

GUIDE TO BENEFITS

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

This is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over. You may qualify for Attendance Allowance if you have a physical or mental disability (or both) and your disability is severe enough that you need someone to help or supervise you with day-to-day care for your own safety.

Attendance Allowance is not means tested and it is unusual that a medical is required. If you have a terminal illness you will qualify for Attendance Allowance from the date of your application.

This benefit is paid at one of two rates:

- The lower rate of £60.00 per week is paid to people who have difficulties either during the day or during the night
- The higher rate of £89.60* per week is paid to people who have difficulties both day and night

PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

Personal Independence Payment is a tax free benefit paid to people under the age of 65 who need help to look after themselves and/or to get around because of long term health problems or disability. You need to have had these problems for at least six months and expect them to continue for another six months. There are two components to this benefit, the Care Component and the Mobility Component.

Personal Independence Payment replaced what was formerly known as the Disability Living Allowance from April 2013.

DAILY LIVING COMPONENT

The standard rate of £60.00* per week is paid to people who need help with personal care during the day or need someone to be there during the night.

The enhanced rate of £89.60* per week is paid to people who need help both day and night.

MOBILITY COMPONENT

There are two rates to the mobility component:

- You may qualify for the standard rate of £23.70* per week if you require help or supervision going out or moving around
- If your immobility is more severe you may qualify for the enhanced rate of £62.55* per week

CARERS ALLOWANCE

Carers Allowance is the main state benefit for carers and is currently £67.60* per week. This benefit can be paid to carers who are aged 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week looking after someone receiving either Attendance Allowance or Personal Independence Payment Care Component at either the higher or middle rate.

Carers do not need to be related to or living with the person they provide care for. Carers can only receive one Carers Allowance no matter how many people they care for. If care is shared with another person then only one person can claim the allowance.

You cannot get Carers Allowance if you are in full-time education or doing a course described as 'full-time' or earn over £128 per week after tax. 50% of what you pay into any private or occupational pension is not taken into account.

This benefit is taxable and most carers, under state pension age, receive a National Insurance Credit each week to help protect their state pension rights.

In some cases, the person being cared for could lose some of their benefits if someone claims Carers Allowance. It is, therefore, important to seek advice before you make a claim. Contact the Benefits Agency or us for further advice.

MOBILITY VEHICLES

You must be in receipt of the higher rate component of the Personal Independence Payment or a War Pension Mobility supplement to apply for a mobility vehicle for at least 12 months. There is no upper age limit.

If you receive the allowance but are not able to drive yourself you can appoint up to two drivers who must live within 5 miles of the disabled person's address.

BLUE BADGE SCHEME

If you receive the higher rate mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment or have a disability which means you have a problem walking you may be able to apply for a Blue Badge Permit. Speak to your doctor who will advise if you are eligible.