

## Carer's Allowance: How to Apply

Even if you don't think of yourself as a carer, if you look after a partner, relative or friend who would find it difficult to manage without your help, you are considered to be a carer. You may be entitled to a weekly payment, whether or not you live with them, and even if you have savings.



### You may be eligible for Carer's Allowance if you:-

- Spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone who is ill or disabled.
- Care for someone who receives one of the following:-
  - Higher or Middle rate care component of Disability Living Allowance – DLA [will become Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance in 2025.]
  - Either Standard or Enhanced rate of Adult Disability Payment (ADP) [ADP has replaced Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in Scotland.]
  - Any rate of Attendance Allowance (AA).
  - Another relevant benefit (please see list on website linked below).
- Do not earn more than £151 a week, after tax and other deductions.
- Are not in full-time education or studying more than 21 hours a week.

### How do you claim Carer's Allowance?

- Phone the Carer's Allowance helpline on 0800 731 0297.
- Claim online at [www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim) or scan this QR code.
- Download a claim form here <https://tinyurl.com/Carers-Allowance-Form>



The helpline, website and form explain information you need to give, including your National Insurance Number, bank and employment details, and the date of birth, address and National Insurance Number of the person you care for.

You can backdate a claim for up to three months.



### Midlothian Financial Inclusion Network

c/o Midlothian Voluntary Action, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith EH22 1AE  
Scottish Registered Charity SC035964. Scottish Limited Company SC282964  
Registered Office: 14a John Street, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 8AB

## What is the current amount of Carer's Allowance:-

From April 2024, the amount is **£80.90 per week**, usually paid every 4 weeks.

## What if you receive a State Pension?

If you get more than the rate of Carer's Allowance (£80.90 a week), you won't be paid the benefit. However, it is worth applying as a successful claim means you have "underlying entitlement." This means you could get extra money from other means-tested benefits, like Pension Credit or Housing Benefit.

## What if your circumstances change?

It's important to inform the Carer's Allowance Unit if, for example, you take a break from caring, stop being a carer or the person you care for goes into hospital or a care home. This is to ensure you are not overpaid and to avoid a civil penalty for not informing them of the change in circumstances.

**Hospital.** If the person you care for is in an NHS hospital more than 4 weeks, their qualifying benefit (eg. DLA, ADP, etc.) will stop. Your Carer's Allowance will also stop then, as it is dependent on their receipt of a qualifying benefit.

**Care Home.** Your payments will end 28 days after they go into a care home, if the NHS pays all the fees, or they are fully or partly paid by the Local Authority.

**Terminal Illness.** If the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is informed they are terminally ill, their qualifying benefit may continue if they go into a non-NHS hospice. You will still receive Carer's Allowance, as long as you still provide the person you care for with at least 35 hours of care each week.

**Respite Care.** If the person has regular periods of respite care, it may be possible to plan these so their qualifying benefit and your entitlement will not be affected (e.g. periods of less than 28 days each time.)

## Carer Support Payment replacing Carer's Allowance:-

Social Security Scotland is currently rolling out "Carer Support Payment" to replace the current Carer's Allowance. This is not yet available in Midlothian. If you currently receive Carer's Allowance, you will be automatically transferred to the new benefit when it is introduced here.