



Social Security Scotland  
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

A guide to

# Carer's Allowance Supplement

for those working with carers.

Social Security Scotland is the new agency that will deliver 11 benefits being devolved to the Scottish Government. The transfer of these benefits from the UK Government to the Scottish Government will happen in stages over the next four years.

At the end of the transfer process we will be delivering benefits to provide additional support for those on low incomes, for people who have a disability and carers.

Social Security Scotland will have offices in Dundee and Glasgow and once fully

operational, will also provide a local presence across Scotland. We want our clients to be able to access our services as close to their homes as possible and in a way that suits them.

We will make our first payments of Carer's Allowance Supplement in summer 2018, followed by the Best Start Grant and Funeral Expense Assistance by the summer of 2019.

You can find out more about Carer's Allowance Supplement, and any other benefits we will be delivering to carers, online at [socialsecurity.gov.scot](http://socialsecurity.gov.scot)



Dignity,  
fairness,  
respect.

[www.socialsecurity.gov.scot](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot)

 [@ScotGovSocSec](https://twitter.com/ScotGovSocSec)

## **What is Carer's Allowance Supplement?**

It is an extra payment for carers in Scotland who are receiving full or partial Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It will help more than 70,000 carers. It will not be paid to carers with only an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance.

## **How much is Carer's Allowance Supplement?**

The first two payments will be £221. These payments will provide additional support for people in receipt of Carer's Allowance in Scotland to bring it up to the level of Jobseeker's Allowance – £221 is a six month lump sum of the weekly difference between the two benefits.

## **Can the Carer's Allowance Supplement payments be made at the same time as Carer's Allowance?**

No. The frequency that the DWP pays Carer's Allowance varies. To make sure we can get the information we need and make payments in the most efficient way

possible, we will pay Carer's Allowance Supplement on a set frequency for everyone who is eligible. This will be every six months. This is a temporary measure until Carer's Allowance transfers to the Scottish Government in full.

## **Who will get this payment?**

Carer's Allowance Supplement will be paid twice a year. There will be a qualifying date for each payment. If you are a carer in Scotland receiving Carer's Allowance on the relevant qualifying date you will get the payment. The qualifying dates are needed to allow the DWP to share the details of eligible carers with the Scottish Government to make the payments. These qualifying dates are still to be set.

## **How is Carer's Allowance Supplement claimed?**

There is no need to claim because the DWP will provide details to the Scottish Government of who is eligible for payments. Carers who are eligible will receive a letter notifying them in advance.

## **When and how will carers receive it?**

The first payments will be made from the end of summer 2018. Payments will be made to the same bank or Credit Union account as their Carer's Allowance is paid into, or in the same way as their Carer's Allowance is paid.

## **Will this affect Carer's Allowance payments?**

No, carers will continue to receive Carer's Allowance payments from the DWP at the same time and rate as they do now.

## **What does it mean to have an 'underlying entitlement' to Carer's Allowance?**

Carers will have an 'underlying entitlement' if they claim Carer's Allowance and meet the eligibility criteria, but do not receive it because they are getting another income replacement benefit, such as the full State Pension, at the level of Carer's Allowance or above. These carers may be entitled to additional support from the DWP in recognition of their caring role.

## **Will this affect other benefits?**

No. The payment will not be taken into account when carers are assessed for other benefits, including Tax Credits. However, the UK Government has said that Carer's Allowance Supplement will be taxable. Carers should let HM Revenue and Customs know about their Carer's Allowance Supplement as this may increase the amount of tax they need to pay. Carers will still pay no tax if their taxable income is below £11,850 per year.

## **Who is responsible for Carer's Allowance?**

Responsibility for Carer's Allowance will transfer to the Scottish Government in time for payments of Carer's Allowance Supplement to be made. However, Carer's Allowance will continue to be delivered by DWP on behalf of the Scottish Government during this time, using the existing eligibility criteria and processes. Carers should still contact the DWP to discuss Carer's Allowance.