

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.

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/aa/04/08



WELFARE BENEFIT ADVICE SERVICE

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE (DLA)

(help with getting around)

Are you under 65 years of age?

Do you have difficulties in walking, or
require someone to guide or
supervise you whilst outside?

If the answer is **YES** to these
questions, you may qualify for extra
money to help you get around.



Falkirk Council
Housing & Social Work Services

community advice services

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 **mobility component**. If you are under 65 and require help with personal care see leaflet "DLA (personal care) "

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 Tax or Pension Credits, 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?

from	Apr 2008
lower Rate	£17.75
higher Rate	£46.75

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.

The mobility component has two rates. You may qualify for the **lower rate** if you can walk but need someone with you to...

- ◆ make sure you are safe, or
- ◆ show you the way in unfamiliar places

If the reason you need someone with you is because you are afraid or anxious, the fear or anxiety must be a symptom of a mental disability

You may qualify for the **higher rate** if...

- ◆ you cannot walk at all or are *virtually unable* to walk, or
- ◆ the effort of walking could be dangerous for you, or
- ◆ you have had both legs amputated above the ankle or through the ankle or were born without legs or feet, or
- ◆ you are deaf **and** blind and need someone with you outdoors. You don't have to be totally deaf and blind, but must have a large amount of hearing and sight loss, or
- ◆ you are severely mentally impaired with severe behavioural problems and get highest rate DLA care component.

VIRTUALLY UNABLE TO WALK?

Many of the people who get higher rate mobility component can walk but their walking is so limited that they are in a similar position to someone who cannot walk at all.

Four factors are taken into account when deciding if you are virtually unable to walk:

- distance
- speed - compared to someone with no walking difficulties
- time - to walk a certain distance
- manner - e.g. limping, shuffling, etc.

Walking which gives rise to severe discomfort is ignored. For example, you may be able to walk 40 yards without too much discomfort, but as you continue it gets worse until you are forced to stop.

The first question is at which point do you start to suffer what can be called severe discomfort. If it is 60 yards, any extra walking is ignored.

The second question is whether this 60 yards is so limited, taking into account speed, time and manner, that you are virtually unable to walk.

Severe discomfort is not defined but can include pain and breathlessness which is brought on by walking.