

# Pension Age Disability Payment

## What is Pension Age Disability Payment?

Pension Age Disability Payment is replacing Attendance Allowance for people in Scotland.

From 21 October 2024 it will be available in Argyll & Bute, Highland, Aberdeen City, Orkney and Shetland.

It will be available in 13 more local authority areas from 24 March 2025 and available across Scotland by 22 April 2025.

## Who can get Pension Age Disability Payment?

People can apply for Pension Age Disability Payment if they are of State Pension age and:

- are disabled or have a long-term health condition
- need help looking after themselves or supervision to keep them safe

OR

- are terminally ill

Pension Age Disability Payment is not means-tested. It does not matter if the person applying is working or has savings.

## What if someone already gets Attendance Allowance or Adult Disability Payment?

People who are getting Attendance Allowance do not need to apply as their award will be automatically transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland. This will happen in phases, with the first expected to be transferred in early 2025.

People who are getting Adult Disability Payment will stay on Adult Disability Payment and will not transfer to Pension Age Disability Payment when they reach State Pension age.

## What do we need from people who apply?

To make a decision on an application we need to understand how someone's condition or disability affects their life.

We ask people to tell us about this in the application form and to provide one piece of supporting information from a professional, where possible. This does not have to be a diagnosis.

Supporting information should be provided by someone who knows the client and should broadly confirm their disability, conditions or needs. Examples of supporting information include social care plans, prescription lists, referral letters and statement of support in the application form.

Additional supporting information can also be provided by the client's wider support network, such as friends, family, or unpaid carers. Applications can be made without supporting information - we can collect it on their behalf if they ask us to.

If the person applying has a terminal illness, they can apply under special rules and we will fast track their application.

### How are the payment rates calculated?

Pension Age Disability Payment is made up of 2 rates – a lower and a higher rate.

The lower rate is awarded if someone meets the criteria due to either their daytime or night-time needs. This is £72.65 a week.

The higher rate is awarded if someone meets the criteria due to both their daytime and night-time needs, or if someone is terminally ill. This is £108.55 a week.

There is no mobility component of Pension Age Disability Payment.

### How will people be paid?

The first payment will usually be calculated from the date the client called us to start the application process or submitted the first part of their online application.

Pension Age Disability Payment is paid every 4 weeks. This payment will be for the previous 4 week period. It will be paid into the account given as part of the application.

If someone is terminally ill, they will be paid weekly in advance.

### Is the payment available to people who are terminally ill?

Yes. There is a separate fast-track application process for people who are terminally ill. Eligible clients will get the higher rate of the benefit no matter how long they have been terminally ill or how long they are expected to live.

To fast-track an application we need confirmation of the terminal diagnosis from a doctor or nurse. They should provide this by completing the Benefits Assessment under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS) form. No other supporting information is required.

### How can people apply?


People can find out more and apply online at [mygov.scot/pension-age-disability-payment](https://mygov.scot/pension-age-disability-payment)  
People can also apply in person, over the phone or ask for a paper application form by post by calling us free on **0800 182 2222**.


### What further support is there to apply?

VoiceAbility independent advocacy service supports disabled people when applying for Social Security Scotland benefits. Contact VoiceAbility for free on **0300 303 1660** or by visiting [www.voiceability.org](https://www.voiceability.org)

Further support to apply is also available from local Social Security Scotland client advisers. People can book an appointment at a time and location that suits them by calling us free on 0800 182 2222. Meetings can take place at home, in the community, via video call or telephone.

### How can people contact us?

 Call us free on: 0800 182 2222

 Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300 244 4000  
(for the hard of hearing)

 British Sign Language users:  
[contactscotland-bsl.org](https://contactscotland-bsl.org)

 Webchat: [chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot](https://chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot)

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