

Section 9 - Disability Living Allowance

Introduced 1 April 1992

Non-contributory, Not means tested, Non-taxable

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 (it is not available for 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 6.

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.

The statistics for all tables are calculated from 100% scans.

Summary

The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) stood at 139,812 in May 2001, an increase of 7,750 (5.9%) on the May 2000 figure. Of those claiming 47.6% were male and 52.4% were female.

The proportion receiving the DLA mobility component only was 11.2% (compared to 11.8% a year earlier), which is lower than that for Great Britain (25.6%).

The proportion receiving the DLA care component only was 14.1% (compared to 15.3% a year earlier), which is higher than that for Great Britain (13.2%).

The proportion receiving the combined DLA mobility component and care component was higher at 74.6% compared to 72.9% a year earlier. This figure is higher than that for Great Britain, which has a proportion of 61.1%.

The main disabling conditions in Northern Ireland were "arthritis" (19.4%) and "other mental health causes" (17.9%).

The proportion of the population claiming DLA in Northern Ireland at May 2001 stood at 8.3%. Between district councils the proportion of the population claiming DLA varied between 12.2% in Strabane to 4.8% in North Dmwn.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at February 2001 stood at 81.0 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (38.2 per 1000 population), with the nearest Government Office Region being Wales (61.6 per 1000 population).

Table 9.1 Allowances current by rate: February 1996 to May 2001

	February 1996	August 1996	February 1997	August 1997	February 1998	August 1998	February 1999	May 1999
All components	98,107	104,447	110,390	114,386	118,973	121,481	125,082	126,190
Higher rate care only	2,636	2,633	2,968	3,160	3,239	3,019	2,849	2,681
Middle rate care only	6,648	6,992	7,701	8,450	8,843	8,452	7,936	7,618
Low er rate care only	8,570	8,882	9,359	10,035	10,619	10,637	10,800	10,701
Higher rate mobility only	11,912	12,167	12,495	12,509	12,646	12,453	12,262	12,139
Low er rate mobility only	1,992	2,335	2,560	2,750	3,069	3,292	3,451	3,521
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	17,414	18,533	19,457	20,028	20,459	20,777	21,388	21,611
Higher rate care and low er rate mobility	5,977	6,916	6,985	6,885	7,072	7,568	8,547	8,903
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	19,773	21,091	22,315	22,971	23,578	23,735	24,336	24,549
Middle rate care and low er rate mobility	9,785	10,373	10,308	10,269	10,745	11,726	13,179	14,163
Low er rate care and higher rate mobility	11,033	11,989	13,424	14,242	15,067	15,481	15,620	15,669
Low er rate care and low er rate mobility	2,367	2,536	2,818	3,087	3,636	4,341	4,714	4,635

Table 1 continued

	August 1999	November 1999	February 2000	May 2000	August 2000	November 2000	February 2001	May 2001
All components	127,745	128,677	130,536	132,062	133,965	136,450	137,505	139,812
Higher rate care only	2,547	2,463	2,430	2,352	2,322	2,310	2,253	2,136
Middle rate care only	7,447	7,273	7,316	7,257	7,323	7,424	7,402	7,411
Low er rate care only	10,730	10,639	10,615	10,562	10,484	10,340	10,218	10,218
Higher rate mobility only	12,041	12,000	11,969	11,960	11,903	11,942	12,014	12,209
Low er rate mobility only	3,571	3,586	3,596	3,639	3,619	3,608	3,554	3,478
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	21,769	21,865	22,026	22,213	22,490	22,897	23,032	23,444
Higher rate care and low er rate mobility	9,296	9,542	9,852	10,040	10,330	10,715	10,885	11,110
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	24,944	25,224	25,687	26,096	26,718	27,543	27,947	28,540
Middle rate care and low er rate mobility	15,108	15,869	16,885	17,899	18,833	19,905	20,568	21,558
Low er rate care and higher rate mobility	15,723	15,699	15,764	15,831	15,908	15,925	15,904	16,038
Low er rate care and low er rate mobility	4,569	4,517	4,396	4,213	4,035	3,841	3,728	3,670

Table 9.2 Allowances current at 31 May 2001 by age and gender

	Total	Men	Women
All ages	139,812	66,563	73,249
0-4	2,167	1,337	830
5-9	4,651	2,997	1,654
10-15	4,894	3,020	1,874
16-19	2,460	1,399	1,061
20-24	3,539	1,808	1,731
25-29	4,673	2,336	2,337
30-34	6,996	3,290	3,706
35-39	9,330	4,267	5,063
40-44	10,507	4,752	5,755
45-49	11,049	5,187	5,862
50-54	14,384	6,501	7,883
55-59	17,437	7,973	9,464
60-64	19,214	8,916	10,298
65-69	17,757	8,103	9,654
70-74	9,411	4,150	5,261
75-79	1,104	441	663
80 and over	239	86	153

Table 9.3 Allowances current at 31 May 2001 by main disabling condition and component

	All Awards	Care component only	Mobility component only	Care and mobility component
All conditions	139,812	19,765	15,687	104,360
Terminally ill	1,014	32	5	977
Arthritis	27,091	3,648	2,654	20,789
Back ailments	10,654	1,498	1,120	8,036
Muscles/joint/bone disease	13,178	3,169	1,443	8,566
Blindness	2,023	77	150	1,796
Deafness	1,669	121	127	1,421
Heart disease	11,318	686	2,399	8,233
Chest disease	4,162	215	856	3,091
Asthma	4,773	1,649	766	2,358
Stroke-related	3,021	275	185	2,561
Peripheral vascular disease	1,128	36	345	747
Epilepsy	4,311	526	83	3,702
Neurological disorder	2,641	394	137	2,110
Multiple sclerosis	1,437	38	76	1,323
Chronic fatigue	1,210	226	90	894
Diabetes	2,092	526	93	1,473
Learning difficulties	7,780	652	651	6,477
Other mental health causes	25,081	2,977	2,121	19,983
Alcohol abuse	1,733	432	38	1,263
Skin disease	1,023	723	33	267
Malignant disease	1,966	363	76	1,527
Conversion*	6,007	311	1,938	3,758
Other	4,500	1,191	301	3,008

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

Table 9.4 Allowances current at 31 May 2001 by District Council and Population

District Council	Total Population ¹	All DLA Awards				All DLA Awards as a % of Total Population ¹			
		All component Awards	Care only	Mobility only	Care and mobility component	All component Awards	Care only	Mobility only	Care and mobility component
Antrim	50,728	3,293	445	530	2,318	6.5%	0.9%	1.0%	4.6%
Ards	71,402	4,320	611	619	3,090	6.1%	0.9%	0.9%	4.3%
Armagh	53,972	4,134	565	511	3,058	7.7%	1.0%	0.9%	5.7%
Ballymena	59,246	2,948	411	456	2,081	5.0%	0.7%	0.8%	3.5%
Ballymoney	25,867	1,784	253	223	1,308	6.9%	1.0%	0.9%	5.1%
Banbridge	39,860	2,845	353	409	2,083	7.1%	0.9%	1.0%	5.2%
Belfast	284,360	31,043	4,533	3,060	23,450	10.9%	1.6%	1.1%	8.2%
Carrickfergus	37,882	2,233	352	305	1,576	5.9%	0.9%	0.8%	4.2%
Castlereagh	66,763	4,096	563	580	2,953	6.1%	0.8%	0.9%	4.4%
Coleraine	55,682	2,879	501	360	2,018	5.2%	0.9%	0.6%	3.6%
Cookstown	31,694	3,291	455	300	2,536	10.4%	1.4%	0.9%	8.0%
Craigavon	79,716	7,641	1,043	787	5,811	9.6%	1.3%	1.0%	7.3%
Derry	106,638	11,198	1,629	1,100	8,469	10.5%	1.5%	1.0%	7.9%
Down	63,831	4,887	602	609	3,676	7.7%	0.9%	1.0%	5.8%
Dungannon	48,235	4,707	583	423	3,701	9.8%	1.2%	0.9%	7.7%
Fermanagh	57,472	3,500	563	370	2,567	6.1%	1.0%	0.6%	4.5%
Larne	30,921	1,778	275	262	1,241	5.8%	0.9%	0.8%	4.0%
Limavady	31,862	2,360	411	189	1,760	7.4%	1.3%	0.6%	5.5%
Lisburn	111,245	7,839	1,220	976	5,643	7.0%	1.1%	0.9%	5.1%
Magherafelt	38,976	2,469	407	237	1,825	6.3%	1.0%	0.6%	4.7%
Moyle	15,392	1,038	152	138	748	6.7%	1.0%	0.9%	4.9%
Newry & Mourne	87,651	8,010	1,058	762	6,190	9.1%	1.2%	0.9%	7.1%
Newtownabbey	81,279	5,310	731	842	3,737	6.5%	0.9%	1.0%	4.6%
North Down	75,696	3,610	411	548	2,651	4.8%	0.5%	0.7%	3.5%
Omagh	47,825	4,854	631	375	3,848	10.1%	1.3%	0.8%	8.0%
Strabane	37,629	4,591	595	335	3,661	12.2%	1.6%	0.9%	9.7%
Missing Postcode		3,154	412	381	2,361				
Northern Ireland	1,691,824	139,812	19,765	15,687	104,360	8.3%	1.2%	0.9%	6.2%

1. 1999 Mid Year Estimates, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

**Table 9.5 Disability Living Allowances current
by Government Office Region: 31 May 2001**

Government Office Region	Allowances (000)s	Allowances per 1000 population
North East	145.4	56.4
North West	360.8	52.3
Yorkshire & Humberside	220.8	43.7
East Midlands	159.2	37.8
West Midlands	217.2	40.7
East	153.4	28.1
London	211.8	28.7
South East	191.3	23.6
South West	147.7	29.7
Wales	183.2	62.2
Scotland	249.7	48.8
Great Britain	2,240.5	38.6
Northern Ireland	139.8	82.6

Table 9.6 Rates of Disability Living Allowance

Pregnancy, Childbirth	£ per week					
	Care component			Mobility component		
	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lower rate	Higher rate	Lower rate	
06 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	
08 April 1996	48.50	32.40	12.90	33.90	12.90	
07 April 1997	49.50	33.10	13.15	34.60	13.15	
06 April 1998	51.30	34.30	13.60	35.85	13.60	
05 April 1999	52.95	35.40	14.05	37.00	14.05	
10 April 2000	53.55	35.80	14.20	37.40	14.20	
09 April 2001	55.30	37.00	14.65	38.65	14.65	