

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 144,460 in February 2002, an increase of 6,955 (5.1%) on the February 2001 figure. Of those claiming 47.6% were male and 52.4% were female.

The proportion receiving the DLA mobility component only was 11.0% (compared to 11.3% a year earlier), which is lower than that for Great Britain (24.8% at November 2001).

The proportion receiving the DLA care component only was 13.5% (compared to 14.5% a year earlier), which is higher than that for Great Britain (13.1% at November 2001).

The proportion receiving the combined DLA mobility component and care component was higher at 75.5% compared to 74.2% a year earlier. This figure is higher than that for Great Britain, which has a proportion of 62.1% at November 2001.

The main disabling conditions in Northern Ireland were "arthritis" (19.1%) and "other mental health causes" (19.1%). For Great Britain the main disabling condition was "arthritis" (20.7% at November 2001).

The proportion of the population claiming DLA in Northern Ireland at February 2002 stood at 8.5%. Between district councils the proportion of the population claiming DLA varied between 12.5% in Strabane to 5.0% in North Down.

Allowances current in Northern Ireland at November 2001 stood at 84.2 per 1000 population. This is considerably higher than the situation in Great Britain (39.6 per 1000 population), with the nearest Government Office Region being Wales (63.7 per 1000 population).

Table 9.1 Allowances current by rate: August 1997 to February 2002

	August 1997	February 1998	August 1998	February 1999	May 1999	August 1999	November 1999	February 2000
All components	114,386	118,973	121,481	125,082	126,190	127,745	128,677	130,536
Higher rate care only	3,160	3,239	3,019	2,849	2,681	2,547	2,463	2,430
Middle rate care only	8,450	8,843	8,452	7,936	7,618	7,447	7,273	7,316
Lower rate care only	10,035	10,619	10,637	10,800	10,701	10,730	10,639	10,615
Higher rate mobility only	12,509	12,646	12,453	12,262	12,139	12,041	12,000	11,969
Lower rate mobility only	2,750	3,069	3,292	3,451	3,521	3,571	3,586	3,596
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	20,028	20,459	20,777	21,388	21,611	21,769	21,865	22,026
Higher rate care and lower rate mobility	6,885	7,072	7,568	8,547	8,903	9,296	9,542	9,852
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	22,971	23,578	23,735	24,336	24,549	24,944	25,224	25,687
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	10,269	10,745	11,726	13,179	14,163	15,108	15,869	16,885
Lower rate care and higher rate mobility	14,242	15,067	15,481	15,620	15,669	15,723	15,699	15,764
Lower rate care and lower rate mobility	3,087	3,636	4,341	4,714	4,635	4,569	4,517	4,396

Table 1 continued

	May 2000	August 2000	November 2000	February 2001	May 2001	August 2001	November 2001	February 2002
All components	132,062	133,965	136,450	137,505	139,812	141,451	142,984	144,460
Higher rate care only	2,352	2,322	2,310	2,253	2,136	2,094	2,046	2,031
Middle rate care only	7,257	7,323	7,424	7,402	7,411	7,362	7,312	7,355
Lower rate care only	10,562	10,484	10,340	10,218	10,218	10,226	10,093	10,119
Higher rate mobility only	11,960	11,903	11,942	12,014	12,209	12,110	12,113	12,159
Lower rate mobility only	3,639	3,619	3,608	3,554	3,478	3,613	3,641	3,699
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	22,213	22,490	22,897	23,032	23,444	23,756	24,184	24,422
Higher rate care and lower rate mobility	10,040	10,330	10,715	10,885	11,110	11,260	11,500	11,599
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	26,096	26,718	27,543	27,947	28,540	29,005	29,442	29,792
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	17,899	18,833	19,905	20,568	21,558	22,361	23,055	23,658
Lower rate care and higher rate mobility	15,831	15,908	15,925	15,904	16,038	16,035	16,018	16,009
Lower rate care and lower rate mobility	4,213	4,035	3,841	3,728	3,670	3,629	3,580	3,617

Table 9.2 Allowances current at 28 February 2002 by age and gender

	Total	Men	Women
All ages	144,460	68,798	75,662
0-4	2,059	1,251	808
5-9	4,580	2,998	1,582
10-15	5,106	3,233	1,873
16-19	2,528	1,426	1,102
20-24	3,708	1,923	1,785
25-29	4,698	2,363	2,335
30-34	7,045	3,294	3,751
35-39	9,731	4,487	5,244
40-44	10,918	4,915	6,003
45-49	11,559	5,372	6,187
50-54	14,252	6,423	7,829
55-59	18,201	8,262	9,939
60-64	19,409	9,103	10,306
65-69	18,152	8,225	9,927
70-74	10,818	4,839	5,979
75-79	1,424	588	836
80 and over	272	96	176

Table 9.3 Allowances current at 28 February 2002 by main disabling condition and component

	All Awards	Care component only	Mobility component only	Care and mobility component
All conditions	144,460	19,505	15,858	109,097
Terminally ill	1,111	30	5	1,076
Arthritis	27,637	3,656	2,720	21,261
Back ailments	10,912	1,465	1,163	8,284
Muscles/joint/bone disease	13,568	3,219	1,489	8,860
Blindness	2,065	77	148	1,840
Deafness	1,692	120	122	1,450
Heart disease	11,461	671	2,433	8,357
Chest disease	4,179	210	842	3,127
Asthma	4,545	1,402	763	2,380
Stroke-related	3,114	250	196	2,668
Peripheral vascular disease	1,107	34	331	742
Epilepsy	4,397	467	76	3,854
Neurological disorder	2,725	364	136	2,225
Multiple sclerosis	1,497	39	76	1,382
Chronic fatigue	1,279	228	89	962
Diabetes	2,210	510	98	1,602
Learning difficulties	7,994	632	646	6,716
Other mental health causes	27,543	3,084	2,239	22,220
Alcohol abuse	2,095	470	53	1,572
Skin disease	1,013	704	35	274
Malignant disease	1,995	382	79	1,534
Conversion*	5,660	282	1,802	3,576
Other	4,661	1,209	317	3,135

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

Table 9.4 Allowances current at 28 February 2002 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	51,249	3,415	443	545	2,427	6.7%	0.9%	1.1%	4.7%
Ards	72,330	4,519	588	623	3,308	6.2%	0.8%	0.9%	4.6%
Armagh	54,658	4,256	542	516	3,198	7.8%	1.0%	0.9%	5.9%
Ballymena	59,620	3,075	422	463	2,190	5.2%	0.7%	0.8%	3.7%
Ballymoney	26,220	1,836	244	221	1,371	7.0%	0.9%	0.8%	5.2%
Banbridge	40,532	3,031	353	418	2,260	7.5%	0.9%	1.0%	5.6%
Belfast	282,544	31,557	4,324	3,052	24,181	11.2%	1.5%	1.1%	8.6%
Carrickfergus	38,468	2,318	348	329	1,641	6.0%	0.9%	0.9%	4.3%
Castlereagh	67,001	4,237	543	575	3,119	6.3%	0.8%	0.9%	4.7%
Coleraine	55,875	3,007	495	362	2,150	5.4%	0.9%	0.6%	3.8%
Cookstown	31,567	3,385	465	306	2,614	10.7%	1.5%	1.0%	8.3%
Craigavon	80,465	7,774	1,008	812	5,954	9.7%	1.3%	1.0%	7.4%
Derry	106,931	11,456	1,608	1,104	8,744	10.7%	1.5%	1.0%	8.2%
Down	63,995	5,110	617	615	3,878	8.0%	1.0%	1.0%	6.1%
Dungannon	48,468	4,808	584	429	3,795	9.9%	1.2%	0.9%	7.8%
Fermanagh	57,623	3,693	553	387	2,753	6.4%	1.0%	0.7%	4.8%
Larne	30,989	1,831	276	260	1,295	5.9%	0.9%	0.8%	4.2%
Limavady	31,855	2,490	426	203	1,861	7.8%	1.3%	0.6%	5.8%
Lisburn	111,685	8,033	1,177	965	5,891	7.2%	1.1%	0.9%	5.3%
Magherafelt	39,271	2,601	441	251	1,909	6.6%	1.1%	0.6%	4.9%
Moyle	15,402	1,079	161	138	780	7.0%	1.0%	0.9%	5.1%
Newry & Mourne	87,786	8,374	1,042	772	6,560	9.5%	1.2%	0.9%	7.5%
Newtownabbey	81,793	5,465	728	855	3,882	6.7%	0.9%	1.0%	4.7%
North Down	75,802	3,766	435	539	2,792	5.0%	0.6%	0.7%	3.7%
Omagh	47,819	5,066	624	380	4,062	10.6%	1.3%	0.8%	8.5%
Strabane	37,827	4,720	567	336	3,817	12.5%	1.5%	0.9%	10.1%
Missing Postcode		3,558	491	402	2,665				
Northern Ireland	1,697,775	144,460	19,505	15,858	109,097	8.5%	1.1%	0.9%	6.4%

1. 2000 Mid Year Estimates, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

**Table 9.5 Disability Living Allowances current
by Government Office Region: 30 November 2001**

Government Office Region	Allowances (000)s	Allowances per 1000 population
North East	147.3	57.1
North West	370.4	53.7
Yorkshire & Humberside	225.8	44.6
East Midlands	163.2	38.8
West Midlands	223.0	41.8
East	158.5	29.0
London	217.3	29.5
South East	196.6	24.2
South West	151.9	30.5
Wales	187.5	63.7
Scotland	256.5	50.2
Great Britain	2,298.0	39.6
Northern Ireland	143.0	84.2

Table 9.6 Rates of Disability Living Allowance

Pregnancy, Childbirth a	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
08 April 2002	56.25	37.65	14.90	39.30	14.90