# Social Security Scotland – case transfer for Child Disability Payment

If you have sight loss, or provide care for someone who does, there are a number of welfare benefits you may be entitled to. Some of these benefits can help provide you with an income if you are not able to work, while others can help towards the extra costs that often make life more expensive if you have a disability.

We have produced various factsheets to help you learn more about the benefits that you are most likely to be entitled to if your life is affected by sight loss.

This factsheet is about Child Disability Payment (CDP) and the process of being transferred from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Child Disability Payment (CDP).

Social Security Scotland is replacing some benefits that are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions with their own benefit system. Claimants of DLA for children will be the first to have their award transferred. Their award will be replaced by CDP.

The process is being carried out in stages and those with more than one child in receipt of DLA will have their oldest child’s award transferred first.

## What is case transfer?

Case transfer is the process of:

* Moving existing records from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland safely and securely.
* Transferring the responsibility for delivering benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland.
* Legally changing the benefit awards of individual claimants to the new Scottish benefits.

## When is it happening?

The process started in October 2021 and most DLA claimants, living in Scotland, will have been transferred to CDP by Spring 2023. However, please bear in mind that if there is an outstanding query or decision with the Department for Work and Pensions, like a review, they’ll do the transfer when everything is complete.

## What can claimants expect during the transfer?

You don’t need to apply for CDP during the transfer process. Social Security Scotland will write to anyone affected to let them know the transfer has begun.

Claimants:

* will not be re-assessed
* do not need to apply
* will receive the same payment at the same rate on the same day.

Social Security Scotland will write to confirm that the transfer is complete when the CDP award starts. If they require further information during the transfer process, they will contact you by phone and/or letter.

## Additional Eligibility

In some circumstances, your child may be eligible for a higher rate of CDP than you received for DLA at the point of case transfer. This is due to differences in eligibility rules between the two benefits. Social Security Scotland will provide you information about this in the claimant in the letter they send. If you think you may be eligible for a higher rate, you will need to contact Social Security Scotland.

Where you believe you meet one of the conditions, Social Security Scotland will assess if:

* The child has a severe visual disability but is not receiving the higher rate mobility component\*.
* The child is 16 or 17, is not receiving the care component, and has difficulty preparing meals.
* The child is 16 or 17, requires supervision, attention,or guidance, but before age 16 they were found not to require substantially more than a typical child of the same age. They may have had a higher award if this were not taken into account.

**Note:** You may qualify for the higher rate of the mobility component based on severe sight loss **alone**. The higher rate can be awardedfrom the age of three.

The regulations for CDP state that a child is to be taken to have a severe visual impairment if their visual impairment fulfils the definition of ‘Visual Impairment’ given by the Visual Impairment Network for Children and Young People (VINCYP).

* Best corrected visual acuity (both eyes open) equal to or worse than 6/18 (Snellen Scale)/0.5 (LogMar); or
* Requires N18 print or larger to read comfortably; or
* Visual field loss with both eyes open which significantly affects function; or
* Any eye movement disorder which significantly affects visual function; or
* Any form of cognitive visual dysfunction due to disorders of the brain which can be demonstrated to significantly affect function.

This definition can also be found at **vincyp.scot.nhs.uk/vincyp-definition**.

Because the regulations for meeting the criteria for the higher rate of the mobility component due to sight loss are different under CDP than they are for DLA, you may be able to:

* have your rate of benefit increased from the lower to the higher rate of the mobility component; or
* claim the mobility component at the age of three years as a result of being able to meet the different criteria for the higher rate of the mobility component.

## Further information

### Social Security Scotland

Tel: **0800 182 2222**

Web: **mygov.scot/benefit-transfer**

## How we can help

If you would like more information about Child Disability Payment, you can speak to our Sight Loss Advice service by calling our Helpline. Our advisers can also carry out a full benefit check with you and give you advice about applying for other benefits you may be missing out on.

Our Welfare Benefit Sight Loss Advisers are available to offer you help if you would like to challenge a benefit decision or think you should be awarded more than you have been. Our advisers can help you with the mandatory reconsideration and First-Tier Tribunal (appeals) process.

RNIB’s Legal Rights service is available to offer you help with more complex benefit queries and appeals, such as those to the Upper Tribunal, once the initial appeals process to the First-Tier Tribunal has been completed.

### RNIB Helpline

If you need someone who understands sight loss, call our Helpline on **0303 123 9999**, say **“Alexa, call RNIB Helpline”** to an Alexa-enabled device, or email **helpline@rnib.org.uk**. Our opening hours are weekdays from 8am – 8pm and Saturdays from 9am – 1pm.

### Sight Advice FAQ

Sight Advice FAQ answers questions about living with sight loss, eye health or being newly diagnosed with a sight condition. It is produced by RNIB in partnership with other sight loss organisations. **sightadvicefaq.org.uk**

### Connect with others

Meet or connect with others who are blind or partially sighted online, by phone or in your community to share interests, experiences and support for each other. From book clubs and social groups to sport and volunteering, our friendly, helpful and knowledgeable team can link you up with opportunities to suit you. Visit **rnib.org.uk/connect** or call **0303 123 9999**.

The factsheet gives general guidance only and is not an authoritative statement of the law.



**RNIB Legal Rights Service**

April 2024

End of document.