

Disability Living Allowance

Introduced 1 April 1992

Non-contributory, Not income related, 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 three).

The care component is paid at one of three rates and the mobility component at one of two rates.

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.

Source

The statistics for all tables are based on a 5% sample of claimants.

The *terms and conventions* used within the tables are explained below:

Allowances current

The number of people in receipt of DLA. This excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.

Liveload

The number of people with entitlement to DLA. This includes people where the payment has been suspended for example, because someone is in hospital.

Main disabling condition

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

Award

This is first or subsequent award of benefit.

Review

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

Conventions

..	Not available
.	Not applicable
-	Nil or negligible
*	Figures under 500 marked * are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide to the correct situation

Note about sampling error

Because some of the data in these tables are derived from a 5% sample the numbers, which appear in the tables, are only **estimates** of the true values. The people included in the sample are 5% of the population of claimants.

Although the figures are estimates, it is possible to say with confidence that the **true** value, corresponding to any particular number in the tables, lies within a certain range - the **confidence interval**.

The following table gives the 95% confidence intervals for the true value in the population, based on the estimated value from the 5% sample. For example, if a figure of 600 appears in a table, then, given that this is derived from a 5% sample (ie there were 30 cases in the sample), one can say that there is a 95% chance that there are in fact between 409 and 851 cases in the population. Confidence intervals for larger estimated values are given below and expressed as estimated value plus or minus half the width of the interval.

Estimated value in table	95% confidence interval
0	0 to 58
20	1 to 110
40	5 to 143
60	13 to 173
80	22 to 202
100	33 to 230
200	98 to 364
300	170 to 490
400	248 to 612
500	328 to 730
600	409 to 851

Estimated value in table	95% confidence interval	Confidence interval as % of the estimate
700	+/-226	+/-32%
800	+/-242	+/-30%
900	+/-256	+/-28%
1,000	+/-270	+/-27%
2,000	+/-382	+/-19%
3,000	+/-468	+/-16%
4,000	+/-540	+/-14%
5,000	+/-604	+/-12%
6,000	+/-662	+/-11%

7,000	+/-715	+/-10%
8,000	+/-764	+/-10%
9,000	+/-811	+/-9%
10,000	+/-854	+/-9%
20,000	+/-1,208	+/-6%
30,000	+/-1,480	+/-5%
40,000	+/-1,709	+/-4%
50,000	+/-1,910	+/-4%
100,000	+/-2,702	+/-3%
200,000	+/-3,821	+/-2%
300,000	+/-4,679	+/-2%
400,000	+/-5,403	+/-1%
500,000	+/-6,041	+/-1%
600,000	+/-6,618	+/-1%
700,000	+/-7,148	+/-1%
800,000	+/-7,641	+/-1%
900,000	+/-8,105	+/-1%
1,000,000	+/-8,543	+/-1%

Rates of DLA

Date	<i>£pw</i>				
	Care component			Mobility component	
	Highest rate	Middle rate	Lowest 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
8 April 1998	51.30	34.30	13.60	35.85	13.60
12 April 1999	52.95	35.40	14.05	37.00	14.05
12 April 2000	53.55	35.80	14.20	37.40	14.20
11 April 2001	55.30	37.00	14.65	38.65	14.65
8 April 2002	56.25	37.65	14.90	39.30	14.90
7 April 2003	57.20	38.30	15.15	39.95	15.15
12 April 2004	58.80	39.35	15.55	41.05	15.55

Effects of new tax credits

Figures in this, and future DWP publications are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

- Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims to State Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit and Carer's Allowance from April 2003.
- CTC will replace the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This will happen from April 2004 onwards.

Dates when there may be particular changes in the figures are:

- April 2003, when Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims.
- October 2003, when it is planned that families on Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) with children will have child elements migrated to CTC.
- Financial year 2004/05, when families on Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have child elements migrated to CTC.

A small number of IS/ JSA(IB) recipients will no longer be eligible once CTC is in payment. This is because CTC payments will raise total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances are removed.

We therefore advise that customers exercise caution when performing year on year comparisons, or when comparing with the previous quarter.

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