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Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Personal Independence Payment at October 2024

Key figures

- In October 2024, there were 80,272 people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland – a decrease of 67% since November 2023.
- Of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment, 74% were receiving a Mobility Award.
- 97% of both males and females entitled to Personal Independence Payment were receiving a Daily Living Award.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Personal Independence Payment up to 31 January 2025, will be released in March 2025.

Under the Code of Practice for Statistics[1] we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead[2].

[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 Personal Independence Payment in Scotland at October 2024. 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).

Adult Disability Payment is the replacement for Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance for adults in Scotland. Following a phased pilot, Adult Disability Payment launched nationally on 29 August 2022. Following this national launch, people are now directed to apply for Adult Disability Payment instead of Personal Independence Payment if they live in Scotland.

From 13 June 2022, people living in Scotland who get Personal Independence Payment, and 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 in phases. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance for adults living in Scotland by the end of 2025.

This publication provides statistics for the quarter up to October 2024, hence covering a period where Adult Disability Payment was delivered across Scotland and some clients had their award transferred. As the result of these transfers, we will see a gradual reduction in caseload figures over time as clients move across to Adult Disability Payment. Personal Independence Payment clients will be reported here until their Adult Disability Payments have started.

The Background section provides further detail about the payment.

All tables and charts relating to this publication are available in an Excel workbook on Social Security Scotland statistics website.

If you have any comments or suggestions that you would like to provide around these tables, please email MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot.

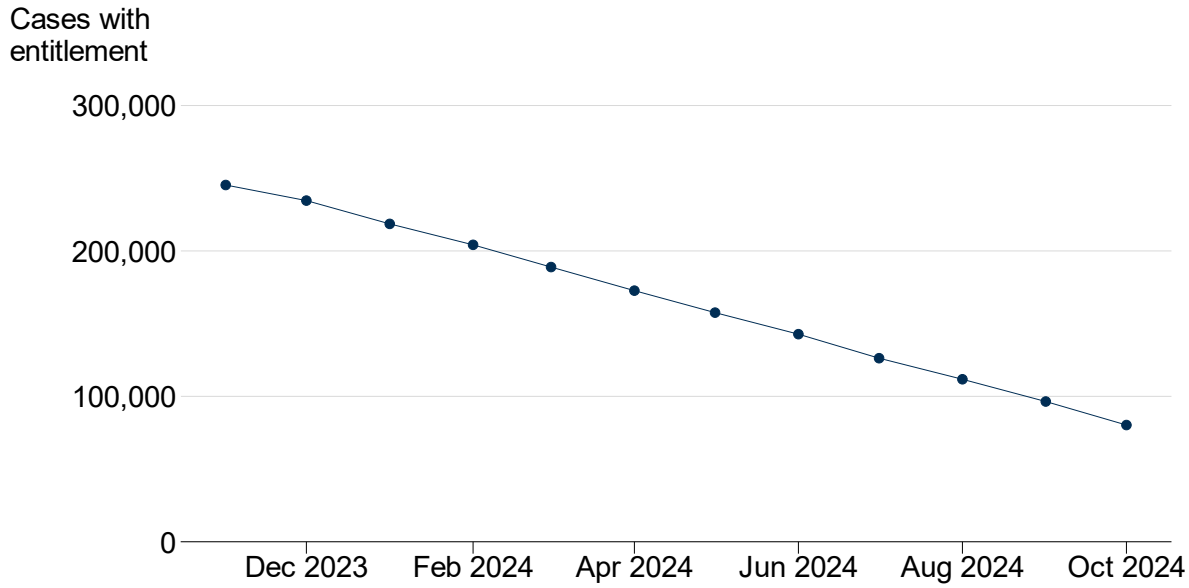
These statistics are being published as Official Statistics in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics[3] to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and value.

[3] The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the UK Statistics Authority website.

Main Findings

Cases with Entitlement

Figure 1: Cases with entitlement to October 2024

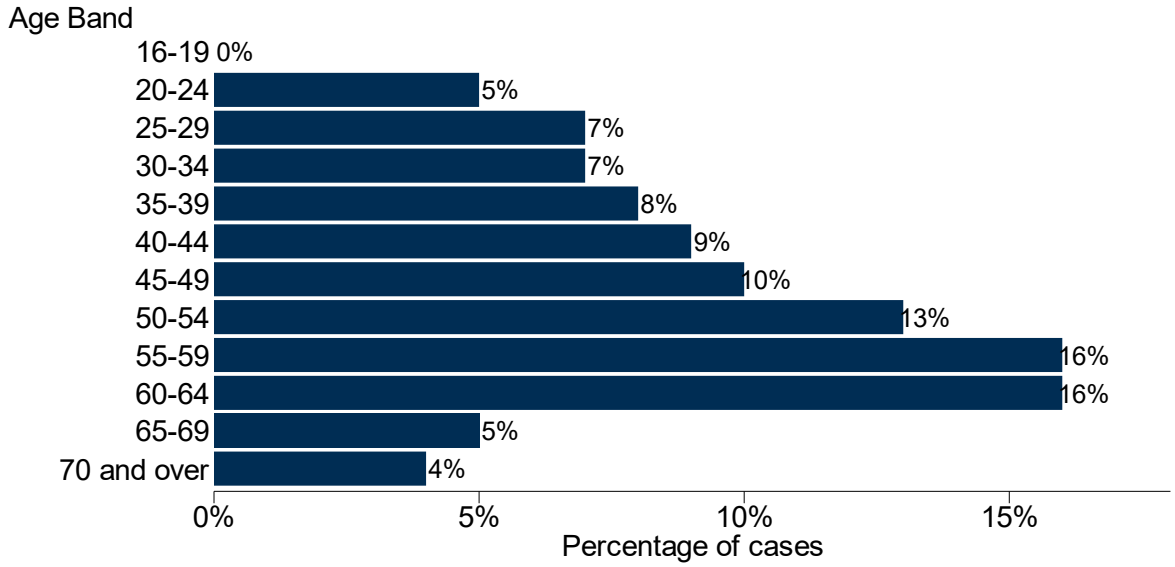


Description of figure 1: Line chart showing number of cases with entitlement to October 2024. The number of cases trends continually downwards since the beginning of the series.

Source: Personal Independence Payment to October 2024 Tables from Social Security Scotland

- In October 2024, there were 80,272 people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland. Between November 2023 and October 2024, there was a decrease of 67% in the number of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland, which was mainly the result of clients having their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment **[Table 1]**.
- 56% of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland were female, and 44% were male **[Table 3]**.
- Of those entitled to Personal Independence Payment in October 2024, 0.1% were eligible under the Special Rules for End of Life. This has decreased from 0.4% in November 2023 **[Table 1]**.

Figure 2: Cases with entitlement, by age band to October 2024

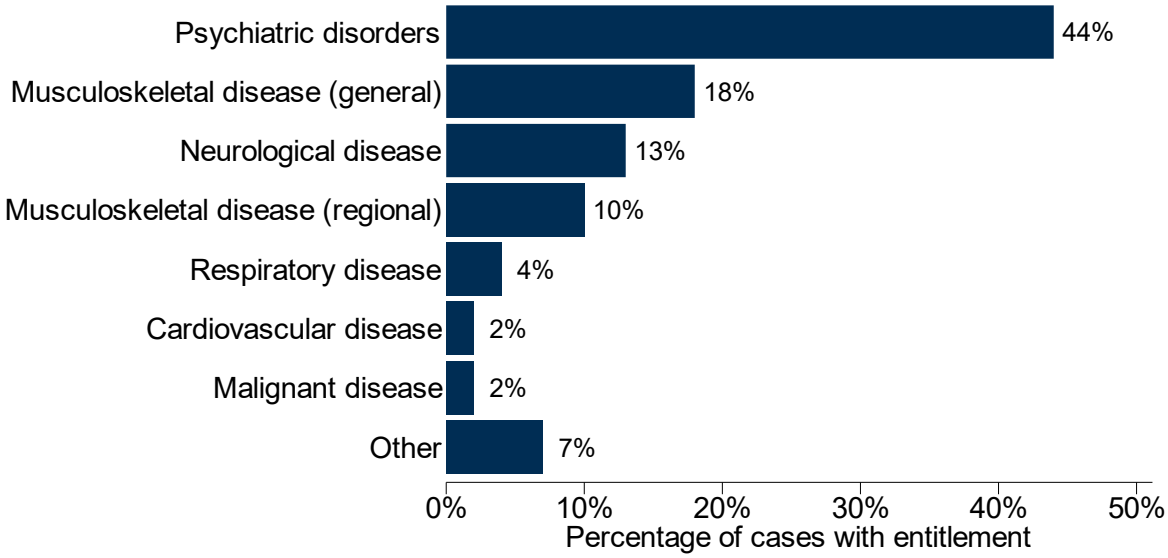


Description of figure 2: Bar chart showing percentage of cases with entitlement by age band to October 2024. The percentage of cases with entitlement increases from the youngest age band of 16-19, peaks in age bands 55-59 and 60-64, and then starts to decrease after age of 65.

Source: Personal Independence Payment to October 2024 Tables from Social Security Scotland

- The number of cases with entitlement increased with age up to the most common age bands of 55-59 and 60-64, with these age bands each accounting for 16% of cases with entitlement. The number of cases with entitlement decreased to 4% in the 70 and over age group. This is because people are generally unable to start a new claim for Personal Independence Payment after they reach State Pension Age (see the Eligibility section) **[Table 3]**.
- In the 16-19 age group, 47% of clients were male, while 54% were female. From age 20 to 19, more than half of clients were male. From age 30 and above, more than half of clients were female **[Table 3]**.

Figure 3: Cases with entitlement, by qualifying condition to October 2024



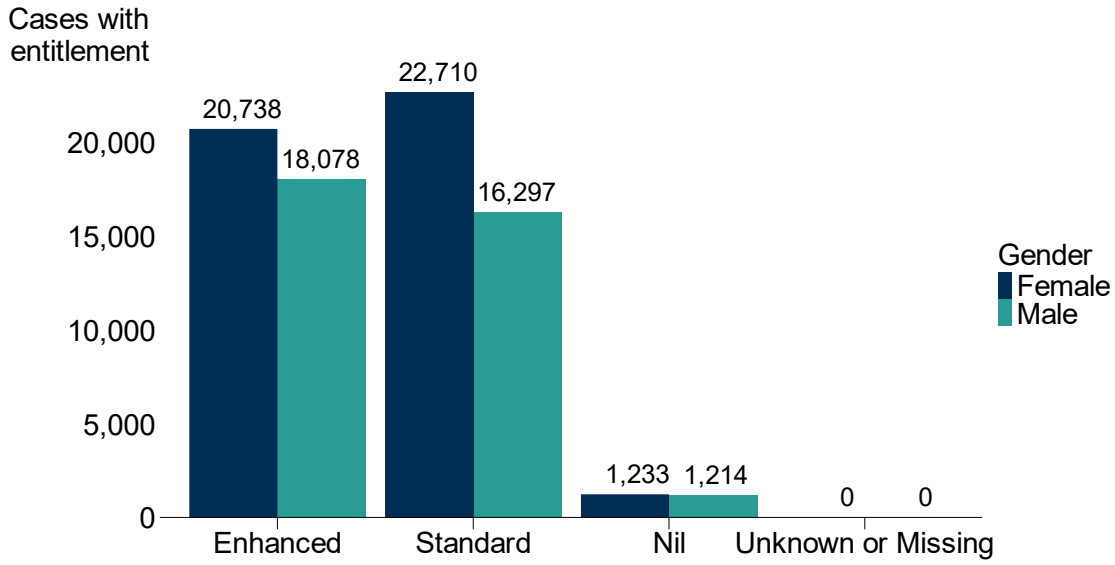
Description of figure 3: Bar chart showing percentage of cases with entitlement by qualifying condition to October 2024. The most common condition was ‘Psychiatric disorders’ with 44% of claims.

Source: Personal Independence Payment to October 2024 Tables from Social Security Scotland

- The four most common disability conditions accounted for 85% of claims. The most common condition was ‘Psychiatric disorders’ with 44% of claims, followed by ‘Musculoskeletal disease (general)’ with 18%, ‘Neurological disease’ with 13% and ‘Musculoskeletal disease (regional)’ with 10% **[Table 2]**.

Daily Living Award

Figure 4: Cases with entitlement, for Daily Living Award, by award type and gender to October 2024



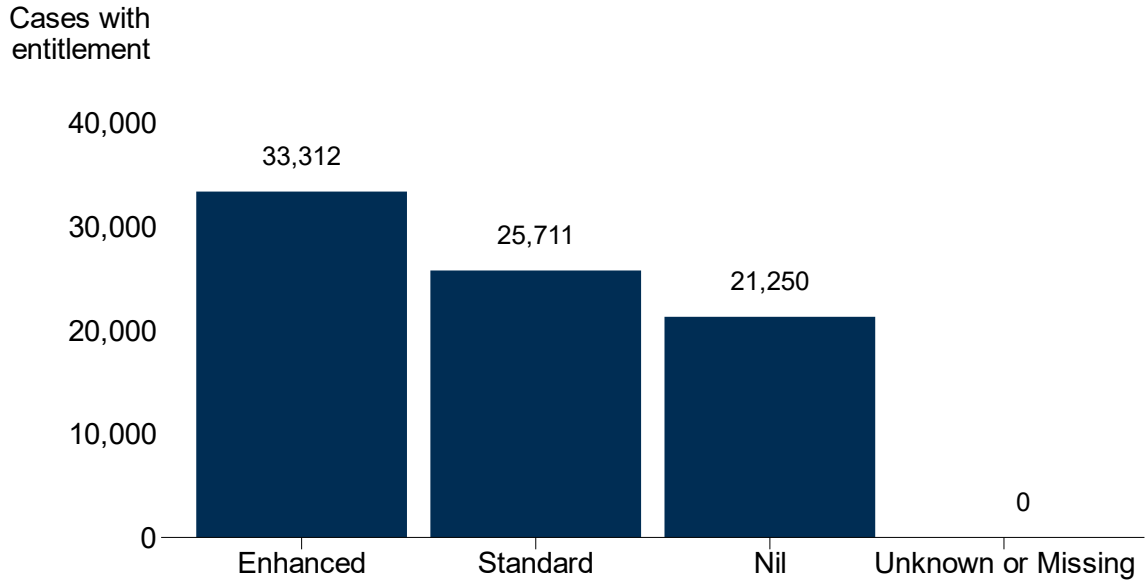
Description of figure 4: Bar chart showing number of cases with entitlement for Daily Living Award status by award type and gender. Enhanced is the largest award type and female the larger gender proportion.

Source: Personal Independence Payment to October 2024 Tables from Social Security Scotland

- In October 2024, 97% of both males and females entitled to Personal Independence Payment were receiving a Daily Living Award **[Tables 5a and 5b]**.
- 51% of males were receiving the Enhanced Daily Living Award, compared to 46% for females **[Tables 5a and 5b]**.
- For males, 46% were receiving the Standard Daily Living Award, and 3% were receiving no Daily Living Award **[Table 5a]**.
- For females, 51% were receiving the Standard Daily Living Award, and 3% were receiving no Daily Living Award **[Table 5b]**.
- The percentage of people receiving the Enhanced Daily Living Award was highest for 20-24 year olds. For males, 77% of 20-24 year olds received the Enhanced Daily Living Award and for females in the same age group, this was 66%. This compares to between 40% and 57% for males and females in all age groups from 30 years and above **[Tables 5a and 5b]**. Those age groups reflect the age at the latest caseload date, not the age at the point in time the client first joined the caseload.

Mobility Award

Figure 5: Cases with entitlement for Mobility Status, by award type to October 2024



Description of figure 5: Bar chart showing number of cases with entitlement for Mobility status by award type. Enhanced is the largest award type.

Source: Personal Independence Payment to October 2024 Tables from Social Security Scotland

- 74% of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment were receiving a Mobility Award in October 2024 **[Table 4]**.
- Of those entitled to Personal Independence Payment, 41% were receiving the Enhanced Mobility Award and 32% were receiving the Standard Mobility Award. The remaining 26% were not receiving a Mobility Award **[Table 4]**.
- The proportions of those receiving a Mobility Award vary with age, with 47% of 16-19 year olds in receipt of Personal Independence Payment getting the Enhanced Mobility Award in October 2024. This decreased to 34% for ages 30-34 and then increased again up to between 43% - 48% for age groups of 55 or over **[Table 4]**.

Adult Disability Payment caseload and Personal Independence Payment cases with entitlement at October 2024

- Adult Disability Payment is the replacement for Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance for adults in Scotland. Following a phased pilot, Adult Disability Payment launched nationally on 29 August 2022. Following this national launch, people are now directed to apply for Adult Disability Payment instead of Personal Independence Payment if they live in Scotland. Data on new applications and payments issued for Adult Disability Payment is available – see Social Security Scotland.
- 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 Disability Living Allowance for children, Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance for adults and Attendance Allowance 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 to Social Security Scotland in phases. The case transfer process began on 13 June 2022.
- The Personal Independence Payment figures are presented to the end of October 2024, relating to a period following the launch of Adult Disability Payment. This overlap accounts for new applications for Adult Disability Payment being accepted nationally for 26 months.
- In order to more accurately reflect the active caseload for adults on disability benefits in Scotland, the number of people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment and the number of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland are presented here. However, it is important to note that Social Security Scotland and the Department for Work and Pensions use different methodologies to calculate these figures (see Background Note). The two figures are presented separately as an estimation of the active caseload in Scotland. An explanation is included in the Background Note, and caution is advised when considering the use of these figures.
- As of 31 October 2024, there were 374,655 people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment. Of these, 130,450 were new applicants and 244,205 were people who have had their award transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. This is compared to 80,272 people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland in October 2024 **[Table 6]**.
- Between November 2023 and October 2024, the number of people entitled to Personal Independence Payment in Scotland fell by 165,063. During the same period, there was an increase of 161,100 clients who had their case transferred to Adult Disability Payment. However, case transfers to Adult Disability Payment do not fully account for the reduction of Personal Independence caseload in Scotland, as some people will no longer receive Personal Independence Payment for other reasons **[Table 6]**.

Background to Personal Independence 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 2016[4] gives Scottish Parliament powers over a number of social security benefits that had been administered to people in Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions. On 1 April 2020, Personal Independence Payment became one of the benefits to have executive competency transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to the Scottish Government. Social Security Scotland is the executive agency of Scottish Government that is responsible for delivering the Scottish social security benefits.

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.

Adult Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Personal Independence Payment, began receiving applications as part of a pilot which launched on 21 March 2022. The pilot launched for new applicants living in the local authorities of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross and it then expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022. It further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022, before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022. This publication provides statistics for the quarter up to 31 October 2024, hence covering a period where the Adult Disability Payment was delivered across Scotland.

New applications for Adult Disability Payment are reported separately and are only included within these statistics in Table 6 on Adult Disability Payment caseload. Quarterly statistics on Adult Disability Payment are available on Social Security Scotland statistics website. These include data on Adult Disability Payment applications and payments as well as data on clients who have transferred to 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

[4] Information is provided on the Scotland Act 2016 webpage.

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 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 claim Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance

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 lived in Scotland and who turned 16 on or after 1 September 2020, were able to continue getting Disability Living Allowance until they turned 18. However, they were still eligible to apply for Personal Independence Payment if they chose to. Those who remained on Disability Living Allowance for Children, in these circumstances, were some of the first to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment, its replacement in Scotland, which launched nationally in November 2021.

Eligibility

Following the national launch of Adult Disability Payment, on 29 August 2022, people are now directed to apply for Adult Disability Payment instead of Personal Independence Payment if they live in Scotland.

A person can get Personal Independence Payment whether they are working or not. It is non-means-tested, non-contributory and tax-free. It is also 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.

The person must be aged 16 or over and usually have not reached State Pension age to apply. Personal Independence Payment can be paid to 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 has not changed.

The person claiming must also have a health condition or disability where they:

- 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. The mobility part of Personal Independence Payment may be given if the person needs help going out or moving around. The daily living part of Personal Independence Payment may be given if the person needs 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 medicines or treatments
- making decisions about money
- engaging with other people

The amount given depends on how the person's condition affects them, not the condition itself and they will be assessed by a health professional to work out the level of help they can get.

The person needs 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 they apply. If they have recently returned from living in an European Economic Area country, they might be able to get Personal Independence Payment sooner.

There are different rules, where a person can claim more quickly, if their doctor or a medical professional has said they might have less than 12 months to live. Clients who are nearing the end of their lives have their claims fast tracked and for the majority of people, receive the highest levels of benefit, known as Special Rules for End of Life. From 3 April 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions have 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 claim, 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 covers to October 2024 and as such the changed rules will apply to some clients accordingly.

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 client has completed the initial Personal Independence Payment claim process. Following this a client completes a 'Part 2' form, an Assessment Provider conducts an assessment, and the Department for Work and Pensions makes a decision on the application. Not all registrations result in an 'award'.

As discussed in the section above, Personal Independence Payment is comprised of two components: i) Daily Living and ii) Mobility, both of which can be paid at enhanced or standard rate. A client's need for one component does not affect the need for the other component.

Personal Independence Payment 'claims with entitlement' statistics show a total for all entitled cases. They show 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).

New clients are now directed to apply for Adult Disability Payment instead of Personal Independence Payment if they live in Scotland. From 29 August 2022, when Adult Disability Payment was launched nationally, people in Scotland who complete a Personal Independence Payment form and send it to the Department for Work and Pensions will have their application re-directed to Social Security Scotland, where it will be treated as a new application for Adult Disability Payment. This will still result in a Personal Independence Payment registration.

Registrations and reassessments data is published by the Department for Work and Pensions on Stat-Xplore.

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Operational measures implemented by the Department for Work and Pensions in late March 2020 in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic 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 2020 for voluntary claims for Personal Independence Payment, although new invitations to apply for Personal Independence Payment for working age Disability Living Allowance clients 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.

Background to Adult Disability Payment caseload and Personal Independence Payment cases with entitlement

Active Caseload for Adult Disability Payment in Scotland

In order to more accurately reflect the active caseload for adults on disability payments in Scotland, the number of people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment and Personal Independence Payment cases with entitlement in Scotland has been calculated. However, it is important to note that these benefits each use different methodologies. 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: Adult Disability Payment caseload measure

Caseload is a derived statistic calculated based on the number of people who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet. For this publication, this includes people who received a payment or had a payment authorised at 31 October 2024.

Payments are made every four weeks, in arrears, with the start date of the application being the date that the applicant registered their part 1 form. The methodology uses a point-in-time measure of the number of people in receipt of Adult Disability Payment 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 10 December 2024 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 31 October 2024.

The Department for Work and Pensions: Personal Independence Payment cases with entitlement measure

Personal Independence Payment 'claims with entitlement' statistics show a total for all entitled cases. They show 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). A case is counted as a "case with entitlement" if there has been an onflow without an off flow, on the last day of the month. The onflow is based on the date a decision is made and therefore will include those who are in receipt of, or have been approved for, a payment in the caseload period, even if they have not been paid yet.

Comparison of Adult Disability Payment caseload and Personal Independence Payment cases with entitlement methodology

The Personal Independence Payment publication and the Adult Disability Payment statistics are not directly comparable due to methodology differences:

- Personal Independence Payment statistics include cases in entitlement where the payment has been suspended (e.g. if they are in hospital), these types of cases are not included in the Adult Disability Payment caseload statistics.

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 on the UK Government website.

The Department for Work and Pensions produces summary tables for Personal Independence Payment in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly publications, and provide these to the Scottish Government for publication.

From September 2022, the commentary in the quarterly statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions focuses on claims in England & Wales, with a separate section covering Scotland to reflect devolution of social security assistance. Earlier releases covered all claims in Great Britain. However, since the introduction of Adult Disability Payment in Scotland, trends in Scottish Personal Independence Payment cases are expected to diverge from England & Wales.

Personal Independence Payment data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Personal Independence Payment statistics and the quality of the statistics is available on the UK Government website.

Personal Independence Payment data is 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. 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.

As a result of the changes in the way statistics are presented by the Department for Work and Pensions from September 2022, a new high level geography breakdown has been added on Stat-Xplore to allow users to easily select people with “DWP policy ownership” (England, Wales, plus abroad/unknown cases) or “Policy devolved to Scotland” (those residing in Scotland but with their Personal Independence Payment claim still administered by the Department for Work and Pensions). Footnotes have been added to alert users to the changes in Scotland.

Personal Independence Payment Official Statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions formerly referred to Special Rules for Terminal Illness (SRTI). From June 2022, these were updated to use the term Special Rules for End of Life

(SREL) instead. This change was made for all commentary, tables and Stat-Xplore, with notes added to explain the amendment.

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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.

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