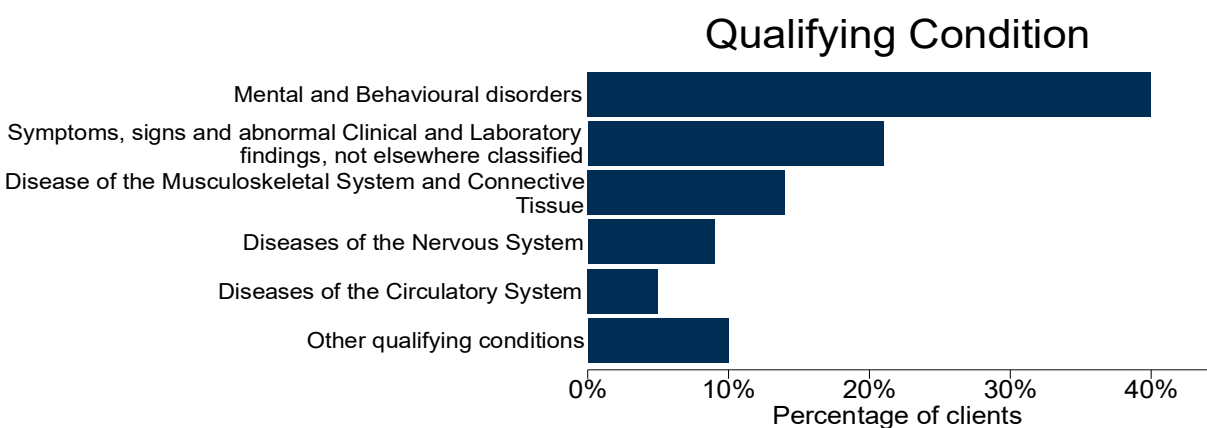
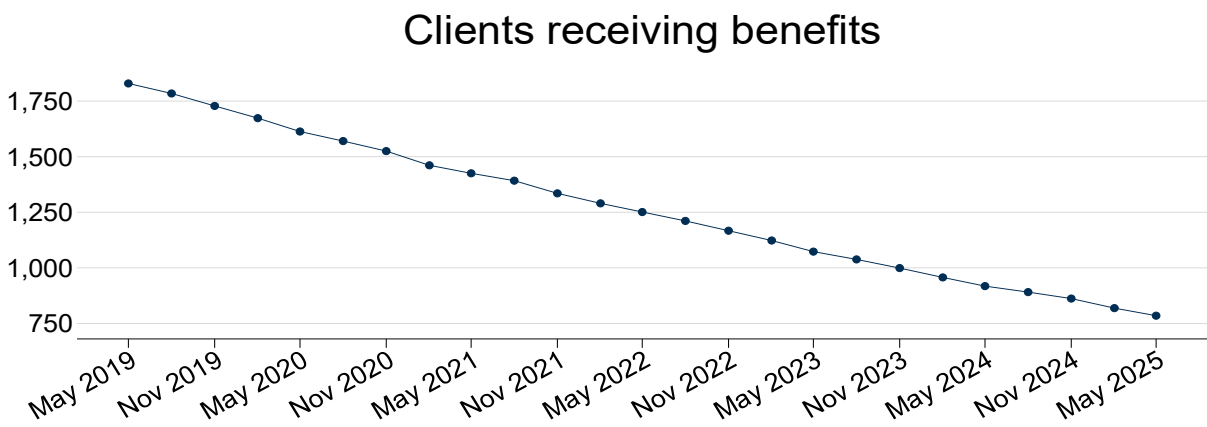
Summary Panel: Attendance Allowance at May 2025



Severe Disablement Allowance at May 2025

- At May 2025, there were 785 people in Scotland in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance. This is a decrease of 4% since the last quarter when there were 819 at February 2025. It is a decrease of 57% since May 2019 when there were 1,829 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 85% of Severe Disablement Allowance clients were female and 16% were male [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S2**].
- The most common disabling condition was Mental and Behavioural disorders which accounted for 40% 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 May 2025



Background to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance

The [Scotland Act 2016](#) gave the Scottish Parliament powers over Disability Living Allowance which is currently administered in Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is a replacement for Disability Living Allowance for adults in Scotland. It is administered by Social Security Scotland, which is the executive agency responsible for delivering Scottish Government social security benefits.

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a person living with a disability might have.

Further details about the benefit can be found on the [mygov.scot website](https://mygov.scot).

Case Transfers

Adults in Scotland still receiving Disability Living Allowance will have their award automatically transferred to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. This process began in March 2025. The process is automatic, with no need for clients to do anything. Social Security Scotland will write to clients in advance of their award transferring.

Before Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance was introduced on 21 March 2025, some people born on or after 9 April 1948 may have had their award moved to Adult Disability Payment. This was so changes in their disability or health condition could be reviewed against Adult Disability Payment eligibility criteria by Social Security Scotland instead of Personal Independence Payment with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Management information as at October 2025 shows that there had been 66,820 clients from the Department of Work and Pensions who had been selected for transfer to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance and had their case data sent to Social Security Scotland as part of this case transfer process. This means that more than 99% of the Disability Living Allowance clients in Scotland have started the case transfer process to Social Security Scotland.

Social Security Scotland has now completed the case transfer process for more than 79% of those who were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. As of October 2025, 53,055 had their award transferred to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance caseload. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance by the end of 2025.

Social Security Scotland will only publish official statistics on case transfers from the time that they are fully responsible for the administration of that case, including

making the payments. The Department for Work and Pensions will publish official statistics on the cases that are still being paid by them.

Eligibility

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is only available to people who:

- are over 18
- already get Disability Living Allowance for adults from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- live in Scotland

There will be no new applications to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance.

Payments

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is made up of the same two components as Disability Living Allowance:

- care
- mobility

Clients may already qualify for one or both components. Clients will get the same amount for the components they are eligible for when they move to Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. Payments are made every 4 weeks, in arrears. However, where the award is for terminally ill people, payments are paid weekly in advance.

Re-determinations and appeals

If a client does not agree with some aspect of their Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, they can ask Social Security Scotland to look at it again. This is called asking for a re-determination. A request for a re-determination should be made within 42 calendar days of being notified of the determination. Social Security Scotland then has 56 calendar days to make a re-determination. Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance clients also have the right to appeal to a Tribunal if they do not agree with Social Security Scotland's re-determination, or if Social Security Scotland is not able to make a re-determination within the required timescales.

Short Term Assistance will also be available as part of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. An individual can apply for Short Term Assistance during a re-determination or appeal of a determination that reduced or ended their longstanding award of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. The intention is to ensure an individual is not discouraged from challenging a Social Security Scotland decision, or from accessing administrative justice, by having to manage for a period with a reduced income. Where a person is eligible for Short Term Assistance, this will be the difference between the level of assistance paid under the person's

longstanding award (prior to review or re-determination) and the level paid under the most recent award.

Caseload (awards being transferred)

The methodology used for this publication uses a data extract which makes it possible to identify 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 methodology uses a point in-time measure of the number of people in receipt of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance on the final day of any given month. It counts people from the point that they are approved for a payment until the point that their application is closed. Therefore, if a client's eligibility ended on the last day of a month, they would be counted in that month's caseload, but not in subsequent months. However, if the client's eligibility ended before the last day of the month then they would not be included in that month's caseload. A data cut from 15 July 2025 has been used to produce statistics on 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, up to 11.59 pm on 30 September 2025.

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 2024/2025, the period covered by this publication, the carer must have earned no more than £151 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.

Carer Support Payment is replacing Carer's Allowance for carers in Scotland. Carer Support Payment was launched at the end of 2023 in the pilot local authority areas of Dundee City, Perth and Kinross and Na h-Eileanan Siar (the Western Isles). The benefit was available nationally from autumn 2024.

Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance in Scotland do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. Transfer of cases to Carer Support Payment started from February 2024 and have now been completed.

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 uprated in April 2024. The below tables indicate the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2024/2025 rates) and latest year following uprating (2025/2026).

Care component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2024/25	2025/26	
Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20	Help for some of the day or with preparing cooked meals
Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill
Mobility component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2024/25	2025/26	
Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05	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

From 3 April 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions changed the eligibility for Special Rules for End of Life, allowing those who have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 12 months to apply, where previously Special Rules for End of Life were only applicable for people with 6 months or less to live. The data in this publication for Disability Living Allowance covers to November 2023 and as such the changed rules will apply to some clients accordingly.

Those meeting the eligibility for Special Rules for End of Life automatically qualify for the higher rate care component from birth. They can also qualify for the mobility component if they satisfy the normal rules.

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 end of life);
- 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, received applications as part of a pilot from 21 March 2022. This was followed by a gradual rollout before national launch on 29 August 2022.

Information on eligibility for Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment can be found in the background notes of their respective statistics publications on the [Social Security Scotland](https://www.scotland.nhs.uk/social-security-scotland) website.

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 and might have 12 months or less to live)

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.)

- 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. This depends on the level of assistance or supervision needed.

The value of payments for Attendance Allowance were uprated in April 2024. The below tables indicate the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2024/2025 rates) and the latest year following uprating.

Rate	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2024/25	2025/26	
Lower Rate	£72.65	£73.90	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher Rate	£108.55	£110.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

Pension Age Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Attendance Allowance, received applications as part of a pilot from 21 October 2024. This was followed by a gradual rollout before national launch on 22 April 2025.

A person cannot receive Attendance Allowance if they already have an award of [Disability Living Allowance](#), [Personal Independence Payment](#), [Adult Disability Payment](#) or [Pension Age 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 £183.50 a week (in 2024/2025)
- work and earn up to £183.50 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 £183.50 a week and are exempt from personal capability assessment.

About the data

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance

How the data is collected

The data in this publication is sourced from Social Security Scotland's case management system. The system holds information on all case transfers received and payments. Data about the client is provided by DWP during the transfer process and is created in the case management system as a transfer is processed.

The information is held across multiple tables within the system. Extracts of administrative data are taken from this system regularly for internal reporting purposes. Data cuts combine information from the different tables in the system into one daily extract which includes details of all Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance transfers since 21 March 2025. A payments extract which contains information on the financial aspects of applications is used for calculations in this publication.

To take into account backdating and delays between transfers being processed and payments being made, a data cut from 28 October 2025 has been used to produce statistics on transfers received and payments made up to 11.59 pm on 30 September 2025. Later data cuts may include retrospective changes to transfer details, including corrections to details in the case management system.

Quality Assurance

The data used to produce official statistics are the same as the data extracted from the case management system regularly that is used for internal reporting within Social Security Scotland. As such, the data is checked regularly for consistency with previous extracts (i.e. do transfer and payments figures increase as expected over time, and are they in proportion to each other) and compared to other sources of information.

Additional quality assurance and cleaning has been carried out on the variables used in the official statistics to:

- Check for duplicate and missing case references.
- Check for duplicate and missing applicant identification numbers.
- Check transfer dates are within the expected ranges.
- Check that payment date is present where a payment value is present.
- Check postcode lengths are within the expected ranges and check postcodes that do not match to local authority areas – see [Geography](#) section.
- Remove a small number of test cases which were used to test the case management system.

Once the data is aggregated and copied into the publication and supporting Excel tables, the final statistics are quality assured by a different member of the statistics team. The final documents are checked by the lead statistician.

Revisions

Each updated publication of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance statistics may include revisions going back to March 2025. This is because each time figures are published they will be based from a new 100% data cut from the case management system, which can include retrospective changes to data going back to March 2025 as described in the [How the data is collected](#) section. More recent months tend to be subject to a greater degree of revision than more distant ones.

Data Quality

Rounding and disclosure control

Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest five for disclosure control. The number of payments has been rounded to the nearest five for disclosure control. Data has been suppressed where it would disclose fewer than five applications.

Payments

In this publication, we report on the value of payments that have been issued by the end of each month and not the payments successfully received by the applicants. After transfers are authorised for payment, then a payment is issued. Clients should receive money in their nominated account within four working days after payment is issued.

Age of applicant

The age that is used for the client is taken from the date of birth that is entered during the completion of the transfer and some small errors may exist. The age that is used in this publication is based on the age of the client at the time of application.

Geography

Cases are assigned to a local authority area by postcode using a Scottish Government lookup file. For some cases, the postcode will not match to the lookup file. This can be because the postcode is not in a Scottish local authority area, or because the postcode has been introduced too recently to appear on the lookup file, for example if a property is in a new development. Postcodes are linked to client profiles and data extracts are automatically updated in the case of a client changing address. As a result, postcodes reflect the latest address of clients and may not be the same as the address at the time of transfer. Therefore a small number of addresses may not reflect the correct local authority at the time of transfer or payment.

Caseload

The methodology used for this publication uses a data extract which makes it possible to identify 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 methodology uses a point in-time measure of the number of people in receipt of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance on the final day of any given month. It counts people from the point that they are approved for a payment until the point that their eligibility ends. Therefore, if a client's eligibility ended on the last day of a month, they would be counted in that month's caseload, but not in subsequent months. However, if the client's eligibility ended before the last day of the month then they would not be included in that month's caseload. A data cut from 28 October 2025 has been used to produce statistics on 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, up to 11.59 pm on 30 September 2025.

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

How the 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.

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 Pensions¹. 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. There is also data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies.

¹ 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.
- ☐ 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 ChiefStatistician@gov.scot.

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