

Scottish Adult DLA and terminal illness

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is replacing Disability Living Allowance for adults in Scotland. All adults living in Scotland who were getting DLA on 21 March 2025 will have their award moved to the new benefit.

Each transfer should take between 4 to 8 weeks and everyone who gets DLA should have their benefit award transferred by the end of 2025.

Clients do not need to do anything. They will be notified when their award begins the transfer process and when it is complete.

There will be no gaps in payments during the transfer and there will not usually be any changes to the amount of money a client gets as a result of the transfer.

Moving to Scottish Adult DLA when receiving DLA under special rules for terminal illness

People already getting DLA under special rules will continue to have their benefit managed and paid by the Department for Work and Pensions until it is transferred to Social Security Scotland. We will not review their Scottish Adult DLA award unless there is a change in the client's circumstances

Being diagnosed as terminally ill before or during the transfer to Scottish Adult DLA

If someone is diagnosed as terminally ill before or during the transfer, they or their representative should tell the Department for Work and Pensions as soon as possible. They should also ask their doctor or healthcare professional to send the Department for Work and Pensions confirmation of their terminal diagnosis using one of the following:

- Benefits Assessment under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS) form
- SR1 form
- DS1500 form
- a letter confirming they have a terminal illness

People who already have one of these documents can send it to the Department for Work and Pensions themselves.

The action the Department for Work and Pensions takes after receiving one of the above documents will depend on the age of the terminally ill person.

People born on or after 9 April 1948

The Department for Work and Pensions will automatically transfer their award to Social Security Scotland. This will happen as quickly as possible. We will then review their award under our special rules for terminal illness process.

Social Security Scotland has a different definition of terminal illness than the Department for Work and Pensions.

While the Department for Work and Pensions requires someone to have a life expectancy of 12 months or less, this is not a requirement under our special rules.

All eligible people will get the highest possible award for the care component of Scottish Adult DLA. People under state pension age who are diagnosed as terminally ill will also get the higher rate of the mobility component. If someone was diagnosed when they were over state pension age mobility payments will remain as the DLA mobility rate.

Eligible people will be paid from the date they became eligible. This is normally the date they were diagnosed as terminally ill.

People born on or before 8 April 1948

The Department for Work and Pensions will review the client's benefit award under their special rules process. If they decide the client is eligible their award will stay with the Department for Work and Pensions until it is selected for transfer. This will happen sometime before December 2025.

If the Department for Work and Pensions decide a client is not eligible under their special rules, their award will be transferred to Social Security Scotland. We will then review their award under our own special rules.

Eligible people will get the highest possible award for the care element of Scottish Adult DLA. Mobility payments will remain the same as the DLA mobility rate

Further information

For more information on Scottish Adult DLA visit mygov.scot/scottish-adult-disability-living-allowance or call us free on **0800 182 2222**.

Independent advice is available from organisation including Citizens Advice Scotland. Contact them on **0800 028 1456**.

How can people contact us?



Call us free on: 0800 182 2222



Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300 244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)



British Sign Language users: contactscotland-bsl.org



Webchat: chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot

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