

Analysis of Disability Living Allowance: special rules cases

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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.

Normally, a claimant must have had these care or supervision needs or walking difficulties for at least three months and they are likely to continue for at least a further six months. However, if they have a progressive disease and are not expected to live for more than another six months, there are special rules for claiming the benefit to make sure it is processed more quickly and easily.

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>, but this does not include statistics on special rules cases. This analysis tabulates the numbers of Disability Living Allowance claims in payment at May 2010 which are special rules cases by broad age group.

Results

Disability Living Allowance in payment by Special Rules - May 2010

Age	Total DLA cases in payment	Special Rules caseload	Special Rules percentage
All Ages	3,157,300	37,800	1.2%
Under 16	321,900	400	0.1%
16 to 44	749,600	4,500	0.6%
45 to 64	1,242,200	25,200	2.0%
65 and over	843,600	7,700	0.9%

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Notes:

(1) The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.

(2) Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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