

Many forms of financial support exist. Some are based on savings and income, these are called 'income-related' (or sometimes 'means-tested') and others are not.

This information gives details about a few of the benefits which may be of interest to you or to the person you care for. All the rates given are weekly and apply from **April 2011** and are likely to rise each year.

For further information about where to go for general benefits and allowance advice, please see the final page of this section.

For care and mobility needs

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA is a tax-free benefit for children and adults who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled.

You may get DLT if:

- You have a physical and/or mental disability;
- Your disability is severe enough for you to need help caring for yourself and/or you have walking difficulties;
- You are under 65 when the claim is made.

(If you are aged 65 or over, you may be able to get Attendance Allowance.)

You can get DLA whether or not you work and it isn't usually affected by any savings or income you have.

If you have a progressive disease and you are not expected to live for more than another six months there are special rules for claiming to make sure you get your benefit more quickly and easily.

DLA has two parts called 'components':

- A **care** component – if you need help looking after yourself or supervision to keep you safe;
- A **mobility** component – if you can't walk or need help getting around.

Some people will be entitled to receive just one component; others may get both.

Care and mobility components are paid at different rates depending on how your disability affects you.



Care Component

Higher Rate for people who need help throughout the day and night	£73.60 (April 2011)
Middle Rate for people who need help throughout the day or night	£49.30 (April 2011)
Lower Rate Care Component for people who need more than an hours help a day	£19.55 (April 2011)
Mobility Component	
Higher Rate	£51.40 (April 2011)
Lower Rate	£19.55 (April 2011)

If you start to get DLA it might increase the amount of other benefits or credits you're entitled to, such as Income Support, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Working Tax and Child Tax Credit.

DLA is usually ignored as income for working out income-related benefits and credits.

Claim straight away – a delay my lose you benefit.

For more information, including help to fill out the form, contact the Benefit Enquiry Line:

Telephone: **0800 88 22 00**
 Textphone: **0800 24 33 55**
 Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Attendance Allowance (AA)

AA is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled.

You may get AA if:

- You have a physical and/or mental disability;
- Your disability is severe enough for you to need help caring for yourself;
- You are aged 65 or over when you claim.

AA isn't usually affected by any savings or income you may have.

If you have a progressive disease and you are not expected to live for more than another six months thee are special rules for claiming to make sure you get your benefit more quickly and easily.

The amount you get depends on how much your disability affects you.

There are two rates of AA:

Higher rate for help throughout the day and night.	£73.60 (April 2011)
Lower rate for help throughout the day or nights	£49.30 (April 2011)



If you start to get AA it might increase the amount of other benefits or credits you're entitled to, such as Income Support, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Working Tax and Child Tax Credit.

AA is normally ignored as income for working out income-related benefits and credits.

Claim straight away – a delay may lose you benefit.

For more information, including help to fill out the form, contact the Benefit Enquiry Line:

Telephone: **0800 88 22 00**
Textphone: **0800 24 33 55**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Illness and Injury Benefits

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

This is paid by an employer, at the weekly rate of **£81.60** for up to the first 28 weeks that an employee is unable to work due to sickness. Medical certificates must be submitted.

Incapacity Benefit (IB)

You may be able to claim IB if any of the following apply to you:

- Your Statutory Sick Pay has ended, or you can't get it;
- You are self employed or unemployed;
- You have been getting Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and have not gone back to work for your employer because you are incapable of work;
- You were under State Pension age when you became sick;

And you must also have been:

- Paying National Insurance Contributions;
- Unable to work due to sickness or disability for at least four days in a row (including weekends and public holidays);
- Getting special medical treatment and unable to work for two or more days out of seven consecutive days

Or you must:

- Be aged between 16 and 20 (or under 25 if you were in education or training at least three months immediately before turning 20), **and**
- Have been too ill to work before and turned 20 (or 25 if you were in education or training at least three months immediately before turning 20).

Living or working abroad can affect your IB claim. But you may be able to claim if you've either:

- Paid enough UK National Insurance Contributions (NICs) in the past (and the equivalent in certain other countries. Ask your local Jobcentre Plus office for details) or



- Worked abroad for an employer based in the UK and paid NICs for the first 52 weeks of that employment.

You may be able to claim IB even if you haven't paid enough National Insurance contributions if:

- You're aged under 20 (or 25 if you were in education or training at least three months immediately before turning 20), and
- You're been sick for 28 weeks, and
- You're present and resident in Great Britain for 26 weeks in the year before you claim.

If you are in the Armed Forces or you live and work within the European Economic Area (EEA), you may still be treated as being resident in the UK.

IB is paid at three weekly rates:

Short-term (lower) IB for the first 28 weeks	£71.10 (April 2011)
Short-term (higher) IB form weeks 29 to 52	£84.15 (April 2011)
Long-term IB is paid from week 53	£94.25 (April 2011)

Contact Centre: **0800 055 6688**
Textphone: **0800 023 4888**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

If you are disabled as a result of an accident at work or disabled as a result of a disease or deafness caused by work, you may be entitled to receive Industrial Injuries Benefit.

For further information ring: **0845 758 5433**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA)

If you need daily care and attention because of a disability and you claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit/War Disablement Pension you can claim CAA

To find out if your eligible to claim CAA, you can contact the Veterans Agency helpline between 8.15am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.15am to 4.30pm on Fridays on:

Telephone: **0800 882 200**
Textphone: **0800 243 355**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

War Disablement Pension

You may be able to claim War Disablement Pension if you've been injured or disabled during a time of war or as a result of service in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.



For further information contact the Veterans Agency on

Telephone: **0800 169 22 77**
Textphone: **0800 169 34 58**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Other disability benefits and allowances

Direct payments – arranging your own care and services

If you and/or the person you care for have been assessed by Social Services as needing care and support services, you may want to choose direct payments so you can buy in and arrange help yourself, instead of receiving it directly from Social Services.

For further information ring:
Care Connect **01275 888 801**

Health equipment, prescriptions and hospital travel

You may be entitled to help towards health costs such as free NHS prescriptions, dental care, hospital travel costs, plus equipment such as wheelchairs and hearing aids.

For information about health costs, telephone the NHS Patient Services helpline:

Telephone: **0845 850 1166**

Value Added Tax (VAT) relief on equipment and services

Some goods may qualify for VAT 'relief' if the item has been designed or adapted, solely for a disabled person's use. This includes some medical appliances, certain adjustable beds and hoists and some adapted vehicles. Services that may qualify for relief include installation of equipment, adaptation of equipment and certain building alterations.

Independent Living Fund

Payments awarded from the Independent Living Fund help to support severely disabled people to enable them to live independently rather than in a care home. The money goes towards personal and domestic care. For further information ring:

Care Connect **01275 888 801**

Blind person's tax allowance

The blind person's allowance allows you to receive an amount of income without having to pay tax. It is added to your personal tax allowance.



Disabled Facilities Grants

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a local council grant to help towards the cost of essential adaptations to your home to enable you to continue to live there. For information ring:

Care Connect **01275 888 801**

Television license discount

If you are registered blind with your local council, you can get a 50% discount on the cost of a TV license,

and

Television license exemption

People over 75 are entitled to a free TV license.

For information about both contacts: **0844 800 5808**

Vehicle excise duty (car tax) exemption

You can apply for exemption from paying vehicle tax if you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement.

Disabled Students' Allowances

Disabled Students' Allowances provide help for students in higher education who, because of their disability, have additional costs, such as specialist equipment plus non-medical personal assistance.

General and income related benefits

Council Tax

You may be entitled to a reduction in your Council Tax bill if your home has certain features that are essential to you living there – for example, if you have an extension for a downstairs bedroom. If it puts your property into a higher valuation banding, there may be a one-band reduction in your bill

Contact:
Council Tax Information **01934 888 144**

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit

These are both for people on low incomes. Housing Benefit helps with rent payments incomes and Council Tax Benefits helps with council tax bills, even if they own their own home

Contact:
Housing Benefit Information **01934 888 144**



Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions

There are a number of status discounts, reductions or exemptions from Council Tax bills (not to be confused with income-related Council Tax Benefit), for example, discounts for being a student or a single occupier, or exemptions for people who are disabled or have mental health needs.

Contact:
Council Tax Information **01934 888 144**

Income Support (IS)

If you are aged between 16 or 60, on a low income not working or working on average less than 16 hours a week you may be able to claim IS.

IS is affected by savings.

If you have children you may be able to get Child Tax Credit. If you are sick and are not getting Statutory Sick Pay, you should claim Incapacity Benefit and Council Tax Benefit and may receive help towards health costs – such as prescriptions.

Working Tax Credit (WTC)

If you are in work but on low pay, you can apply for WTC to top-up your earnings. You may get extra if someone in your household is disabled.

And/or Child Tax Credit (CTC)

CTC is an allowance for parents and carers of children or young people who are still in full-time education. You may get extra if you care for a disabled child.

Families on up to £58,175 a year will qualify for CTC

For both Working and Child Tax Credits, contact the
Tax Credit Helpline: **0845 300 3900**
Textphone: **0845 300 3909**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Child Benefit (CB)

CB is paid to the person responsible for a child regardless of income, National Insurance Contributions or savings. CB is paid for each child under age 16 and may be paid for children between 16 and 19 continuing in full-time further education. However, CB can **not** be paid where the child is in higher education (of degree standard or equivalent).



CB for the eldest child is £20.30 a week and £13.40 for any other children.

For advice and information on how to claim, contact:

Telephone helpline: **0845 302 1444**
Textphone: **0845 302 1474**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Carers` Allowance (CA)

If you are caring for someone who is disabled, you may be able to receive CA. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person you care for.

You can claim CA if you are aged 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a person getting Attendance or Disability Living Allowance (at the middle or highest rate for personal care), or Constant Attendance Allowance (at or over the normal maximum rate with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, or basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension).

You can **not** claim CA if you are in full-time education with 21 hours or more a week of supervised study or earn more than £95 a week after certain deductions have been made (such as Income Tax).

The weekly rate is **£55.50 (April 201)**, but is reduced by the amount of certain other benefits, including State Pension, that you receive. If you receive certain other benefits at £38.65 or more a week, CA cannot be paid to you as well.

If you start to get CA it might increase the amount of other benefits you're entitled to, such as Income Support, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Important – Claiming CA may impact on extra allowances the person being cared for may be entitled to. Take advice before you claim.

If advised to, claim straight away – if you delay you may lose benefit.

Contact the Benefits Enquiry Line:

Telephone: **0800 88 22 00**
Textphone: **0800 24 33 55**
Website: www.direct.gov.uk

State Pension

For people who have reached State Pension Age (currently 60 for women and 65 for men) and who meet the qualifying conditions.

Contact the Pension Service on: **0845 60 60 265**

Pension Credit (PC)

PC is an income related benefit for people aged 60 or over. There is no set limit to the amount of savings and investments you can have for PC.



PC contributes to a guaranteed income of at least **£137.35 (April 2011)** a week if you are single or **£209.70 (April 2011)** a week if you have a partner.

If you are over 65 and have modest savings, you may get extra money, even if your income is up to £159 a week or £233 if you have a partner.

Contact Pension Credit on: **0800 99 1234**

Housing Renovation, Repairs, and Adaptations Grants

These grants are for private tenants and owner-occupiers to help with the cost of renovation and repair of their home or to provide adaptations to the homes of people with disabilities.

Contact Care Connect on **01275 888 801**

Other help and advice lines

Help with health costs

People on a low income may be able to get help with NHS costs such as travel to hospital, prescription charges, optical and dental costs, etc.

Contact NHS Direct for advice/a claim pack:
Telephone: **0845 4647**

Benefit Enquiry Line **0800 88 22 00**

For information and advice over the phone about all benefits relating to disabilities and caring.

Care Connect **01275 888 801**

For advice and information about adult social care, and information about benefits and allowances.

Age UK Somerset **0845 643 44709**
Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset

Citizens Advice Bureau **0844 411 1444**
www.northsomersetcab.org

For general information about benefits and allowances. The Citizens Advice Bureau have open door services at the following venues:

Weston super Mare

The Badger Centre, 3-6 Wadham Street, BS23 1JP
Drop-in Service: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri – 10am to 3pm
Evening Session: Tues 4.30pm to 7pm

The Money Advice Centre, 3 St Andrew's Parade BS23 3SS
Drop-in Service: Mon; Tues, Wed, Thu



Healthy Living Centre

Drop-in Service: Tues 9.30am to 12.30pm

Clevedon

25 Old Street BS21 6ND

Drop-in Service: Tue 10am to 3pm, Wed 10am to 3pm

Portishead

Folk Hall, High Street, BS20 6PR

Drop-in Service: Mon 10am to 2pm

Nailsea

Methodist Church & Community Centre Silver Street, BS48 2DS

Drop-in Service: Fri 10am to 2pm

Yatton

Yatton Library, High Street, BS49 4HJ

Drop-in Service: Thu 10am to 2pm (1st Thu each month 1pm to 3.45pm)

Pill

Pill Resource Centre, 4 Baltic Place, BS20 0EJ

Appointment only every Thu 9.30am to 11.45 Tel: 01275 375 670

Updated Aug 2011