

WHAT IS DLA?

DLA is a benefit paid to help people with the extra costs of disability. It has two components:

- **mobility component, and**
- **care component**

You can get either the care or the mobility component or both.

This leaflet outlines the **care component**. If you have mobility problems see leaflet "DLA (help getting around)"

WHY CLAIM DLA?

DLA gives you extra money which:

- ◆ is **not** taxable
- ◆ is paid on top of all other benefits
- ◆ is paid on top of earnings
- ◆ does **not** reduce means tested benefits such as Income Support, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. (You may actually get more of these benefits)

DLA is:

- not means tested, so your income and savings are **not** taken into account.
- non-contributory, so you don't have to have paid any National Insurance stamps to qualify.

How Much?

<u>rate</u>	<u>disability test</u>	<u>amount</u>
lowest	part time day	£17.75 from Apr 08

middle	full day or night	£44.85 from Apr 08
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highest	full day & night	£67.00 from Apr 08
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CONDITIONS OF ENTITLEMENT

You must:

- be under 65 when you claim, an award can continue after your 65th birthday.
- satisfy one of the disability tests
- have satisfied the test for 3 months before your claim and be likely to satisfy the test for a further 6 months.

DISABILITY TESTS

Help for part of the day:

- ◆ you cannot prepare a cooked main meal for yourself, or
- ◆ you need help from someone else for at least an hour a day with your bodily functions

Help throughout the day:

- ◆ you need frequent attention throughout the day in connection with your bodily functions, or
- ◆ you need continual supervision throughout the day in order to avoid substantial danger to yourself or others.

Help during the night:

- ◆ you need at least 20 minutes attention in connection with your bodily functions, or
- ◆ you need attention in connection with your bodily functions at least twice, or
- ◆ you need another person to be awake for the purposes of watching over you in order to avoid substantial danger to yourself or others

People who are terminally ill may qualify automatically for the highest rate of DLA care component. A friend or relative can apply on their behalf.

COOKING A MAIN MEAL?

You may satisfy the cooking test if your disability means you cannot peel or chop vegetables, handle hot pans safely, or do not have the stamina or concentration required to plan and cook a main meal. It is irrelevant whether you actually ever cook yourself a main meal.

ATTENTION NEEDS?

You may need attention if because of an illness or disability you have difficulty...

- dressing or undressing
- using the toilet
- getting into or out of chairs
- taking showers or baths
- taking medicine
- walking indoors
- getting into or out of bed
- eating or drinking
- hearing
- seeing

SUPERVISION/WATCHING OVER NEEDS?

You may need supervision or watching over if your illness or disability means you...

- are unsteady on your feet
- might fall
- might have fits or blackouts
- are forgetful
- may put yourself or others at risk
- may need medical help urgently

It is your reasonable need for attention or supervision that matters, you can still qualify if you live alone and do not get help!

MAKING A CLAIM

Claim forms for DLA can be obtained by calling freephone 0800 882200 and asking for a DLA claim pack.

FILLING IN THE FORM

The form looks very long and complicated. It is best to take your time, consider the questions and give as much detail as you can about your difficulties.

A useful tip is to keep a diary of the difficulties you have and what help you need. If you have problems because there is no one to help or keep an eye on you, note this down as well.

Our service can help you fill in the form. Please phone our Helpline 01324 501404 to make an appointment. Before coming to your appointment you should read through the form and fill in your personal details.

DISPUTING THE DECISION

If you are turned down you have the right to dispute the decision. The time limit is one month. A Welfare Benefits Officer can help you - see the back of this leaflet for contact details.

Where to get advice

Welfare Benefits Helpline
01324 501404

Minicom users should contact the
Disability Information Service on
01324 504304

*If your enquiry cannot be dealt
with over the phone, office
appointments can be arranged.*

*Home visits can be arranged in
exceptional circumstances.*



Falkirk Council
Housing & Social Work Services

Cas/dlacare/04/08



WELFARE BENEFIT ADVICE SERVICE

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA) (personal care)

Are you under 65 years of age?

Do you have an illness or disability?

If you have answered **YES** to these questions, you may qualify for extra money to help towards the cost of your disability.



Falkirk Council
Housing & Social Work Services

community advice services