

Analysis of Disability Living Allowance: care and mobility components

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Background

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a tax-free benefit for disabled children and adults who need someone to help look after them, or have walking difficulties.

Disability Living Allowance has two parts called 'components':

- a care component – for those who need help looking after themselves or supervision to keep them safe
- a mobility component – for those who can't walk or find it very hard to walk, or need help getting around

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

The care component and mobility component are paid at different rates depending on the effect of the disability. The current rates are:

Care component	Weekly rate		Mobility component	Weekly rate
Highest rate	£71.40		Higher rate	£49.85
Middle rate	£47.80		Lower rate	£18.95
Lowest rate	£18.95			

Further information on DLA is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/DisabilityLivingAllowance/DG_10011731

The Department publishes a range of statistical information on DLA claimants at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>, include statistics on the numbers receiving care and mobility components and disabling condition. This analysis provides an additional tabulation of numbers of Disability Living Allowance claims in payment at May 2010 by detailed disabling condition and the level of care and mobility components.

Results

At May 2010, 23% of the DLA claimants were receiving the highest rate of the care allowance, 33% the middle rate, and 28% the lowest rate. 56% were receiving the higher rate of the mobility allowance and 31% the lower rate. A table of the combinations of care and mobility awards is published on the Department's website at

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/dla/carepay/ccmobpay/a_carate_r_carepay_c_ccmobpay_may10.html and this table is reproduced below:

Disability Living Allowance in payment by Care and Mobility awards - May 2010

Care award type	Mobility award type			
	Total	Higher rate	Lower rate	Nil rate
Total	3,157,310	1,779,590	964,550	413,170
Higher rate	732,220	509,280	178,420	44,520
Middle rate	1,053,030	461,290	476,210	115,530
Lower rate	880,740	419,600	208,030	253,120
Nil rate	491,320	389,430	101,880	.

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Notes:

(1) Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

As explained above, entitlement to DLA depends on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA, however, the rates of care and mobility do tend to differ by the main disabling condition. Tabulations of disabling condition are only currently available from 5% sample data, and breakdowns of broad diagnostic groups and care and mobility rates are published at

http://83.244.183.180/5pc/dla/disabled/ccpcrat/a_stock_r_disabled_c_ccpcrat_may10.html and

http://83.244.183.180/5pc/dla/disabled/ccpmrat/a_stock_r_disabled_c_ccpmrat_may10.html.

Similar breakdowns showing a more detailed breakdown of disabling condition are shown in the associated spreadsheet. Among those disabling conditions with above average percentages of claimants receiving the highest rate of the care component are the terminally ill (92%), the severely mentally impaired (71%) and those with malignant disease (61%). Among those disabling conditions with above average percentages of claimants receiving the higher rate of the mobility component are double amputees (100%), those with Traumatic Paraplegia/Tetraplegia (99%), those with Multiple Sclerosis and the severely mentally impaired (both 95%).

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