

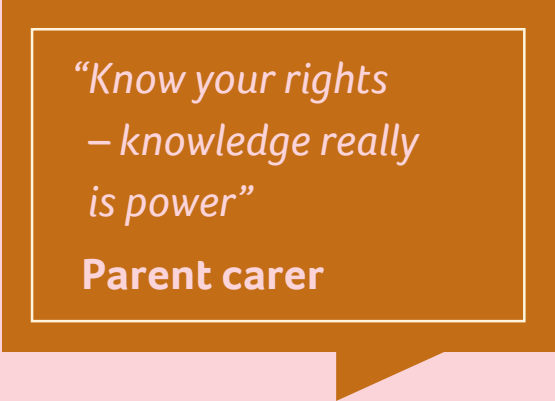
ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN
IN SCOTLAND



contact



*“Know your rights
– knowledge really
is power”*

Parent carer

The information in this guide is accurate as of March 2024.
This guide covers Scotland.

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WHAT IS ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT?

Adult Disability Payment (ADP) is a benefit that is replacing Personal Independence Payment for adults in Scotland. It is paid by Social Security Scotland.

ADP is a benefit for disabled adults aged 16 and above. If you have a disabled child aged under 16 you should claim Child Disability Payment instead.

If your child currently receives Child Disability Payment they will need to consider claiming ADP at some point between their 16th and 18th birthday (or their 19th birthday in some limited circumstances).

In some respects ADP looks similar to Child Disability Payment. However, it uses entirely different rules to decide whether you qualify for the benefit, and at what rate.

ADP has two parts – called components. There is a daily living component and a mobility component. Depending on their needs, your son or daughter may qualify for one of these components, or for both at the same time.

ADP is not means-tested so it makes no difference what savings or income you or your son or daughter has. It can also be paid regardless of whether they are working, and it does not depend on National Insurance contributions. What matters is your child's condition and how this impacts on them and the type of help they need.

If your son or daughter starts to get ADP this does not mean that you lose any benefits that you get for them as a member of your family. ADP can be paid alongside child benefit and any other payments that you get for them as a dependent child.

WHO CAN CLAIM

In order to get Adult Disability Payment (ADP) your child must have a condition or disability which effects their ability to take part in everyday life or to get around outdoors.

The main thing that will determine whether your child qualifies for ADP is how their condition affects their ability to carry out certain key activities necessary for independent living. See page 22 for more details of the activities that are considered. Your child does not need to have a confirmed diagnosis.

Anyone who is applying for ADP must also:

- ***be aged between 16 and state pension age, and***
- ***meet the disability tests for a ‘required period’. This looks at how long they have had needs and how long these needs are expected to last, and***
- ***not be subject to immigration control, and***
- ***meet certain tests linked to their residence and presence in the UK.***

“My son has complex needs which affect his development, motor skills and behaviour. However, it never entered my head that he may be able to claim a benefit. I made a claim which has now been granted. This will make a big difference to us as a family.”

Parent carer

MEETING THE DISABILITY TESTS

IF YOUR CHILD DOESN'T GET CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

If your child isn't already on Child Disability Payment and makes a claim for Adult Disability Payment (ADP), you normally must show that they have met the relevant disability tests for the previous three months and also expect to continue to meet them for at least a further nine months.

This does not mean that you will necessarily have to wait three months before payments start – as you may be able to show that they met the disability tests in the three months before they claimed.

IF YOUR CHILD ALREADY GETS CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

If your child is moving from Child Disability Payment to ADP, you won't have to show that they met the tests in the previous three months. But their needs must still be expected to last for at least nine months.

They may also be exempt from meeting the three month test if claiming ADP within two years of a previous ADP award ending or a previous award of Child Disability Payment, Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance ending. This will apply so long as they are claiming the same type of component, and they have the same condition (or a condition that has developed from the original condition) as before.

IF A CHILD IS TERMINALLY ILL

These required period tests do not apply to either component if a claim is made on the grounds of a terminal illness, see page 37.

RESIDENCY RULES

You can only receive Adult Disability Payment (ADP) if you are treated as 'ordinarily resident' in Scotland. This means that you normally live in Scotland. You must also be habitually resident in the UK – this means that you have been in the UK for an appreciable period of time. In addition, normally you can only claim ADP if you have spent at least 26 out of the last 52 weeks in the UK. But some people are exempt from this 'past presence' test, for example some EEA nationals, some UK nationals who have lived in another EEA country and refugees and their family members. Seek further advice from our freephone helpline.

If you have no recourse to public funds

Regardless of how long your child has spent in the UK they cannot normally claim ADP if their immigration status means that they have no recourse to public funds. Seek specialist advice from an immigration adviser before making an ADP claim for a young person who has no recourse to public funds.



WHEN WILL MY CHILD BE EXPECTED TO CLAIM ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT?

If your child is aged 16 or over and does not already get Child Disability Payment, they need to claim Adult Disability Payment (ADP) instead.

CHILDREN ALREADY GETTING CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT

Although some 16 and 17 year olds in Scotland can be paid Child Disability Payment, this only applies to those whose award started before their 16th birthday. So long as your child is already getting Child Disability Payment by their 16th birthday, then this can continue until they are 18.

Choosing to claim Adult Disability Benefit early

If they prefer, a young person who is on Child Disability Payment can opt to claim ADP early. The earliest they can do this is 13 weeks before their 16th birthday.

However, any young person considering a claim before 18 should first seek detailed advice from a benefits adviser as some disabled people end up worse off under the ADP system.

If your son or daughter chooses to claim ADP early and they are refused ADP, their Child Disability Payment will continue until they turn 18. They can reapply for ADP at any time.

If they claim early and are awarded ADP, that new benefit then replaces their Child Disability Payment straightaway – this is the case even if their ADP is lower than the Child Disability Payment they have been getting.

Unless your child has applied for and been awarded ADP early as a 16 or 17 year old, their Child Disability Payment award will normally continue until they reach 18 – assuming they continue to meet all the normal rules.

Being invited to claim ADP

Your child will get a letter from Social Security Scotland before their 18th birthday telling them about moving from Child Disability Payment to ADP.

Moving from Child Disability Payment to ADP does not happen automatically. Instead, your child will need to complete an application for ADP.

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD CLAIM ADP?

It's up to your child (or you if you are their appointee) to decide when they should claim ADP. However, unless they are terminally ill, they should claim before they turn 18 if they want to make sure that there is no gap in their disability benefit payments.

So long as they lodge their claim before their 18th birthday, their Child Disability Payment award will continue until a decision has been made on their ADP claim. However, they need to make sure that they leave enough time to complete and then submit their application before their 18th birthday – bearing in mind that they must submit both Part 1 and Part 2 of the claim form before they turn 18.

WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T APPLY FOR ADP?

If your child doesn't apply for ADP before they turn 18 their Child Disability Payment will stop. They can still make an application for ADP at a later date but they won't receive any Child Disability Payment while they are waiting for a decision – this is because that award will have already stopped.

The only exception to this is children who are terminally ill (see page 37).

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CAN CONTINUE GETTING CHILD DISABILITY PAYMENT UNTIL THEIR 19TH BIRTHDAY

Although most young people on Child Disability Payment need to claim before they turn 18, small numbers of young people are able to continue receiving Child Disability Payment until their 19th birthday. This applies where a young person turned 18 before 31 Dec 2023 and either:

- ***moved to Scotland before turning 18 and were getting DLA immediately before their move; or***
- ***transferred from child DLA to Child Disability Payment.***

If your child is in one of these groups and is still getting Child Disability Payment despite having turned 18, they are able to retain that benefit until their 19th birthday.

However they should make sure that they lodge their Adult Disability Payment claim early enough that there is sufficient time not only for a claim to be lodged but for Social Security Scotland to come back with a decision on their claim before their 19th birthday.

YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL

If your child gets Child Disability Payment on the basis that they are terminally ill they are not required to claim Adult Disability Payment (ADP) at 18 and have the option of staying on Child Disability Payment instead. Social Security Scotland will contact your child before they turn 18 inviting them to transfer onto ADP and are likely to automatically transfer your child onto ADP unless they are told that your child wants to stay on Child Disability Payment.

IF YOUR CHILD IS GETTING PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

If your child lives in Scotland but still gets Personal Independence Payment (PIP) different rules apply. They won't need to make a claim for ADP. Instead they will be automatically transferred onto ADP at the same rates as their PIP award. This is done without them needing to complete a claim form and without any reassessment of their needs.

“Sam is 16, he needs help and supervision with personal care. He is becoming more independent in that he can make a sandwich or dress himself but it’s all done with supervision.”

Parent carer

CHANGES IN WHO BENEFIT IS PAID TO AT AGE 16

When your child reaches 16, there may also be changes in how benefit is paid. Before 16, a parent or other main carer is automatically authorised to act on their child's behalf as their 'appointee'. This means you are responsible for filling in forms and making claims for your child.

When your child is nearing 16 years of age, you will be contacted by Social Security Scotland, to decide if you will continue to be your child's appointee. This not only applies to young people who choose to move onto ADP early but also to a 16 year old in Scotland staying on Child Disability Payment.

IF YOUR CHILD IS UNABLE TO MANAGE THEIR AFFAIRS

Once your child turns 16 you can only continue to act on their behalf as an appointee if they are assessed as lacking the capacity to manage their own benefits. You can't become an appointee simply because it is more convenient for you or your child. As part of making a decision on whether to agree to you becoming an appointee, Social Security Scotland are likely to arrange a visit with you and your child. They do this to assess whether your child needs an appointee and how they feel about someone else managing their Social Security Scotland benefits.

Becoming an appointee means you are responsible for making any claims, giving any information required, and telling Social Security Scotland about any changes that may affect your child's entitlement to benefits. The benefits will be paid to you on their behalf.

Becoming an appointee for benefit purposes does not mean you have any wider rights to deal with their affairs.

If you already act on your child's behalf

You do not need to apply to become an appointee if you have already been granted legal powers to act on your child's behalf, for example if you are their guardian under the Adults With Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. All you will need to do is show Social Security Scotland proof of the legal powers you have been granted.

IF YOUR CHILD IS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF HANDLING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS

Any Child Disability Payment or ADP will start to be paid to them directly and they will be expected to deal with their own benefit.



HOW DO I CLAIM ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT?

Your child (or someone acting as their appointee) will need to make a claim for Adult Disability Payment (ADP). There are a number of different ways in which you can complete a claim form:

- **Online by completing a form at mygov.scot.** To do this you'll need to create a mygov.scot account with a user name and password. You can use these details to come back to the application at any time. You do not need to complete the application in one go. You will have two weeks to submit Part 1 of the application, and eight weeks to submit Part 2.
- **By telephone** by calling by Social Security Scotland's free helpline on 0800 182 2222, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.
- **On a paper form.** To do this you first need to call Social Security Scotland on the number above and ask for a paper claim form. Social Security Scotland will complete Part 1 of the claim pack with you over the telephone before sending you Part 2 of the claim pack to complete and return to them.
- **By completing a claim form face-to-face** with an someone from Social Security Scotland's local delivery service.

If you're a British Sign Language (BSL) user, you can use the **Contact Scotland BSL app** to apply to Social Security Scotland by video relay.

IF YOU ARE GETTING HELP WITH THE FORM

There is a separate claim form for organisations helping someone to claim ADP, which can be completed electronically. This can be downloaded from **Social Security Scotland**.

If you want to claim ADP with help from an organisation using this form, telephone Social Security Scotland and explain this. Ask them to record your date of claim.



MAKING A CLAIM FOR ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT

Regardless of whether you claim online or by using a paper form there are two parts to the ADP application form.

PART 1 OF THE FORM

You start the application by completing Part 1.

You should try to complete Part 1 as soon as you can, because ADP can only be paid from that date. It cannot be backdated unless you are terminally ill.

Once you have completed Part 1 you then have eight weeks to complete and return Part 2 of the form along with any supporting evidence. If you don't meet this deadline your date of claim will be the date that you manage to provide it (unless you are terminally ill).

If you're going to have difficulty completing the application within the eight-week deadline, tell Social Security Scotland. They may agree to give you more time if there are good reasons why you can't meet the deadline.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE FORM?

Part 1 of the form asks basic questions such as your child's name, contact details, nationality, bank account details and for details of the main health professional supporting them.

It is also used to check that your child meets the main basic qualifying conditions. For example, that they are old enough and meet certain tests linked to their immigration status and presence in the UK.

PART 2 OF THE FORM

Part 2 of the form gathers information about a young person's ability to do a range of different activities. This is their (or yours as their appointee) opportunity to give a detailed explanation of how their condition affects them, so they should give as much detail as possible. Don't be put off by the length of the form. You don't have to complete it in one go – you have eight weeks to finish it.

Getting evidence to support your claim

You're also asked to provide one piece of supporting evidence with your claim, although you can provide more than one piece if you want.

You can ask Social Security Scotland to help you get this evidence – including asking them to get evidence on your behalf. However, to do this you must give them permission. If you don't give permission you will need to get this evidence yourself.

You must also provide evidence yourself if Social Security Scotland asks you to. Supporting evidence should normally be from a professional but if this is difficult to get it could be from someone else who knows your child.

If you can't get evidence in time

If you fail to provide supporting evidence within the time you have been allowed to do so, there is a risk that your child will be refused ADP. However guidance suggests that this should only happen if you have not responded to Social Security Scotland, or been uncooperative, and not where you have faced problems in getting supporting evidence. If you are refused ADP for failing to provide evidence, seek advice about asking for a reconsideration.

BEING ASKED TO ATTEND A 'CONSULTATION'

If they can Social Security Scotland will make a decision based on the claim form and any additional evidence provided. However, if they feel further information is needed they they may ask your child to take part in an assessment known as a consultation. This will be done with a 'health and social care practitioner' (for example a nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, or social worker) employed by Social Security Scotland.

Consultations usually take place by telephone. However, your child should be asked how they would prefer to be assessed (for example by video call or face-to-face) and their preference should be taken into account. A friend or family member can take part in the assessment to provide support.

The consultation is recorded unless you ask for this not to happen. This needs to be requested in advance by telephoning **0800 182 2222**.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CONSULTATION?

The consultation does not involve a physical examination. Instead the health and social care practitioner will ask the young person about their condition, their day-to-day life and how they manage at home and out of doors. Once the consultation has completed a report will be sent to the case manager dealing with your child's claim. They will use this report to help them decide whether to award ADP and at what rate.

FAILURE TO TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATION

If your child can't take part in a consultation, explain this to Social Security Scotland as soon as possible and ask for it to be rearranged. If your child misses a consultation contact Social Security Scotland as soon as possible and ask for a new appointment.

Guidance suggests that if you do not take part in a consultation, a decision should be made on the information that Social Security Scotland already has about them. However, the law also allows for a decision to be made that you are not entitled to Adult Disability Payment because you didn't take part in the assessment. If this happens, to your child seek specialist advice.



WHAT TESTS ARE USED TO DECIDE IF SOMEONE GETS ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT?

Adult Disability Payment is made up of two parts, called components: a daily living component and a mobility component. People applying for Adult Disability Payment are awarded points according to how well they can carry out 10 daily living activities and two mobility activities:

10 DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES

- *preparing food*
- *taking nutrition (eating and drinking)*
- *managing therapy or monitoring a health condition*
- *washing and bathing*
- *managing toilet needs or incontinence*
- *dressing and undressing*
- *communicating verbally (speaking)*
- *reading and understanding signs, symbols and words*
- *engaging with other people face-to-face (mixing with people)*
- *making budgeting decisions (making decisions about money).*

TWO MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

- *planning and following a journey*
- *moving around.*



ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT ACTIVITIES & POINTS SYSTEM

The tables that follow outline the scoring system that is used to decide whether a young person qualifies for Adult Disability Payment, and at what rate. In making sense of the tests set out in the tables it is important to understand how certain words are interpreted. The tests used are very similar to those used for Personal Independence Payment elsewhere in the UK. Some of the notes to the scoring system given below assumes that Adult Disability Payment decision makers will interpret these tests in the same way as they are interpreted for Personal Independence Payment.

DEFINITIONS

- assistance:** means physical intervention by another person and does not include any help provided through speech
- supervision:** means the continuous presence of another person for the purpose of ensuring your safety. In deciding whether there is a real risk of harm, both the likelihood and the seriousness of the harm must be taken into account
- prompting:** means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person. The person prompting you does not always need to be in the disabled person's presence, so prompting via the phone can count.
- unaided:** means without supervision, prompting, assistance or the use of an aid or appliance
- aid or appliance:** means any object or device which the person needs to complete an activity and which improves, provides or replaces impaired physical or mental function. Can include things which are not specially designed for disabled people's use.

DAILY LIVING COMPONENT

Activity 1. Preparing food	Points
can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided	0
needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal	2
cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave	2
needs prompting to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal	2
needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal	4
cannot prepare and cook food	8

prepare: in the context of food means make food ready for cooking or eating. This includes being able to peel and chop vegetables.

cook: heat food at or above waist height

simple meal: a cooked, one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients

This activity aims to assess a claimant's physical or mental capacity to cook a simple main meal, and not whether or not they actually cook for themselves. Factors such as special dietary requirements or cultural/religious differences are not taken into account

Activity 2. Taking nutrition	Points
can take nutrition unaided	0
needs (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition or (ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition or (iii) assistance to be able to cut up food	2
needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition	2
needs prompting to be able to take nutrition	4
needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition	6
cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so	10

take nutrition: cut food into pieces, convey food and drink to one's mouth and chew and swallow food and drink, or ingest nutrition by using a therapeutic source

therapeutic source: parenteral or enteral tube feeding, using a rate-limiting device such as a delivery system or feed pump

Activity 3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition	Points
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either (i) does not receive medication or therapy, or need to monitor a health condition, or (ii) can manage medication or therapy, or monitor a health condition unaided	0
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(i) therapy: therapy to be undertaken at home, prescribed or recommended by (a) registered (i) doctor; (ii) nurse; or (iii) pharmacist; or (b) health professional regulated by the Health Professions Council; but does not include taking or applying, or otherwise receiving or administering, medication (whether orally, topically or by any other means), or any action which, in the claimant's case, falls within the definition of 'monitor a health condition'

(ii) manage medication or therapy: take medication or undertake therapy that improves the individual's symptoms and health

needs either (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication or (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to manage medication or monitor a health condition	1
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(i) medication: medication to be taken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a registered medical practitioner, nurse pharmacist, or health professional registered by the Health and Care Professions Council

(ii) monitor health: detect significant changes in a health condition which are likely to lead to a deterioration in health and take action advised by a registered medical practitioner, registered nurse or health professional who is registered by the Health and Care Professions Council, without which health is likely to deteriorate

needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week	2
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needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week	4
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needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week	6
---	---

needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week	8
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note: any action which falls under the definition of monitoring a health condition cannot be treated as therapy – no matter how much time is spent in monitoring the disabled person's condition

note: It is the time taken to supervise, prompt or assist someone to manage therapy that is measured, not how long the therapy itself takes

note: Help with managing a special diet can count as therapy if the diet is recommended by a health professional and help is needed with both the nature and timing of food and drink, and a failure to follow the diet will lead to a quick deterioration in health

Activity 4. Washing and bathing	Points
can wash and bathe unaided	0
needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe	2
needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe	2
needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist	2
needs assistance to be able to get in or out of an unadapted bath or shower	3
needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist	4
cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body	8

bathe: if you have an adapted bath you need to explain what problems you have in using an unadapted one

washing: means cleaning one's whole body, including removing dirt and sweat

note: someone who needs to remove hearing aids to bathe or shower should score 2 points under this activity

Activity 5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence	Points
can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided	0
needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence	2
needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs	2
needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs	4
needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel	6
needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel	8

toilet needs: getting on and off an unadapted toilet, evacuating bladder and bowel, and cleaning oneself. Help in dressing or undressing is not taken into account

manage incontinence: manage involuntary evacuation of the bowel or bladder, including use of a collecting device or self catheterisation, and clean oneself afterwards

note: incontinence pads and colostomy bags fall within the definition of an aid or appliance. If it is reasonable for your child to use pads most days as a precautionary measure, they should be treated as needing an aid or appliance, even if incontinent on a minority of days

Activity 6. Dressing and undressing	Points
can dress and undress unaided	0
needs to use an aid or appliance to dress or undress	2
needs either (i) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed or (ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing	2
needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body	2
needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body	4
cannot dress or undress at all	8

this descriptor assesses the ability to put on and take off un-adapted clothing. Can include the need for fastenings, zips and buttons, and includes putting on and taking off socks and shoes

note: selecting appropriate clothing can cover choosing clothing suitable for the weather as well as not reusing dirty clothes

Activity 7. Communicating verbally	Points
can express and understand basic and complex verbal information unaided	0
needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear	2
needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information	4
needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information	8
cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support	12

communication support: support from a person trained or experienced in communicating with people in general, or in the individual in particular with specific communication needs, including interpreting verbal information into a non-verbal form and vice versa. It is not limited to interpreters and can include friends or family

complex verbal information: information in native language conveyed verbally in either more than one sentence or one complicated sentence. Excludes information that is not communicated orally or received aurally.

basic verbal information: information in native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence. . Excludes information that is not communicated orally or received aurally.note: for the purpose of this test lip-reading is not considered an acceptable way to interpret verbal communication

note: not limited to hearing loss. Verbal communication difficulties due to mental health problems are also relevant

Activity 8. Reading & understanding signs, symbols & words Points

can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses	0
needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information	2
needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information	2
needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information	4
cannot read or understand sign, symbols or words at all	8

read: includes reading signs, symbols and words but does not include reading Braille

complex written information: more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text in native language

basic written information: signs, symbols and dates written or printed in standard size text in native language

note: illiteracy which does not result from a physical or mental condition cannot be taken into account

Activity 9. Engaging with other people face-to-face Points

can engage socially with other people unaided	0
needs prompting to be able to engage socially with other people	2
needs social support to be able to engage socially with other people	4
cannot socially engage with other people due to such engagement causing either (i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant or (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person	8

engage socially: interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner, understand body language and establish relationships. Establishing relationships means more than simply responding to questions

social support: support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people in general, or the individual in particular to engage in social situations. Can be provided by friends or family

psychological distress: distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment

note: This activity assesses the ability to mix with people in small groups or in one-to-one situations rather than with others in a crowd. The test implies some engagement with people you do not know. Social support may be given before or during an activity

Activity 10. Making budgeting decisions

Points

can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided	0
needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions	2
needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions	4
cannot make any budgeting decisions at all	6

simple budgeting decision: decisions involving calculating the costs of goods, and calculating change required after a purchase

Complex budgeting decisions: decisions involving calculating household and personal budgets, managing and paying bills, and planning future purchases

MOBILITY COMPONENT

Activity 11. Planning and following journeys

Points

can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided	0
needs the prompting of another person to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant	4
cannot plan the route of a journey	8
cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid	10
cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant	10
cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid	12

psychological distress: distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment

assistance dog: dog trained to guide or assist a person with a sensory impairment

orientation aid: specialist aid designed to assist disabled people to follow a route safely.

Follow the route of a journey: means for an individual to navigate and make their way along a planned route to a planned destination

Activity 12. Moving around	Points
can stand and then move more than 200 metres either aided or unaided	0
can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres either aided or unaided	4
can stand and then move unaided more than 20 meters but no more than 50 either aided or unaided	8
can stand and then move using an aid or appliance, more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres either aided or unaided	10
can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres either aided or unaided	12
cannot either aided or unaided (i) stand or (ii) move more than 1 metre	12

stand: stand upright with at least one biological foot on the ground

aided: with supervision, prompting, or assistance, or with the use of an aid or appliance

note: in measuring how far someone can move around, any pain or breathlessness is a factor in deciding whether they move around to an acceptable standard



HOW THE POINTS SYSTEM WORKS

Social Security Scotland must take into account your child’s ability not just to carry out an activity, but to carry it out ‘reliably’. This means being able to carry out an activity:

- **safely** – in a manner that is unlikely to cause harm to themselves or others either during or after the task has completed. Not being able to carry out a task safely means that it is likely that harm will occur, rather than it simply being possible that harm will occur. A risk can be said to be likely if there is a real possibility of something happening which cannot be sensibly ignored. In deciding whether your child can undertake a task safely both the likelihood and the severity of any harm must be considered.
- **repeatedly** – as many times as reasonably required.
- **in a reasonable time period** – no more than twice as long as the maximum time taken by someone without any health problems.
- **to an acceptable standard** – of a standard that is ‘good enough’ and which most people would normally achieve. The effects of any pain and breathlessness experienced will be relevant in deciding whether an activity is carried out to an acceptable standard as will any other impacts on you.

So if someone is able to wash and bathe themselves independently they would not normally score any points for that activity. However, if that person was at risk of falling when washing and bathing themselves, or couldn’t wash themselves to an acceptable standard, or would take hours to do so, they may still score points.

If your child uses an aid or appliance, or could be reasonably expected to, this will be taken into account when assessing their ability to carry out an activity. To score points on the basis of using an aid, your child must need to use it, rather than simply choosing to use it.

Every activity in the tables has a set of descriptions. For example, the first daily living activity above is called ‘preparing food’, and there are six descriptions in that activity:

- ***the first description is ‘can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided’***
- ***the second is ‘needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal’, and so on.***

Each of these descriptions has a number of points a person can score. The number of points varies depending on how limited a person’s abilities are.

HOW THE POINTS ADD UP

If more than one description in an activity applies to your son or daughter, they are awarded the one that gives them the most points.

For example: in the activity ‘making budgeting decisions’, the descriptions are:

- ***can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided – 0 points***
- ***needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions – 2 points***
- ***needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions – 4 points***
- ***cannot make any budgeting decisions at all – 8 points.***

In this example, if a young person needs assistance to make complex budgeting decisions (worth 2 points) and also needs assistance to make simple budgeting decisions (4 points) they will be awarded the highest score that applies – 4 points.

The scores they have been awarded in each of the 10 daily living activities are then added together to decide whether the person qualifies for the daily living component and at what rate – standard or enhanced.

Their score in each of the two mobility activities is added together to decide whether they qualify for the mobility component and at what rate. A young person will only be awarded points for an activity if their ability to carry it out is affected for at least half of the days over a 12 month period.

FLUCTUATING CONDITIONS

You don't need to show that an activity description applies to your son or daughter for the whole of the day. So long as it applies at some point during a day (and is more than just fleeting), it should be treated as applying to them. To qualify their needs must be expected to last for at least 52 weeks at a specific level. If their condition varies on different days, then:

- ***if only one description applies on more than 50 per cent of the days, that is the description Social Security Scotland will use to award points***
- ***if two descriptions apply on more than 50 per cent of days, the description with the higher number of points applies.***

Where no single description applies on more than 50 per cent of days, you will still score points if two or more of the different descriptions (not counting the one that scores zero points) added together apply on over 50 per cent of days. If this applies, their score will be based on the description that applies for the greatest number of days.

So in the activity of preparing food, someone may need prompting to cook a simple meal on 33 per cent of days (2 points) but also need assistance to prepare a meal on an additional 25 per cent of days (4 points). Because the two descriptions added together apply on 58 per cent of days they will score points for this activity, and 2 points will be awarded since that description applies for the greater number of days. If 2 descriptions applied for an equal number of days, for example each applied on 33 per cent of days, then the higher score is awarded.

HOW MUCH IS ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT?

DAILY LIVING COMPONENT

Social Security Scotland adds together the young person's score from the 10 daily living activities to decide whether they get the daily living component. It also uses this score to decide whether they should get paid the daily living component at the standard or enhanced rate.

POINTS	RATE	WEEKLY AMOUNT
0–7		no award
8–11	standard rate	£68.10 (£72.65 from April 24)
12+	enhanced rate	£101.75 (£108.55 from April 24)

MOBILITY COMPONENT

Social Security Scotland adds together the scores from the two mobility activities to decide if they get the mobility component. This score also decides whether they should get the mobility component at the standard or enhanced rate.

POINTS	RATE	WEEKLY AMOUNT
0–7		no award
8–11	standard rate	£26.90 (£28.70 from April 24)
12+	enhanced rate	£71.00 (£75.75 from April 24)

TERMINALLY ILL APPLICANTS

If your son or daughter has a terminal illness, you should be able to claim under a quicker process known as the 'special rules'. Adult Disability Payment (ADP) can be paid straight away (there is no 13 week qualifying period), and your child should automatically qualify for both the highest rate of the care component and the higher rate of the mobility component.

If you apply under the special rules you only need to complete Part 1 of the claim form. You can apply online at mygov.scot or by telephone at **0800 182 2222**. If you say that you are claiming for someone who is terminally ill you will not need to provide extra information about care and mobility needs. However, you will need to provide a Benefits Assistance under Special Rules in Scotland (BASRiS) form completed by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse.

The BASRiS form confirms that in the opinion of that health professional, your child has a progressive disease that can reasonably be expected to cause their death. Factors the health professional is supposed to take into account are whether the illness is advanced and progressive, whether it is amenable to curative treatment and whether it's leading to an increased need for additional care and support. If you claim under the special rules you should receive a decision within a few days.

As an alternative to a BASRiS form, Social Security Scotland will accept a DWP SR1 form or a DS1500 medical certificate.

If you claim under the special rules it's also possible for the award of ADP to be backdated to the date that the health professional first judged your child as terminally ill – as long as this was not more than 26 weeks ago. If it was more than 26 weeks ago, backdating is limited to 26 weeks. Please note that if an ADP award under the special rules is backdated to cover any weeks where Child Disability Payment/Disability Living Allowance/Persona Independence Payment was in payment you will only receive arrears of the difference between your ADP and your old award.

GETTING A DECISION ON AN ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT CLAIM

A case manager at Social Security Scotland decides whether a young person is entitled to Adult Disability Payment (ADP), and at what rate.

Social Security Scotland will send your child a decision letter outlining whether ADP has been awarded and if so the rates of each component. This is known as a determination letter and it will explain the number of points your son or daughter was awarded for each daily living and mobility activity.

If they are refused ADP or awarded a lower rate than you were expecting, you can ask for a redetermination of the decision.

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE DECISION?

If your child is refused ADP or awarded at a lower rate than expected, you can challenge the decision that has been made on their claim. There are two possible stages when challenging a decision:

- ***first you can ask for the decision to be looked at again. This is known as asking for a redetermination***
- ***then, you can lodge an appeal if you are not happy with the outcome of the redetermination.***

Please note that you cannot ask for an appeal until you have asked for had a redetermination.

ASKING FOR THE DECISION TO BE REDETERMINED

If you are not happy with a ADP decision you can ask Social Security Scotland to make a new decision on your claim. This is known as a redetermination. You can request this over the telephone or in writing, and you need to do this within 42 days of the date of the decision letter. If you make a request in writing it is best to download an ADP redetermination form available on the mygov.scot website.

It will be assumed that you received your determination 48 hours after Social Security Scotland sent it, unless you can prove that there was a delay in you getting the decision.

If you ask for a redetermination the whole decision is looked at again. This means that if you were awarded some Child Disability Payment but hoped to get more, a redetermination could potentially result in you losing benefit rather than gaining it.

LATE REQUESTS

It is very important that you ask for a decision to be redetermined within the 42 day time scale as a late request will only be accepted if Social Security Scotland believe that you have good reasons.

PROVIDING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

As part of a redetermination you can volunteer, or you may be asked to give, further information. Or Social Security Scotland may ask for a short factual report (usually from a doctor) on any aspects of your claim that weren't clear. Another decision maker will then make a new decision on your claim.

WHEN A REDETERMINATION IS MADE

Once it has received your request for a redetermination, Social Security Scotland has 56 days to make a redetermination decision.

If Social Security Scotland fails to make a redetermination within the 56 day timescale they must write to you to let you know. You will have the option of either waiting longer for them to make a new decision or if you prefer you can choose to appeal against the original decision.

If you are told that you can appeal because your redetermination request has not been dealt with in time, Social Security Scotland can still redetermine your entitlement at a later date. Even if Social Security Scotland tell you that you can wait for a redetermination before appealing, you should appeal within 31-days of when you are first told you have a right of appeal. This is because the time limit for appealing runs from the date that you are first told that you have the right of appeal.



ASKING FOR AN APPEAL

If Social Security Scotland decide not to change the outcome of their determination, or change it but don't give you what you were looking for, you have the right to ask for an appeal. But remember you can't normally ask for an appeal unless you have asked for a redetermination first. You can also appeal if you have requested a redetermination but Social Security Scotland have failed to do this within 56 days.

HOW DO I APPEAL?

You can appeal in writing by completing an appeal form. If Social Security Scotland don't send you an appeal form you can download one at mygov.scot. Alternatively, you can phone Social Security Scotland and have one of their staff complete the appeal form with you over the telephone.

DEADLINE FOR APPEALING

You have 31 days from receiving a decision letter to make an appeal. It will be assumed that you received your re-determination decision 48 hours after Social Security Scotland sent it, unless you can prove that there was a delay in you getting the decision.

If you miss this 31-day deadline seek advice about making a late appeal. A late appeal can be made within one year of the redetermination decision (or longer if due to reasons connected to Coronavirus) but it will only be heard if the Tribunal agrees that you have good reasons for missing the 31 day deadline.

Your appeal will be passed on by Social Security Scotland to the First-tier Tribunal. The Tribunal is independent from Social Security Scotland.

PREPARING FOR THE APPEAL HEARING

If you can, get specialist advice to help you prepare your case, as tribunals make decisions based on legislation and case law, as well as information about your child's needs. A specialist adviser will be familiar with the law, may write to medical professionals for supporting evidence, and help you to concentrate on giving a clear picture of your child's needs. They may also be able to come along to the tribunal and put your case with you.

At the appeal hearing, it is important that you give as much information as possible about why and how you think the decision is wrong – make sure you don't contradict what you've already said on the claim form.



To find a specialist adviser who can help you appeal call our free helpline **0808 808 3555** or email helpline@contact.org.uk

AN ORAL HEARING

You will be asked whether you want the appeal decision to be made based purely on the paper evidence or whether you would like a hearing to discuss the appeal. It is always best to ask for an oral hearing. Statistically, oral hearings are more successful than paper hearings. An oral hearing may be heard face to face or it may be done remotely, for example by telephone conference or video link. At the time of writing most oral hearings are done via telephone.

If you don't have a welfare rights representative to come with you, take a friend or relative to help you feel more relaxed.

WHO IS ON THE TRIBUNAL PANEL?

The tribunal usually consists of a legally qualified tribunal convener, a doctor and a person with experience of the needs of disabled people.

An officer from Social Security Scotland might also be present. This is usually a decision maker but they are not likely to be the one who made the decision on your claim. A tribunal clerk may also be there to deal with paperwork and expenses.

AN INFORMAL HEARING

The hearing is meant to be fairly informal and you will have the opportunity to explain your child's situation. You may find it useful to make notes before you go to the hearing, with the points you want to make and the supporting evidence you want to provide. Take your time when you're asked to speak – the convener will usually try to make you feel at ease.

You might be asked questions while you're giving your evidence, but you can ask for any questions to be left until you've finished if you're worried they'll interrupt your train of thought.

GETTING A DECISION ON YOUR APPEAL

You should get a decision on the day of the hearing, or soon after. If you are unhappy with the decision you may be able to ask for a review or appeal to the Upper Tribunal. You should ask for a full statement of the Tribunal's reasons as part of this process. Talk to your representative about this or call our helpline, as the Upper Tribunal can only deal with cases where the tribunal decision includes an error of law.

SHORT TERM ASSISTANCE TO HELP YOU FINANCIALLY

If you're challenging a decision to either reduce or stop a pre-existing award of ADP, you can apply for Short-term Assistance. This is a payment from Social Security Scotland to help you while you challenge a decision. Short-term Assistance will make up the difference between the ADP you were getting before and how much you now get (including if this is now nil).

When can't I get Short-term Assistance?

You cannot get Short-term Assistance if this is your first claim for ADP, you must have been getting some ADP prior to the decision you are now challenging. You cannot get Short-term Assistance if you are challenging a decision to suspend payment of ADP because your child is in residential care.

How to apply for Short-term Assistance

You can apply for the payment by ticking the box on the re-determination or appeal form or asking Social Security Scotland over the phone. You won't have to pay the Short-term Assistance back, even if your redetermination or appeal is unsuccessful. However, if your challenge is successful any Short-term Assistance you have received, will be deducted from any arrears of ADP that Social Security Scotland pay you.

When will I receive Short-term Assistance?

Short-term Assistance can be paid from the day that Social Security Scotland receives your request for a re-determination or your request for an appeal.

If you apply for Short-term Assistance after you asked for a re-determination or an appeal, you'll be awarded Short-term Assistance from the date Social Security Scotland received your request for a redetermination or appeal, not the date that you applied for Short-term Assistance.

When will my Short-term Assistance stop?

Any Short-term Assistance you get stops on the day Social Security Scotland makes their re-determination decision or the First-tier Tribunal makes a decision on your appeal, or (refuses to give you permission to make a late appeal).

So for example if you get Short-term Assistance while a re-determination is being decided, it will stop when the re-determination is made. However if you don't agree with the re-determination, you can appeal. If you appeal, you can then apply again for Short-term Assistance while your appeal is being dealt with.



ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT & STAYS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Adult Disability Payment (ADP) can be affected by overnight stays away from home. There are different rules depending on whether your child is in hospital or residential accommodation.

If a young person is in hospital and was aged 18 or over when their stay as an in-patient started, payment of both the daily living and mobility components of ADP are suspended after 28 days.

If a young person is aged 16 or 17 when their period as a hospital in-patient started they are not affected by these rules and their payments should continue without interruption. This remains the case even if they turn 18 while in hospital.

If a young person is in residential accommodation that is paid for out of public funds, including a residential school, the daily living component stops being paid after 28 days. This applies to all ADP claimants including those aged 16 or 17. The mobility component is not affected.

When working out when payments of a young person's ADP will stop, it is important to know that different stays in hospital or care separated by fewer than 28 days at home are added together to count the number of days they have been away.

For further information on these 'linking rules' contact our freephone helpline or see our free factsheet on **Benefits if your child is in residential accommodation**.



GETTING AN EXISTING ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT AWARD CHANGED

When you are awarded Adult Disability Payment (ADP), Social Security Scotland will tell you what sort of changes you need to tell them about. This includes any changes in your child's needs that might affect the amount of benefit that they receive. If your child's needs change and you do not report this you may miss out if the change means they are entitled to more benefit, or be overpaid if the change means they are entitled to less.

If you report a change that could affect the rate of benefit paid, Social Security Scotland must review your child's award and carry out a new determination. This might be to keep your child's benefit at the same rate, or to increase it or to decrease it. If you are not happy with the outcome of a new determination you have the right to ask for a redetermination and an appeal against that new decision in the usual way. Please see page 38 onwards.

PLANNED REVIEWS OF AN ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT

Awards of ADP are not time-limited. Instead, your child will have an open-ended award. However, often Social Security Scotland will want to review their award at some point to make sure that your child's needs have not changed and that they remain entitled to ADP at the same rates.

When your child is awarded ADP, the determination letter will tell you when you can expect your child's award to be reviewed by them. Most awards are made for at least two years. If your child is awarded the enhanced rates of both components of ADP and their condition is highly unlikely to change, they will not be subject to reviews

Sometimes Social Security Scotland will review an award earlier than they had originally planned. This may happen if there is a change in the ADP rules or if there is a change in your child's circumstances. When a review is undertaken you will be sent a review form to complete.

WHAT HAPPENS WHILE A REVIEW TAKES PLACE?

While your child's award is being reviewed by Social Security Scotland they will continue to receive ADP at the existing rate. If the review results in their award being changed, that change will take effect from the date that the review completes.



ADULT DISABILITY PAYMENT & ITS EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS

Adult Disability Payment (ADP) is never treated as income in calculating other benefits. In fact getting ADP can actually lead to an increase in other benefits, or help you qualify for other entitlements.

The following is a brief checklist of benefits and entitlements which may become available following an award or increase of ADP. Call our freephone helpline for more detailed advice.

CARER'S ALLOWANCE

If a young person gets the daily living component of ADP at either rate (standard or enhanced) you may be able to get Carer's Allowance.

You must be providing at least 35 hours of care each week. To get Carer's Allowance, you must not be a full-time student and not be earning more than a set amount after certain deductions and costs each week. At the time of writing this is £139 per week (£151 from April 2024). If the only thing that stops you from getting Carer's Allowance is that your earnings are too high, you may still qualify for an extra payment known as the carer's element if you are getting Universal Credit.

Social Security Scotland are in the process of rolling out a new benefit called Carer Support Payment to replace Carer's Allowance in Scotland. From November 23 this is being piloted in three areas in Scotland for new claimants only. It will then be extended to new claims in other parts of Scotland between Spring 24 and Autumn 24. Alongside this Social Security Scotland intends to also transfer existing Carer's Allowance claimants in Scotland onto the new benefit. This process will start in Feb 24 with all transfers completed by Spring 2025.

The qualifying rules for Carer Support Payment are very similar to Carer's Allowance except some full-time students are able to claim.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

If a young person for whom you receive tax credits gets ADP, your Child Tax Credit payments will increase. This is because you will qualify for an extra disability element. You will also get a further severely disabled child element if they have been awarded the daily living component at the enhanced rate.

The disability and severe disability elements can be backdated in line with the ADP award, but only if you tell the tax credit office within one month of the date on the decision letter awarding you ADP.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit is a benefit that is replacing tax credits and other means-tested benefits for people of working age. If you are getting Universal Credit and a young person who is included in your claim receives ADP, you will qualify for an extra Universal Credit payment known as the disabled child addition. This is paid at a higher rate if your child is severely sight impaired or blind or if they qualify for the daily living component at the enhanced rate.

Make sure you let the office paying you Universal Credit know if your child is awarded ADP or has their award increased to include the enhanced rate of the daily living component. It's possible for these extra Universal Credit payments can be backdated to the date that your child's ADP started – even if there was a delay in telling Universal Credit about your child's award.



See our free factsheet [Universal Credit – the essentials](#) available to download from our website or from our helpline **0808 808 3555**.

INCOME SUPPORT

For families still getting payments for their children in their Income Support, an award of ADP can lead to extra money being added to your Income Support. This is known as the disabled child premium. If a young person is awarded the daily living component at the enhanced rate, the enhanced disability premium is also added. You will need to let the office dealing with the Income Support claim know about the ADP award.

EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT ALLOWANCE

If a young person already gets Employment and Support Allowance, an award of the enhanced daily living component of ADP may lead to an increase in their Employment and Support Allowance. Let the office dealing with Employment and Support Allowance know about a new award of ADP, or any change to the existing award.

HELP WITH RENT & COUNCIL TAX

If you get Housing Benefit or support with council tax, then getting ADP for your child may lead to extra benefit if you are not already getting your rent and council tax met in full.

If your disabled child cannot share a bedroom and because of this your Housing Benefit (or help with rent via Universal Credit) is reduced under the bedroom tax or local housing allowance rules, getting the daily living component of ADP care component may help you get more help with rent. Call our freephone helpline for further advice.

Both Housing Benefit and support with council tax are means-tested and any award will depend on your income and circumstances.

There are other ways of getting help with council tax which don't depend on income or savings but do depend on there being a disabled occupant within your household.



See our guide [Help with Council Tax bills](#), available on our website or free from our helpline **0808 808 3555**.

EXEMPTION FROM 'BENEFIT CAP'

If a young person for whom you claim benefits as part of your family gets ADP, you will be exempt from the household benefit cap which limits the amount of benefit that an out-of-work family can receive.

BLUE BADGE FOR HELP WITH DISABLED PARKING

If your child is awarded 8 points or more for the activity of moving around or 12 points for the activity of planning and following journeys they should qualify for a Blue Badge for help with parking. They should also qualify if they have been awarded higher rate mobility component under the special rules for terminal illness.

Your child can also qualify for a blue badge if they are assessed as having great difficulties in walking or have a diagnosed mental disorder and lack an awareness of the danger from traffic. Certain other groups can also qualify but whether they are awarded a badge will depend on an individual assessment. Contact your local authority to apply.



More information about the Blue Badge rules in the different nations is available at: [contact.org.uk/blue-badge](https://www.contact.org.uk/blue-badge)

HELP WITH ROAD TAX

If a young person is awarded the mobility component of ADP at the enhanced rate, you may be exempt from paying road tax. If they qualify for the mobility component at the standard rate you may be eligible for a 50 per cent reduction instead.

Claimants are usually told about this when they are notified about the award of mobility component. If you haven't received any information and you think you may qualify, contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

HELP WITH GETTING A CAR

If you're interested in getting a car and your child is awarded the mobility component of ADP, you have the option of leasing a car through the Accessible Vehicle and Equipment (AVE) Scheme. To access this scheme your child's award of the higher rate mobility component must have at least 12 months left to run.

You use the scheme by arranging to lease a car from a dealer who has been accredited by the AVE scheme, and have some or all of your higher rate mobility payment diverted to that dealer to finance the car lease. If you're unable to drive and need help with paying for lessons or require help in getting a deposit for a car through the scheme then you may qualify for a grant.



To find out more contact Motability:

01279 635 999 [motability.org.uk](https://www.motability.org.uk)

CHILD WINTER HEATING PAYMENT

If your child is awarded the enhanced rate daily living component of ADP and is aged under 19, you should qualify for an annual payment of £235.70 towards your winter heating bills.

The payment is made automatically using Security Scotland records, so you do not need to apply. To be paid your child normally must have been on the higher component by the third week in September. Payments are made in batches during the winter.

If you think you should qualify for a payment but have not received a letter about this contact Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

WINTER HEATING PAYMENT

If you have a child on any rate of ADP and you also receive one of certain means-tested benefits – Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, State Pension Credit or support with mortgage interest – you should qualify for an annual payment of £50 towards your winter heating bill. You need to have been getting one of these means-tested benefits in the second week of November. Payments are made in February and should happen automatically.

OTHER CONCESSIONS


It is also worth checking to see if there are any special schemes, concessions or facilities available to families with disabled children in your area.



Call our free helpline for local contacts **0808 808 3555**

CLAIMING OTHER BENEFITS

Depending on your child's circumstances it may be possible for them to claim other benefits in addition to any Adult Disability Payment (ADP) once they turn 16. In most cases the benefit they are most likely to be able to claim will be Universal Credit.

 Call our helpline on **0808 808 3555** for detailed advice if your son or daughter is likely to be moving into rented supported accommodation or other forms of special accommodation such as homeless accommodation.

IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER CLAIMS UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Claiming ADP for your child does not stop you from continuing to get Child Benefit or other benefits for them as a dependant, such as Child Tax Credit or additional Universal Credit payments for a dependent child. However, if your son or daughter gets Universal Credit in their own right this DOES mean that any Child Benefit you get for them will stop, along with other benefits or tax credits you receive for them as a dependent child.

Universal Credit and young people in full-time education

Normally a young person who is in a full-time course of education cannot qualify for Universal Credit unless they are without parental support or have a child of their own. However, a young person in education may be able to qualify if they are getting ADP and they have also gone through a DWP medical assessment known as the work capability assessment and established that they had a limited capability for work BEFORE they started their course of education.

If this applies to your child you may have a choice between continuing to claim benefits for their child as part of your family, or helping them to claim Universal Credit in their own right as a young disabled adult.

Which option will leave your household better off will depend on your individual family circumstances.

If your son or daughter did not establish that they had a limited capability for work before starting their course they are likely to be refused Universal Credit while they remain in education. This may change once your child reaches the September after their 19th birthday – but only if they are still in non-advanced education at that age.


Someone who remains in full time non-advanced education beyond the August after their 19th birthday will often start to qualify for Universal Credit from that point onwards. This is because from that age onwards they can only be refused Universal Credit as a student if the DWP believe that their attendance on their course is incompatible with any work-related conditions that have been attached to their claim.



The rules covering Universal Credit claims by young people in education are very complex so call our free Helpline for detailed advice on **0808 808 3555**.

GET IN CONTACT

Our helpline advisers can support you with any issue about raising your disabled child: help in the early years, diagnosis, benefits, education and local support.

 0808 808 3555

 info@contact.org.uk

 [contact.org.uk](https://www.contact.org.uk)

 twitter.com/contactfamilies

 facebook.com/contactfamilies

 youtube.com/contactfamilies

Contact Scotland
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We are Contact, the charity for families with disabled children.

We support families with the best possible guidance and information.

We bring families together to support each other.

We help families to campaign, volunteer and fundraise to improve life for themselves and others.

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