Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Social Security Scotland

Benefit Overview Session

Dignity, fairness, respect.

Who we are

We are an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government, created in September 2018, putting dignity, fairness and respect at the heart of everything that we do.

We currently deliver benefits to support people on low incomes, people with disabilities, carers, and young people entering the workplace.

Our head office is in Dundee, and we have a second operational site in Glasgow. We also have colleagues based across the country who support clients in our local communities.

Who we are

17

benefits will be administered and delivered by Social Security Scotland by the end of 2025

more than £6 billion

has been paid out in benefits since 2018

1 million

clients have been supported by Social Security Scotland since 2018

7 new benefits

have been created by the Scottish Government and are currently being delivered by Social Security Scotland

Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment

Pregnancy and Baby Payment helps with the costs of having a baby. Eligible families can apply for this payment from 24 weeks of pregnancy until the baby turns six months old.

Pregnancy and Baby Payment is £767.50 for a first child, and £383.75 for subsequent children. We will pay an extra £383.75 for a multiple birth.

The first child is the client's oldest child under 16. This includes a stepchild and any child the client is responsible for looking after, for example, if the child is adopted, or kinship care.

Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment

Early Learning Payment is a payment of £319.80 per child to help with the costs of early learning. Eligible families can apply for the payment when a child is aged between 2 years old and 3 years and a half. The payment is for children who go to nursery and those who don't.

Clients may be eligible if they are the parent or full-time carer of the child, and in receipt of certain benefits. Those under 18 are automatically eligible and do not have to receive a qualifying benefit.

Those in receipt of Scottish Child Payment will be automatically given this payment. Social Security Scotland will notify clients by SMS when they are checking eligibility for the Best Start Grants and, if they are eligible, will write to advise them of the payment.

Best Start Grant School Age Payment

School Age Payment is £319.80 per child. It helps with the costs of preparing for school when a child is first old enough to start primary school.

Clients may be eligible if they are the parent or full-time carer of the child and get certain benefits. Those under 18 are automatically eligible and do not have to receive a qualifying benefit.

To get a payment, the child does not have to take up a place at school. Clients still need to apply in the year that the child is first old enough to start school, if:

- they are deferring when the child starts school
- the child will not attend at school

Those in receipt of Scottish Child Payment will automatically be given this payment. Social Security Scotland will notify clients by SMS when they are checking eligibility for the Best Start Grants and, if they are eligible, will write to advise them of the payment.

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a benefit unique to Scotland, which gives qualifying parents and carers money to help towards the cost of every child they look after who is under 16.

The payment is £27.15 per child, every week. It is paid every 4 weeks.

It is up to the client what they choose to spend the money on. The payment can be used for things like travel costs, nappies and other essentials. It can also be used for childcare and family days out.

It was fully extended to children under the age of 16 at the end of 2022.

Best Start Foods

Best Start Foods is a pre-paid card that is issued to people to help buy healthy foods.

It works in a similar way to a bank card and can be used to buy heathy foods including milk, infant formula, fruit, vegetables, pulses and eggs.

Eligible families on low-income benefits will receive £21.60 on their card every four weeks during pregnancy, and for any children between one and three years old.

Following the birth and to their baby turning one year old, the payment increases to £43.20.

Job Start Payment

Job Start Payment is a one-off payment of £319.80 for 16- to 24-year-olds who have been on certain benefits for six months or more to help with the costs of starting a job. If the person applying is the main carer of a child, they will be entitled to a higher payment of £511.65.

The purpose of this payment is to help clients with the costs of starting a new job.

It can be used for things like:

- travel costs, such as a bus or train pass
- lunches
- new clothes or a uniform
- childcare

Funeral Support Payment

Funeral Support Payment helps people to meet the costs of paying for a funeral.

The payment can be used towards funeral costs for a baby, child or adult, including babies who were stillborn. Clients may be eligible if they receive a qualifying benefit or tax credit, they or their partner are responsible for the funeral, and it is reasonable for them or their partner to accept responsibility for the funeral costs.

It usually will not cover the full cost of the funeral, but it should help pay for some costs. It can be paid either to the person applying or the funeral director who's helping to plan the funeral.

The amount a client will receive will depend on how much money left by the person who died is available and accessible.

Child Winter Heating Payment

Child Winter Heating Payment is a payment to help disabled children and young people and their families with increased heating costs over winter.

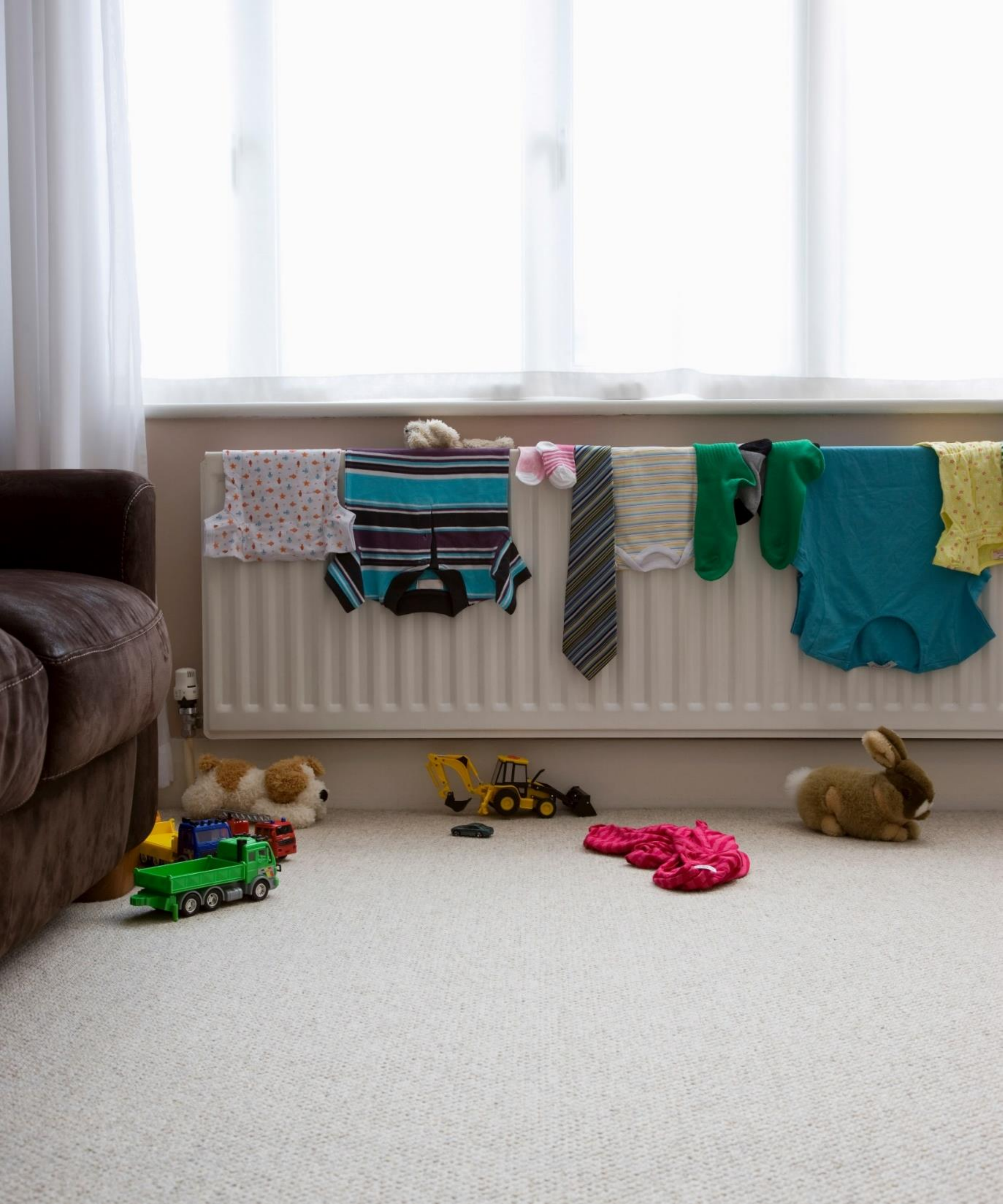
The one-off payment for winter 2025/26 is £255.80.

Children and young people in Scotland can get the assistance if they're under 19 years old and receive one of the following ‘qualifying benefits:

- the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment
- the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for children
- the enhanced daily living rate of Personal Independence Payment
- the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment

If there is more than one child or young person who qualifies in the household, they each get a payment.

Eligible children and young people living in Scotland do not need to apply. They’ll get their payment automatically.



Winter Heating Payment

Winter Heating Payment for 2025/26 is £59.75 and paid automatically to those on low-income benefits who might have extra heating needs during the winter.

It is paid once a year and if a person is eligible, they will receive the payment automatically.

It replaces the Cold Weather Payment from the Department for Work and Pensions for people in Scotland.

Unlike Cold Weather Payment, it does not depend on how cold the temperature gets and is a reliable annual payment.

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Pension Winter Heating Payment is replacing the Department for Work and Pensions Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland.

At least 880,000 people of state pension age and above will benefit from Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

Payments starting in November will be between £101.70 and £305.10 depending on the clients age and circumstances during the qualifying week.

No application is required. People who meet the criteria will receive the payment automatically. A letter will be sent to those eligible before the money will be paid into the same account as their state pension.

Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment is money to help with the extra costs of caring for a child or young person with a disability or ill-health condition. It replaces Disability Living Allowance for children and young people in Scotland that was previously delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Clients can apply for Child Disability Payment for a disabled child under 16. The disability can be mental, physical or both. There is no need for a formal diagnosis to receive the assistance.

A child may be entitled to a payment if they have lived with a disability or long-term condition for at least 3 months and expect to continue to have it for at least 6 months. Social Security Scotland will pay Child Disability Payment from when the child is 3 months old up 18.

Child Disability Payment

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Child Disability Payment is tax free, non means tested. It is made up of 2 parts, Care and Mobility. Clients may qualify for one or both parts.

The care component reflects how much looking after a child needs. There are 3 weekly rates for care:

- lowest: £29.20 – they need some help and support
- middle: £73.90 – they need frequent help or supervision either during the day or at night
- highest: £110.40 – the child needs frequent help and support during the day and at night

The mobility component reflects how much help a child needs. There are 2 weekly rates for mobility:

- lower: £29.20 (for children aged 5 and over) – for children who need supervision or guidance when moving around outdoors
- higher: £77.05 (for children aged 3 and over) – for children who cannot walk, have difficulty walking, or have a severe visual or mental health disability

If the child is entitled to the higher rate mobility component, you can apply to lease an accessible vehicle.

Adult Disability Payment

Adult Disability Payment is money to help with the extra costs of living with a disability or long-term health condition that affects someone's everyday life.

It replaces Personal Independence Payment from the Department for Work and Pensions for those living in Scotland.

Clients with a terminal illness can apply under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness.

Clients who qualify for Adult Disability Payment can get extra support through a range of related benefits and services to help with the cost of car, housing, transport and travel.

Adult Disability Payment

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Adult Disability Payment is tax free, non means tested and can also be paid to applicants who are in work. It is made up of 2 parts, Daily Living and mobility. Clients may qualify for one or both parts.

Daily Living component There are 2 weekly rates for care:

- Standard: £73.90
- Enhanced: £110.40

Mobility component There are 2 weekly rates for mobility:

- Standard: £29.20
- Enhanced: £77.05

Although the rates and regulations remain the same as Personal Independence Payment currently administered by the Department of Work and Pensions, there are key differences in our approach which have been developed from extensive client & stakeholder feedback

Pension Age Disability Payment

Pension Age Disability Payment is money for people of State Pension age with care needs who are disabled, have a long-term health condition or a terminal illness.

It is replacing Attendance Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions for those living in Scotland.

It's paid at 2 different rates, lower and higher. The amount someone gets depends on their care needs.

Clients with a terminal illness can apply under the Special Rules for Terminal Illness.

Pension Age Disability Payment

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- Pension Age Disability Payment is tax free, non means tested payment,. Income and saving are not taken into account, therefore will not affect any awards.

It's paid at 2 different rates, lower and higher. The amount depends on the clients care needs.

- Lower rate is £73.90 per week. It's for people who need help or supervision during the day or night, and
- Higher rate is £110.40 per week. It's for people who need help or supervision both during the ay and night.

Like our other disability benefits, clients with a terminal illness will automatically be awarded the higher rate and can be paid weekly in advance as opposed to the normal 4-weekly in arrears.

Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance

A new benefit called Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance (Scottish Adult DLA) is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for all adults in Scotland. This is happening as part of Scottish devolution.

People cannot apply for Scottish Adult DLA, this is for case transfers only. Their DLA will move to Scottish Adult DLA automatically. People do not need to do anything to start the move.

Two groups in scope to transfer:

- Those born before 8 April 1948 – commitment from DWP they can remain on DLA for as long as they are eligible
- Those born after 8 April 1948 – will transfer to Scottish Adult DLA, but will have the opportunity to move to Adult Disability Payment if they wish to do so

Special Rules for Terminal Illness

When a client has a terminal illness they can apply through our Special Rules for Terminal Illness (SRTI) route. A registered doctor or nurse involved in a patient's diagnosis and/or care should complete a Benefits Assessment Under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRIS) form. A BASRiS is a document that tells us someone is terminally ill. As soon as we receive this form we can:

- fast-track a new application in a few days
- SRTI applications are handled by specially trained case managers
- SRTI applications are automatically awarded the highest level of award
- Awards will have no review period and no qualifying period
- We can quickly maximise the benefit payment of someone already getting a disability benefit from us

What is supporting information and why do we need it?

Before making a decision on an application for disability benefits, we need supporting information from a professional e.g. a nurse, doctor, support worker

Supporting information is information that tells us about a client's conditions or disabilities and how these impact on their life. It can also tell us about any diagnoses they have.

We ask applicants to provide supporting information by sending us documents such as medical reports, prescription lists and care plans. However, clients can also ask us to collect supporting information on their behalf.

We may ask for supporting information when a client:

- submits a new application
- requests a re-determination of a decision
- Reports a change of circumstances or has a review

Carer Support Payment

Carer Support Payment is money to help carers who care for those with a physical health issue or mental health condition for over 35 hours a week.

You may be entitled to Carer Support Payment if you provide care for a relative, friend or neighbour who live in another household.

The payment of £83.30 per week replaces Carers Allowance for those living in Scotland.

Clients currently in receipt of Carers Allowance will be automatically transferred to Carer Support Payment.

Carers in Education

One of the key differences between Carer Support Payment and Carer's Allowance is that those in education may now be eligible.

Carers who are aged 16 and over and studying part-time (less than 21 hours per week) will be able to get the payment if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Carers aged 20 or over studying full-time regardless of the level of qualification. will be able access Carer Support Payment.

Certain full-time students aged 16-19 may be eligible depending on the type of course they are studying.

Carer’s Allowance Supplement

Carer’s Allowance Supplement is a unique payment only available in Scotland. It’s an extra payment for carers in who receive Carer Support Payment or Carer’s Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions on a particular date.

It is currently paid twice a year.

No direct application is required. People who meet the criteria will receive the payment automatically. A letter will be sent to those eligible and money will be paid into their registered bank account.

Young Carer Grant

Young Carer Grant is a yearly payment of £390.25 for young carers in Scotland.

The payment is available for 16, 17 and 18 year-olds who spend an average of 16 hours caring for a person or people who receive a disability benefit.

The benefit can be spent on anything the young carer chooses.

Clients can apply for the payment each year until they turn 19.

How to apply

Applications to any of our benefits can be made either:

Online: mygov.scot/benefits

By phone: call freephone 0800 182 2222

By post: download application form at mygov.scot/benefits or requested by phone

British Sign Language users can use the contactSCOTLAND app to contact us by video relay.

If a client does not want to apply in English, they can call us to apply over the phone in over 100 languages

Delivering our services in local communities

Our Operations division has a presence in every local authority area, delivering public facing operations in communities across Scotland.

Our Local Delivery service is made up of specially trained Client Support Advisers who will be available to help guide people through the application process.

Local Delivery support is by appointment only and takes place:

- in local community venues
- in people's homes
- in hospitals and prisons
- via video call or via telephone appointment.

Clients can book an appointment by calling us on our main helpline: **0800 182 2222**. We accommodate any communication or accessibility arrangements to suit the needs client.

Advocacy Service

- Free Independent Advocacy service provided by VoiceAbility
- Additional source of independent support for disabled people and carers
- Available from the point of application through to re-determination and appeals
- Appointments with an Advocate can be arranged by calling our freephone helpline or visiting VoiceAbility | Support to access benefits in Scotland

Working in Partnership

Working with you will ensure eligible people access the benefits they are entitled to.

- Sign up to our Stakeholder Newsletter - Social Security Scotland - Guidance & Resources for the latest information and updates.
- Share our resources – marketing materials such as posters and leaflets can be ordered by emailing marketingmaterials@socialsecurity.gov.scot
- Feature information on your channels such as website, digital channels, newsletters etc
- Follow us on Facebook, X and Linkedin and share our content – search 'Social Security Scotland' or @SocSecScot
- Work together on campaigns, initiatives and events to raise awareness of the support available by emailing strategicengagement@socialsecurity.gov.scot
- Provide supportive quotes – these can be from yourself or clients
- Help us with case studies – we are interested to hear client or partner feedback on their experiences accessing our benefits by emailing communications@socialsecurity.gov.scot