

**Department of Health and Social Services**

**Disability Living Allowance  
Attendance Allowance  
Invalid Care Allowance**

**Quarterly Summary of Statistics**

**August 1997**



**A Government Statistical Publication**

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## **Glossary of terms and conventions**

### **Glossary of terms**

#### *Allowances current*

The number of people in receipt of DLA, AA or ICA. This excludes people with entitlement where payment has been suspended.

#### *Main disabling condition*

This is the medical cause of the main disability which gives rise to the award of DLA or AA.

#### *Review*

A person who is dissatisfied with the result of their last claim can ask for the claim to be reviewed.

### **Conventions**

.. Not available

## Section 1: Disability Living Allowance

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## Introduction

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) replaced and extended Attendance Allowance and Mobility Allowance in April 1992 for people who became disabled before the age of 65. People already in receipt of either Attendance Allowance or Mobility Allowance before April 1992 were invited to make a 'top up' claim for the other component.

DLA is payable to people who are disabled and who have personal care needs, mobility needs or both. DLA consists of two components:

The care component: for people who need help with personal care;

The mobility component: for people who need help with getting around (this component is not available to children under five).

The care component is paid at one of three rates and the mobility component at one of two rates. These are shown in table 1.8.

To qualify for DLA the need for help must have existed for three months (the qualifying period) and be expected to last for at least a further six months (the prospective test). People who are not expected to live longer than six months because of an illness do not have to satisfy either the qualifying period or the prospective test. Once awarded, DLA will continue to be paid as long as the conditions of entitlement are met.

**Table 1.1: DLA allowances current**

	August 1994	February 1995	August 1995	February 1996	August 1996	November 1996
<b>All components</b>	<b>73371</b>	<b>83913</b>	<b>90866</b>	<b>98107</b>	<b>104447</b>	<b>107839</b>
Higher rate care only	3044	3027	2827	2636	2633	2786
Middle rate care only	6079	6435	6631	6648	6992	7348
Lower rate care only	5392	6791	7825	8570	8882	9083
Higher rate mobility only	10814	11255	11357	11912	12167	12415
Lower rate mobility only	1858	1824	1856	1992	2335	2458
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	12439	14728	16027	17414	18533	19149
Higher rate care and lower rate mobility	4187	4874	5347	5977	6916	7014
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	12983	15906	18084	19773	21091	21777
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	7003	7987	8917	9785	10373	10327
Lower rate care and higher rate mobility	7350	8985	9831	11033	11989	12805
Lower rate care and lower rate mobility	2222	2101	2164	2367	2536	2677

**1.1 continued**

	February 1997	May 1997	August 1997
<b>All components</b>	<b>110390</b>	<b>112691</b>	<b>114386</b>
Higher rate care only	2968	3079	3160
Middle rate care only	7701	8126	8450
Lower rate care only	9359	9658	10035
Higher rate mobility only	12495	12491	12509
Lower rate mobility only	2560	2656	2750
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	19457	19817	20028
Higher rate care and lower rate mobility	6985	6983	6885
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	22315	22781	22971
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	10308	10245	10269
Lower rate care and higher rate mobility	13424	13915	14242
Lower rate care and lower rate mobility	2818	2940	3087

**Table 1.2: Decisions on initial claims<sup>1</sup>**

	1992/93 <sup>2</sup>	1993/94 <sup>2</sup>	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1.4.97 to 31.8.97
Initial claims	17999	41751	40572	35515	35055	12798
<b>Initial claims decided</b>	<b>17959</b>	<b>41471</b>	<b>40147</b>	<b>35148</b>	<b>34822</b>	<b>12722</b>
First awards <sup>1</sup> :						
<b>All first awards</b>	<b>13305</b>	<b>22539</b>	<b>19546</b>	<b>15495</b>	<b>15282</b>	<b>5512</b>
Higher rate care only	861	853	572	267	720	279
Middle rate care only	1536	2265	1455	889	1433	755
Lower rate care only	1071	3065	2874	2205	2190	1120
Higher rate mobility only	2625	2687	2506	1874	1669	473
Lower rate mobility only	791	900	277	293	446	186
Higher rate care &:- higher rate mobility	1073	2180	2463	1772	1768	516
lower rate mobility	470	983	873	874	587	137
Middle rate care &:- higher rate mobility	1520	3537	4044	3138	2578	799
lower rate mobility	1132	2344	1538	1620	777	299
Lower rate care &:- higher rate mobility	1405	2589	2507	2119	2543	762
lower rate mobility	821	1136	437	444	571	186
Rejections	4654	18932	20601	19653	19540	7210

1. Figures do not include first awards made as a result of review or appeal decisions.

2. Includes top ups.

**Table 1.3: Decisions on review**

Year	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1.4.97 to 31.8.97
Requests for review	392	15840	22270	21261	22486	10499
Decisions						
<b>All decisions</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>15356</b>	<b>21170</b>	<b>19614</b>	<b>21699</b>	<b>10065</b>
Review allowed	279	4319	3457	2655	2489	687
Award increased(1)	14	4113	6380	5105	4621	1976
Other decisions	84	6924	11333	11854	14589	7402

1. Rates of either component are increased.

**Table 1.4: Awards by sex and age in year ending 31 August 1997<sup>1</sup>**

	Total	Men	Women
<b>All ages</b>	<b>20700</b>	<b>9880</b>	<b>10820</b>
0-4	1012	591	421
5-9	708	423	285
10-15	469	262	207
16-19	425	221	204
20-24	622	296	326
25-29	982	432	550
30-34	1360	625	735
35-39	1542	679	863
40-44	1632	715	917
45-49	2113	963	1150
50-54	2669	1229	1440
55-59	2877	1392	1485
60-64	3091	1500	1591
65 and over	1198	552	646

1. Figures relate to first awards made as a result of initial claims, reviews or appeals.

**Table 1.5: Awards by main disabling condition in year ending 31 August 1997<sup>1 2</sup>**

	All Awards	Care component only	Mobility component only	Care and mobility component
<b>All conditions</b>	<b>20700</b>	<b>8728</b>	<b>2868</b>	<b>9104</b>
Terminally ill	531	89	4	438
Arthritis	4055	1543	542	1970
Back ailments	2132	586	334	1212
Muscles/joint/bone disease	2156	984	301	871
Blindness	258	86	42	130
Deafness	177	43	28	106
Heart disease	1517	492	367	658
Chest disease	651	210	151	290
Asthma	1011	677	134	200
Stroke-related	388	140	20	228
Peripheral vascular disease	167	44	52	71
Epilepsy	542	445	22	75
Neurological disorder	464	251	38	175
Multiple sclerosis	155	67	10	78
Chronic fatigue	220	79	16	125
Diabetes	351	231	20	100
Learning difficulties	572	239	83	250
Other mental health causes	3460	1561	551	1348
Alcohol abuse	193	129	6	58
Renal disorders	119	46	14	59
Bowels/stomach disorder	123	79	7	37
Skin disease	223	177	15	31
Malignant disease	575	210	33	332
Conversion*	106	71	22	13
Other	554	249	56	249

1. Figures relate to first awards made as a result of initial claims, reviews and appeals.

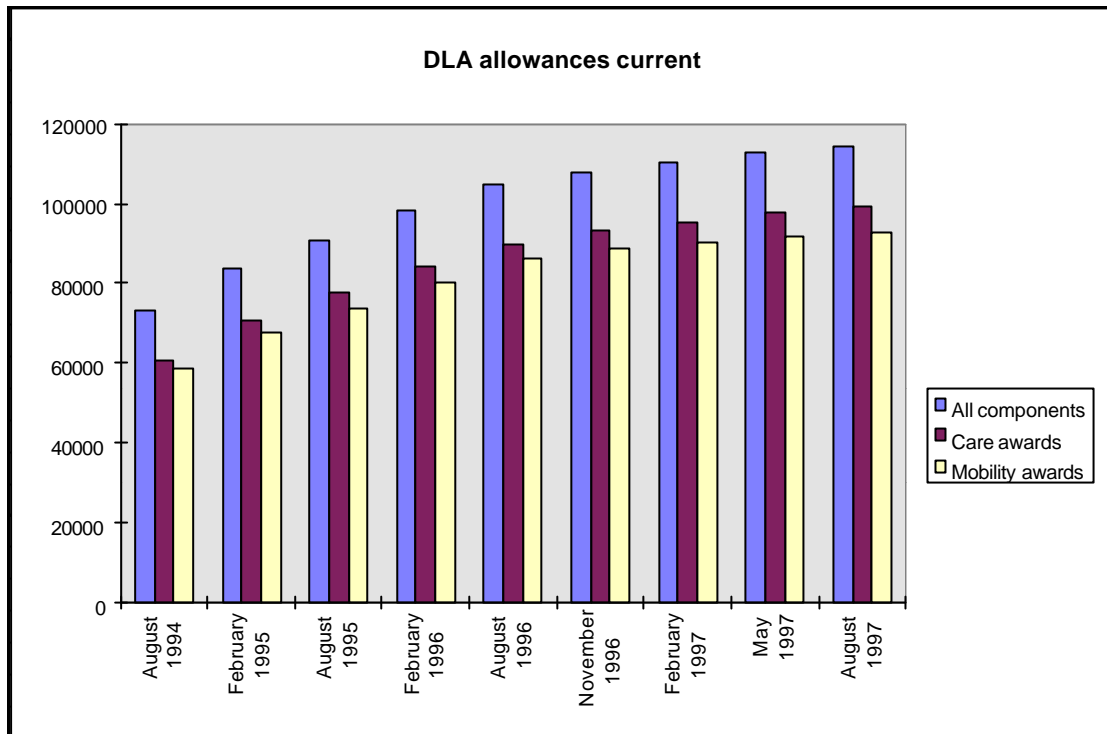
2. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

\* Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system.

**Table 1.6: DLA allowances current by age and sex at 31 August 1997**

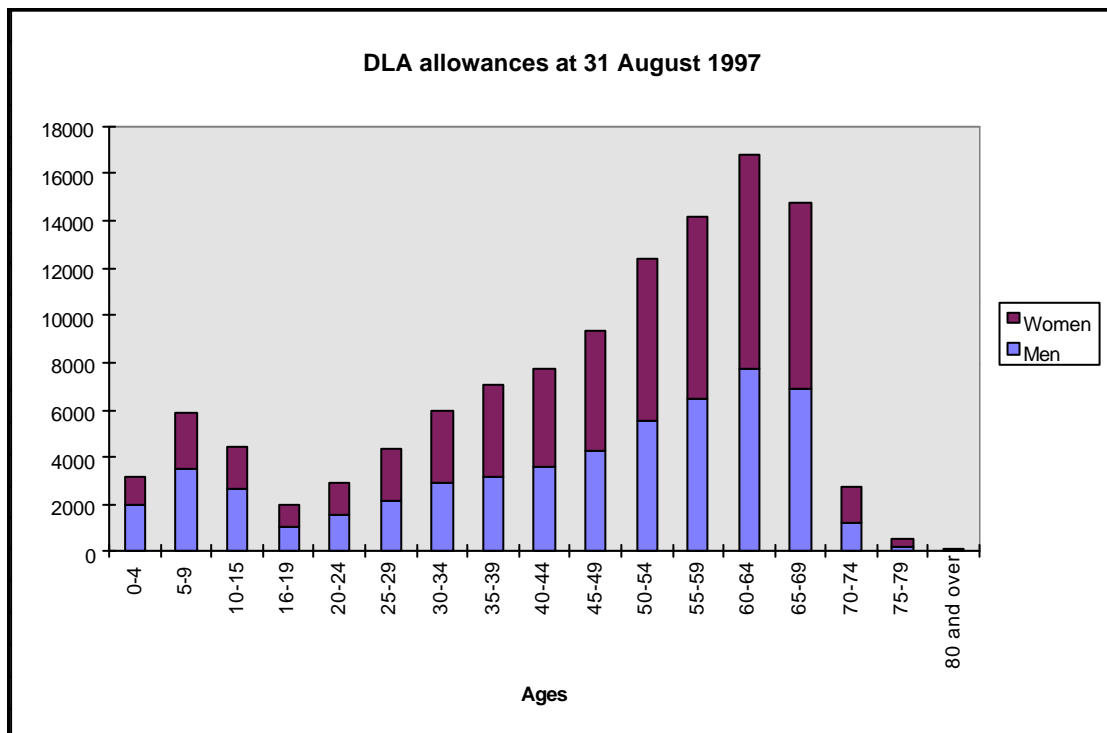
	Total	Men	Women
<b>All ages</b>	<b>114386</b>	<b>54898</b>	<b>59488</b>
0-4	3198	1951	1247
5-9	5890	3514	2376
10-15	4400	2644	1756
16-19	2009	1074	935
20-24	2942	1547	1395
25-29	4370	2149	2221
30-34	5994	2891	3103
35-39	7016	3174	3842
40-44	7691	3573	4118
45-49	9367	4277	5090
50-54	12386	5539	6847
55-59	14196	6505	7691
60-64	16769	7718	9051
65-69	14777	6870	7907
70-74	2723	1205	1518
75-79	563	231	332
80 and over	95	36	59

**Chart 1.1: DLA allowances current<sup>1</sup>**



1. 1994 figures are based on clerical counts.

**Chart 1.2: DLA allowances current by age and sex at 31 August 1997**



**Table 1.7: Allowances current by main disabling condition at 31 August 1997<sup>1</sup>**

	All Awards	Care component only	Mobility component only	Care and mobility component
<b>All conditions</b>	<b>114386</b>	<b>21645</b>	<b>15259</b>	<b>77482</b>
Terminally ill	799	30	4	765
Arthritis	22324	2881	2428	17015
Back ailments	8471	1176	1006	6289
Muscles/joint/bone disease	11224	2795	1440	6989
Blindness	1725	73	141	1511
Deafness	1311	109	106	1096
Heart disease	10179	616	2397	7166
Chest disease	3996	194	913	2889
Asthma	7189	4237	814	2138
Stroke-related	2490	234	139	2117
Peripheral vascular disease	1097	25	356	716
Epilepsy	3758	1134	47	2577
Neurological disorder	2166	479	123	1564
Multiple sclerosis	1112	28	64	1020
Chronic fatigue	745	176	66	503
Diabetes	1563	556	77	930
Learning difficulties	6689	580	568	5541
Other mental health causes	12795	3152	1514	8129
Skin disease	1216	971	34	211
Malignant disease	1463	338	72	1053
Conversion*	7981	543	2719	4719
Other	4093	1318	231	2544

1. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

\* Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system.

**Table 1.8: Rates of DLA**

Date	<i>£ per week</i>				
	Care component			Mobility component	
	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lower rate	Higher rate	Lower rate
6 April 1992	43.35	28.95	11.55	30.30	11.55
10 April 1993	44.90	30.00	11.95	31.40	11.95
11 April 1994	45.70	30.55	12.15	31.95	12.15
10 April 1995	46.70	31.20	12.40	32.65	12.40
8 April 1996	48.50	32.40	12.90	33.90	12.90
7 April 1997	49.50	33.10	13.15	34.60	13.15

## Section 2: Attendance Allowance

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## Introduction

Attendance allowance (AA) is a benefit for people aged 65 or over who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need someone with them to help with personal care. They could need either frequent help coping with their bodily functions or constant care to stop them hurting themselves or others. This could be either during the day or night.

A claimant who needs help both during the day and at night can get the higher rate of AA. A claimant who needs help either during the day or at night gets the lower rate. Since October 1990, people who have a terminal illness, and are therefore not likely to live for more than 6 months, have also been invited to claim. Since April 1992, people who were disabled before the age of 65 receive Disability Living Allowance instead of AA.

**Table 2.1: AA allowances current <sup>1 2</sup>**

Year	All awards	Higher rate	Lower rate
31 December 1988	29394	14999	14395
31 December 1989	32374	16287	16087
31 December 1990	36455	18637	17818
31 December 1991	38877	19258	19619
31 December 1992	32977	17392	15585
31 December 1993	54767	29033	25734
31 December 1994	56111	..	..
31 December 1995	63137	..	..
31 August 1996	61389	40120	21269
30 November 1996	62697	41350	21347
28 February 1997	62607	41542	21065
31 May 1997	63472	42491	20981
31 August 1997	64282	43350	20932

1. 1988-1995 figures are taken from the Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics. and are based on clerical counts. 1996 figures and beyond are taken from the quarterly computer scan and do not include clerical cases.
2. Due to computerisation, rate breakdowns for 1994 and 1995 are not available.

**Table 2.2: Decisions on initial claims<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan-96	Feb-96	Mar-96	Apr-96	May-96	Jun-96	Jul-96	Aug-96	Sep-96	Oct-96
Initial claims	1583	1444	1201	1044	1653	1960	1613	1287	1308	1605
Initial claims decided										
<b>All decisions</b>	<b>1573</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>1613</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>1592</b>
First awards:										
Higher rate	752	707	601	508	817	928	745	675	682	816
Lower rate	399	364	282	246	447	559	458	289	305	466
Rejections	422	356	302	271	370	465	410	302	300	310

**2.2 continued**

Year	Nov-96	Dec-96	Jan-97	Feb-97	Mar-97	Apr-97	May-97	Jun-97	Jul-97	Aug-97
Initial claims	1328	..	1120	..	1339	1370	1056	1387	1107	1012
Initial claims decided										
<b>All decisions</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1331</b>	<b>1349</b>	<b>1040</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>1003</b>
First awards:										
Higher rate	682	..	575	..	715	744	546	783	561	488
Lower rate	330	..	285	..	324	319	268	332	267	241
Rejections	309	..	250	..	292	286	226	260	270	274

1. Figures exclude first awards made as a result of review or appeal decisions.

**Table 2.3: Decisions on review**

Year	Jan-96	Feb-96	Mar-96	Apr-96	May-96	Jun-96	Jul-96	Aug-96	Sep-96	Oct-96
Requests for review	248	282	375	410	366	352	478	433	508	454
Decisions										
<b>All decisions</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>427</b>
Review allowed	38	56	74	98	87	74	70	101	154	101
Award increased	115	133	171	165	174	164	215	176	171	182
Other decisions	82	87	126	131	97	103	169	146	168	144

**2.3 continued**

Year	Nov-96	Dec-96	Jan-97	Feb-97	Mar-97	Apr-97	May-97	Jun-97	Jul-97	Aug-97
Requests for review	334	..	343	..	285	330	302	279	272	290
Decisions										
<b>All decisions</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>282</b>
Review allowed	65	..	93	..	65	76	82	79	58	99
Award increased	183	..	152	..	135	165	142	128	146	105
Other decisions	73	..	84	..	74	82	67	63	63	78

**Table 2.4: Awards by sex and age in year ending 31 August 1997<sup>1</sup>**

	Total	Men	Women
<b>All ages</b>	<b>15106</b>	<b>5436</b>	<b>9670</b>
65-69	1624	689	935
70-74	3498	1416	2082
75-79	3866	1493	2373
80-84	3173	1073	2100
85-89	2020	595	1425
90 and over	925	170	755

1. Figures relate to first awards made as a result of initial claims, reviews or appeals.

**Table 2.5: Awards by main disabling condition in year ending 31 August 1997<sup>1 2</sup>**

	All Awards	Higher rate	Lower rate
<b>All conditions</b>	<b>15106</b>	<b>10610</b>	<b>4496</b>
Terminally ill	690	690	0
Arthritis	3984	2727	1257
Back ailments	258	158	100
Muscles/joint/bone disease	167	105	62
Trauma to Limbs	103	70	33
Blindness	385	203	182
Heart disease	1796	1229	567
Chest disease	779	569	210
Asthma	171	126	45
Stroke-related	739	545	194
Peripheral vascular disease	170	109	61
Frailty	1127	739	388
Neurological disorder	351	208	143
Parkinsons disease	172	130	42
Diabetes	253	154	99
Mental health causes	1038	758	280
Malignant disease	350	288	62
Other	328	214	114
Conversion*	2245	1588	657

1. Figures relate to first awards made as a result of initial claims, reviews and appeals.

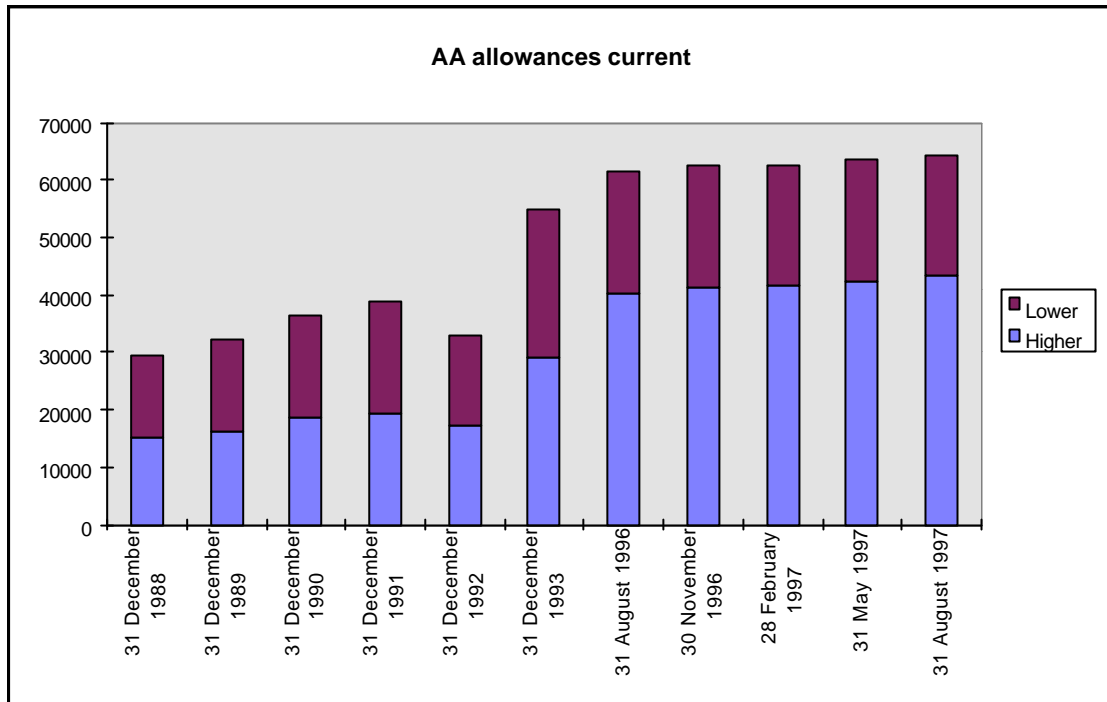
2. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

\* Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system.

**Table 2.6: AA allowances current by age and sex at 31 August 1997**

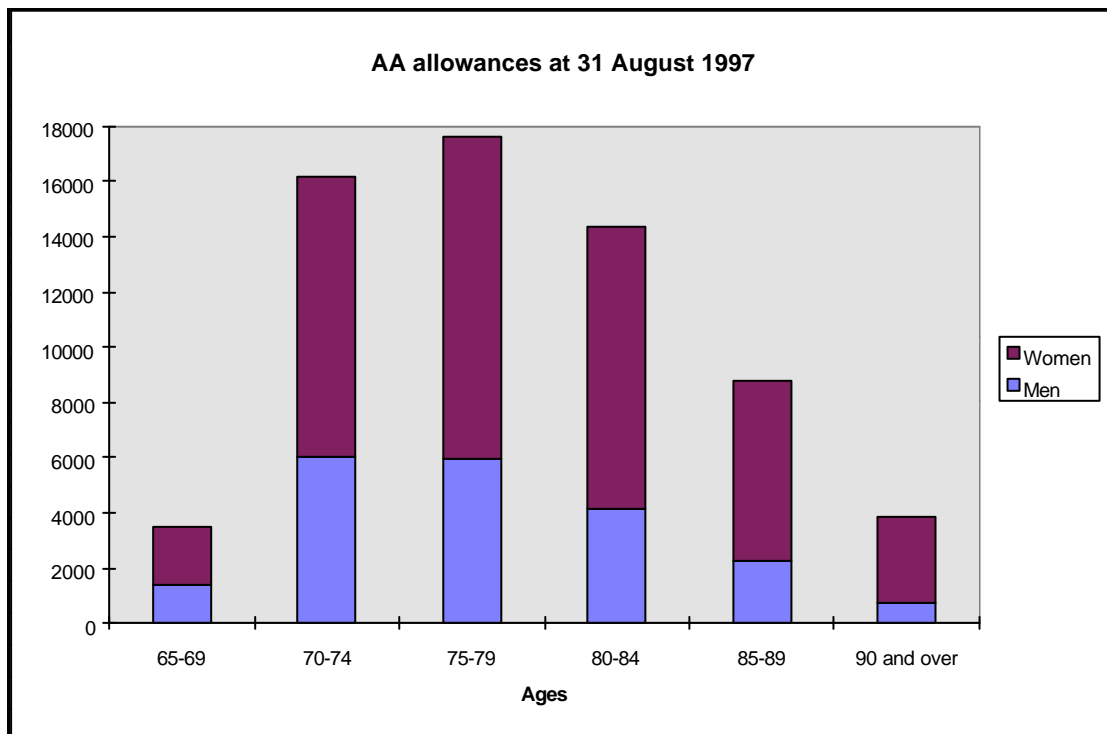
	Total	Men	Women
All ages	64282	20595	43687
65-69	3498	1398	2100
70-74	16203	6022	10181
75-79	17581	5942	11639
80-84	14337	4184	10153
85-89	8797	2298	6499
90 and over	3866	751	3115

**Chart 2.1: AA allowances current<sup>1</sup>**



1. 1988-1995 figures are taken from the Northern Ireland Annual Abstract of Statistics. Due to computerisation, rate breakdowns for 1994 and 1995 are not available.

**Chart 2.2: AA allowances current by age and sex at 31 August 1997**



**Table 2.7: Allowances current by main disabling condition at 31 August 1997<sup>1</sup>**

	All Awards	Higher rate	Lower rate
<b>All conditions</b>	<b>64282</b>	<b>43350</b>	<b>20932</b>
Terminally ill	480	480	0
Arthritis	7403	5045	2358
Back ailments	483	303	180
Muscles/joint/bone disease	377	246	131
Blindness	659	315	344
Heart disease	3195	2153	1042
Chest disease	1334	950	384
Stroke-related	1262	913	349
Frailty	1761	1158	603
Neurological disorder	593	363	230
Diabetes	380	238	142
Mental health causes	1470	1079	391
Malignant disease	441	355	86
Other	1534	1044	490
Conversion*	42910	28708	14202

1. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

\* Disabling conditions were not recorded for existing cases when they were transferred to the computer system.

**Table 2.8: Rates of AA**

Date	<i>£ per week</i>	
	Higher rate	Lower rate
6 April 1992	43.35	28.95
10 April 1993	44.90	30.00
11 April 1994	45.70	30.55
10 April 1995	46.70	31.20
8 April 1996	48.50	32.40
7 April 1997	49.50	33.10

### Section 3: Invalid Care Allowance

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## Introduction

Invalid Care Allowance (ICA) is a non-contributory benefit for men and women:

- who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week
- who are eligible before their 65th birthday
- who are not gainfully employed (i.e. not earning more than £50 per week after certain deductions) and
- who are not in full-time education

The severely disabled person must be getting either

- the higher or middle rate of DLA care component, or
- AA, or
- a Constant Attendance Allowance at the maximum rate under the War Pensions or Industrial Injuries Scheme.

Someone who gets ICA can have extra money added on for their dependants.

**Table 3.1: Allowances current at end of year by sex**

Year ending	All persons	Men	Women
November 1992	10927	1846	9081
November 1993	15921	3009	12912
November 1994	20900	4240	16660
November 1995	28139	6318	21821
November 1996	33294	7979	25315
January 1998	30003 <sup>1</sup>	8307	21696

1. The January 1998 figures were obtained from the new ICA computer system which was introduced in May 1997. These figures are therefore not directly comparable to those for previous years.

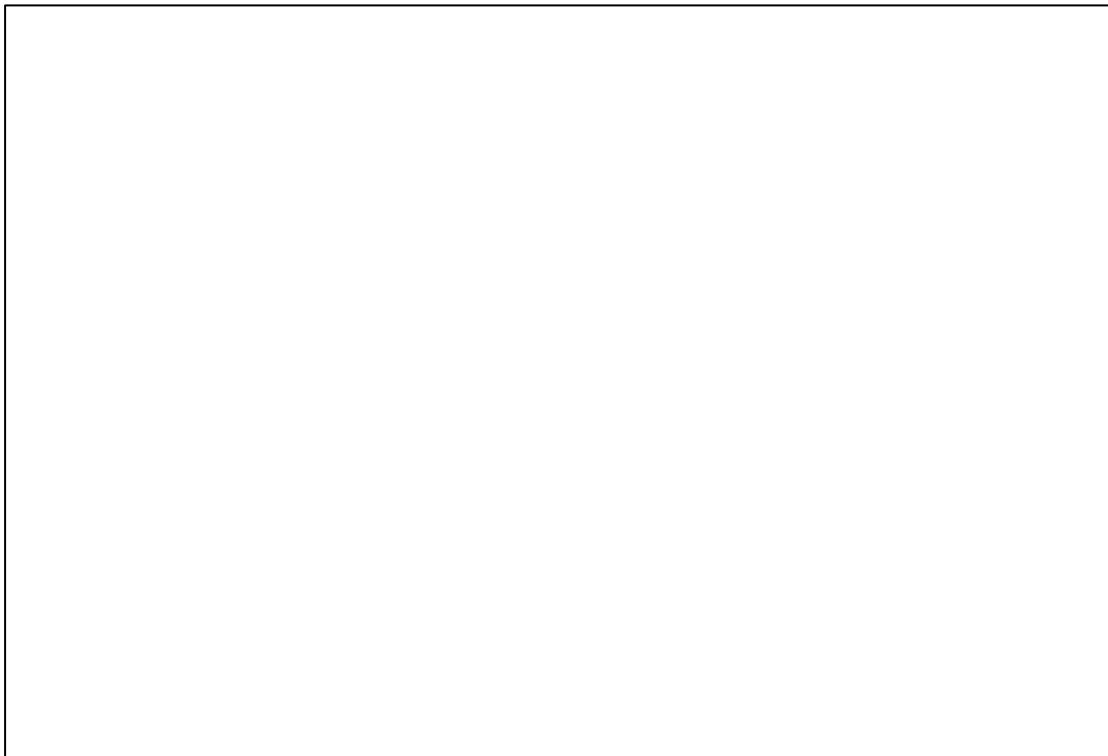
**Table 3.2: Claims and awards**

Year ending	Claims received	Awards	Disallowances
January 1998	11719	7738	1426

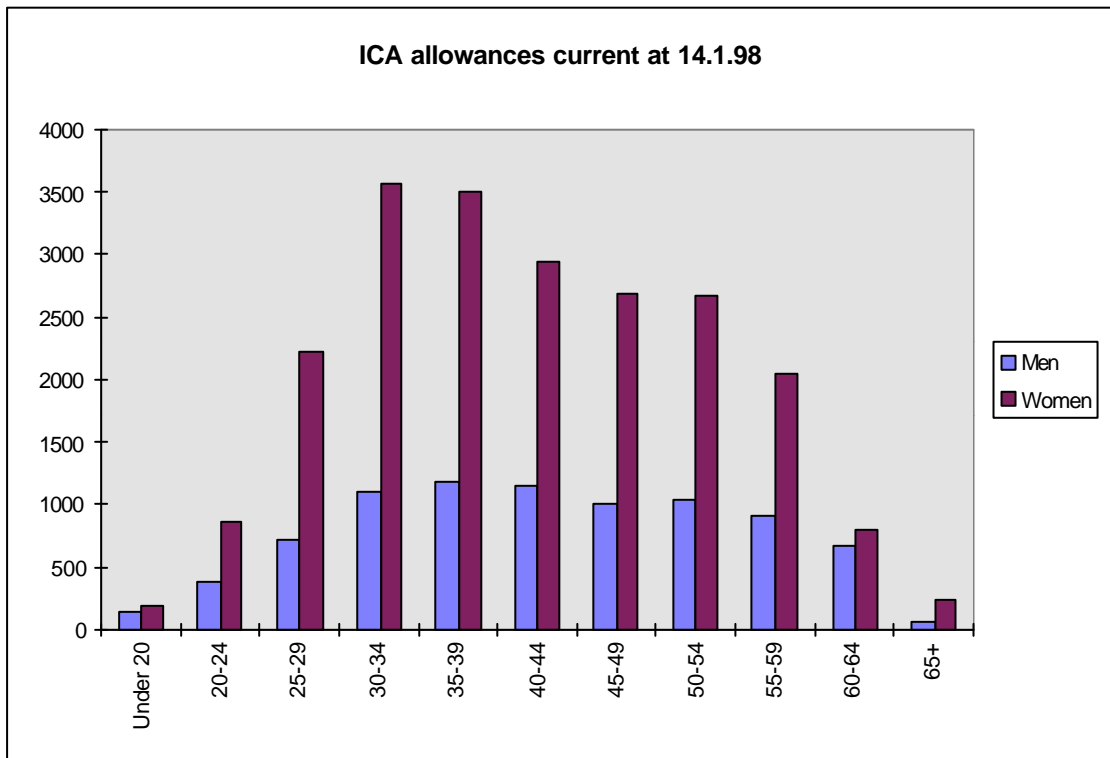
**Table 3.3: Allowances current by age and sex at 14 January 1998**

	All persons	Men	Women
All Ages	<b>30003</b>	<b>8307</b>	<b>21696</b>
Under 20	<b>326</b>	139	187
20-24	<b>1257</b>	389	868
25-29	<b>2922</b>	712	2210
30-34	<b>4665</b>	1089	3576
35-39	<b>4686</b>	1192	3494
40-44	<b>4082</b>	1143	2939
45-49	<b>3681</b>	999	2682
50-54	<b>3690</b>	1025	2665
55-59	<b>2959</b>	908	2051
60-64	<b>1454</b>	656	798
65+	<b>281</b>	55	226

**Chart 3.1: ICA allowances over time**



**Chart 3.2: ICA allowances by age and sex at 14 January 1998**



**Table 3.4: Rates of Invalid Care Allowance**

	£ per week			
	Standard	Adult	Rate for dependants	
			First child	Other children
14 November 1977	10.50	6.30	7.40	5.95
13 November 1978	11.70	7.05	6.35	6.35
12 November 1979	14.00	8.40	7.10	7.10
24 November 1980	16.30	9.80	7.50	7.50
23 November 1981	17.75	10.65	7.70	7.70
22 November 1982	19.70	11.80	7.95	7.95
21 November 1983	20.45	12.25	7.60	7.60
26 November 1984	21.50	12.85	7.65	7.65
25 November 1985	23.00	13.75	8.05	8.05
30 July 1986	23.25	13.90	8.05	8.05
06 April 1987	23.75	14.20	8.05	8.05
11 April 1988	24.75	14.80	8.40	8.40
10 April 1989	26.20	15.65	8.95	8.95
09 April 1990	28.20	16.85	9.65	9.65
08 April 1991	31.25	18.70	10.70	10.70
06 April 1992	32.25	19.45	10.85	10.85
12 April 1993	33.70	20.15	9.80	9.80
11 April 1994	34.50	20.65	9.80	11.00
10 April 1995	35.25	21.10	9.85	11.05
08 April 1996	36.60	21.90	9.90	11.15
07 April 1997	37.35	22.35	9.90	11.20

## Annex

1. Figures for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) for February and May 1997 are available on request.
2. The following tables for DLA, while not included in this publication, are also available for August 1997 on request.
  - A. Awards of care by medical code and rate.
  - B. Awards of care by sex, age and rate.
  - C. Awards of mobility by medical code and rate.
  - D. Awards of mobility by sex, age and rate.
  - E. First awards by medical code.
  - F. Decision on length of awards for claims awarded.
  - G. Decision on length of awards for claims awarded by rate.
  - H. Terminally ill beneficiaries.
  - I. Terminally ill durations on benefit for awards terminating.
  - J. Quarterly payload by care and mobility rates
  - K. Payload by disability by rate of care.
  - L. Payload by disability by rate of mobility.
  - M. Payload by age and sex.
  - N. Care and mobility payload by age.