

# Freedom of Information request 2013-4286

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## Information request

I have been contacted by my constituent, XXXX, regarding his son, XXXX, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was 6 years of age. In 2011, XXXX Disability Living Allowance ceased. This is because the Pension Disability and Carers Service decided that XXXX no longer satisfied the conditions of entitlement to Disability Living Allowance. XXXX appealed this decision, but lost.

XXXX informs me that he recently met a teenager who lives near Southampton and suffers from the same condition as his son. XXXX tells me that this boy is entitled to DLA and will receive it until he is 17 years of age. XXXX strongly believes that it is not fair that 2 boys with the exact same condition do not get the same benefit; I should be grateful if you would please let me have your comments.

XXXX has also enquired as to how many under 18s with Type 1 Diabetes are in receipt of DLA, and how many individuals have had this ceased on an arbitrary basis? I should be grateful if you would please let me have this information.

## DWP response

In response to your general queries, entitlement to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) depends on the effects that severe disability has on a person's life and not on a particular disability or diagnosis. This is because people living with the same illnesses or disabilities may not necessarily have the same care or mobility needs. People with diabetes therefore have access to these benefits on exactly the same terms as other severely disabled people.

Decisions on claims to DLA are made on the basis of the information provided by the claimant in the claim form and any additional medical evidence that may be required, such as reports from the claimant's General Practitioner (GP) or consultant.

DLA Awards can be made for any duration, including indefinitely. Fixed term awards can be renewed at the end of the period of the award, dependant on the current care/mobility needs of the claimant. Additionally, awards are

reviewed if an individual reports a change in their condition. A review can result in the award being terminated, left unchanged or increased.

In response to your question on the number of those who are under the age of 18 with Type 1 Diabetes who are in receipt of DLA, the table below shows the latest information available.

<b>Disability Living Allowance recipients with main disabling condition of Type 1 Diabetes, aged under 18 years, Great Britain</b>	
Feb-13	18,240

Source: Information Governance and Security: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes cases where the payment has been suspended e.g. if they are in hospital.
3. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Please note that the process for classifying claimants to a disabling condition changed in October 2008. Prior to October 2008 recipients of Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) were classified to one of 50 disabling conditions. After October 2008 claimants were allocated to a disabling condition using a more detailed range of classifications. However, no exercise was carried out to systematically re-categorise the existing recipients of DLA to one of the new more detailed classifications. For publication purposes the new finer classifications are mapped to the broader classifications which they would have previously formed a constituent part of under the pre-October 2008 system. Therefore the total will include some Type 2 diabetes cases for cases which started claiming prior to October 2008.

In response to your query on how many individuals have had their claim for DLA with reference to a medical condition of type 1 diabetes ceased on an 'arbitrary basis', this information does not exist as all decisions to end a benefit claim must be made in line with Departmental policy and procedures. You may find it useful to know that the guidance which Decision Makers use in determining eligibility to DLA can be found here:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dmgch61.pdf>