

# **Social Security Assistance in Scotland**

## **Up-rating for Inflation in 2025-26**

**Consideration of the effects of inflation on Scottish social security payments as detailed within section 86A of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.**

**Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers under section 86A(1)(c)**

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## Foreword

This report sets out analysis of the impact of inflation on Scottish social security payments and confirms the approach the Scottish Government intends to address that impact in 2025-26. Each form of assistance has been adjusted to consider the rate of change in prices in the economy using the recognised measure of inflation – the 12 month rate of the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) – for September 2024.

Since the first Scottish up-rating exercise in 2019, the Scottish Government has frequently chosen to up-rate all payments, including those increased at Ministers' discretion. This financial support has been absolutely crucial to many people, especially during the current cost of living crisis. This Government believes that the people of Scotland should be able to depend on the social security assistance they receive retaining its purchasing power as prices rise. To that end, through the Social Security (Scotland) Amendment Bill, we have extended the legal obligation to annually increase **all** benefits delivered under the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 in line with inflation.

This extended legal requirement will apply immediately to the Best Start Grants and our winter heating payments. Best Start Foods will be brought under the 2018 Act in future but, until then, the Scottish Government is committed to also increase this payment each year in line with inflation.

This action will help protect the real terms value of these payments, delivering more money for families by way of the Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods. These payments, already more generous than their equivalents in the rest of the UK, support those families most at risk of poverty. Along with the Scottish Child Payment, they are a vital contribution to this Government's core mission of tackling child poverty.

These annual increases will also apply to our winter heating benefits, helping the most vulnerable in our society to stay warm each year – safe in the knowledge that as prices rise, increases to these payments will also be guaranteed.

In an already challenging fiscal environment, it is no surprise that this decision comes with significant financial implications. However, this is a vital investment in the support of families and households in Scotland.

This financial year has also seen the introduction of the Pension Age Disability Payment, a benefit developed and designed by listening to older disabled people. Many continue to find themselves struggling due to the cost of living and it is more important than ever that older disabled people across Scotland receive the financial support they need.

From March 2025, Social Security Scotland will also begin administering the new Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. This payment is intended to help disabled people meet the additional costs of living with a disability or health condition. As a closed benefit, it will not be

open to new applications and is only for those whose awards are transferred from Disability Living Allowance.

I continue to be extremely proud of our growing Scottish social security system with the principles of dignity, fairness and respect at its core. The actions that the Scottish Government intend to take in this report ensures that the rates of our social security assistance are inflation proofed against rising prices in the economy. This investment will provide much needed support to the most vulnerable in our society and help us in our efforts to address inequality and poverty in Scotland.

Shirley-Anne Somerville  
**Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice**

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## 1. Purpose

1.1 This report is published under section 86A<sup>1</sup> of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018<sup>2</sup> ('the 2018 Act') which requires Scottish Ministers to consider the effects of price inflation on all forms of assistance delivered under Chapter 2 of Part 2 or sections 79 and 93 of the 2018 Act and to lay a report in the Scottish Parliament before the end of each financial year.

1.2 This report sets out the inflation-adjusted level of each relevant figure, explains how the inflation-adjusted levels have been calculated and states what the Scottish Ministers have done, or intend to do, in light of their calculations and their reasons for that decision.

1.3 The payments of assistance under the reporting duty in section 86A include:

1. Carers' assistance (Young Carer Grant and Carer Support Payment)
2. Cold-spell heating assistance
3. Winter heating assistance (Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment)
4. Disability assistance (Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Pension Age Disability Payment and Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance)
5. Early years assistance (Best Start Grant)
6. Employment injury assistance
7. Funeral expense assistance (Funeral Support Payment)
8. Housing assistance
9. Short-term assistance
10. Scottish Child Payment

1.4 Of those detailed above, the Best Start Grant, Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, Funeral Support Payment, Young Carer Grant, Carer Support Payment, Short-term assistance, Scottish Child Payment, Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment and Pension Age Disability Payment have been delivered and are included in this report for consideration. Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance has also been included in this report as it will be introduced in March 2025. The report is required to consider the change in prices before the end of the financial year. The previous report was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 29 January 2024<sup>3</sup>, containing the new rates that commenced from April 2024.

1.5 This report also explains how the inflation-adjusted level of Carer's Allowance Supplement has been calculated and is being provided to offer a fuller picture of all the

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<sup>1</sup> Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 – Section 86A ([link](#))

<sup>2</sup> Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 ([link](#))

<sup>3</sup> Devolved Social Security assistance : up-rating for inflation 2024-25 ([link](#))

assistance delivered<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, information on other forms of assistance not covered by the 2018 Act such as Job Start Payment and Best Start Foods is also included.

1.6 Finally, as detailed in section 86B<sup>5</sup> of the 2018 Act, Scottish Ministers must bring forward legislation before the end of each financial year, to replace the payment amount in the Regulations which is, in their opinion, materially below its inflation-adjusted level. Following passage of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2025, all forms of assistance that are set out in the 2018 Act and associated Regulations made under the 2018 Act are to be up-rated to the inflation-adjusted level calculated in accordance with section 86A.

1.7 This means that for the financial year 2025-26 there is a requirement to up-rate Funeral Support Payment, Carer Support Payment, Young Carer Grant, Scottish Child Payment, Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Pension Age Disability Payment, Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment and the Best Start Grants. Carer's Allowance Supplement must also be up-rated in accordance with section 81 of the 2018 Act.

1.8 Best Start Foods and Job Start Payment are not delivered through powers in the 2018 Act and as such, there is no legal requirement to up-rate these payments.

1.9 The Scottish Government is committed to embedding the eight Scottish social security principles in Section 1 of the 2018 Act into the policy making process. The approach to up-rating, in particular, is intended to reinforce the principles that:

- social security is an investment in the people of Scotland;
- social security is itself a human right and essential to the realisation of other human rights;
- the Scottish social security system is to contribute to reducing poverty in Scotland; and;
- opportunities are to be sought to continuously improve the Scottish social security system in ways which - i) put the needs of those who require assistance first, and ii) advance equality and non-discrimination.

## **2. Background**

2.1 In 2019, following consideration of evidence from a number of sources including the UK Statistics Authority, the Office for National Statistics, an independent review led by the Director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies<sup>6</sup> and the House of Lords Economic Affairs

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<sup>4</sup> Scottish Ministers are required to publish a statement explaining how they have calculated inflation for the purpose of up-rating Carer's Allowance Supplement in terms of section 81(5)(b) of the 2018 Act. Including Carer's Allowance Supplement in this report is intended to fulfil that obligation.

<sup>5</sup> Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 – Section 86B ([link](#))

<sup>6</sup> UK Consumer Price Statistics: A Review ([link](#))

Committee's report 'Measuring Inflation'<sup>7</sup>, the Scottish Government recommended that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) 12 month rate for September is used for up-rating devolved social security assistance, with the assistance payment rounded to the nearest five pence.

2.2 A policy paper<sup>8</sup> which included analysis of potential measures of inflation and set out the Scottish Government's approach to up-rating was provided to the Social Security Committee and the Scottish Commission on Social Security on 2 September 2019.

2.3 The Social Security Committee noted the Scottish Government's position on up-rating of devolved assistance and had no further views to report beyond the discussion at the Committee on 10 October 2019<sup>9</sup>.

2.4 Overall, the Scottish Commission on Social Security was supportive of the Scottish Government's up-rating policy and made recommendations<sup>10</sup> which the Scottish Government responded<sup>11</sup> to. These recommendations are reviewed and considered as part of the annual up-rating process and as more forms of assistance are introduced and reported on.

2.5 Although Scottish Ministers retain the flexibility to choose the most suitable measure of inflation used to annually up-rate forms of assistance, on 29 January 2024, the Scottish Government published a report<sup>12</sup> setting out further analysis of potential inflation measures. It was recommended that the CPI 12 month rate for September remains the most suitable inflation measure for benefit up-rating.

2.6 The following sections provide detail of how the inflation-adjusted levels of assistance were calculated, what the inflation-adjusted levels of assistance would be and what the Scottish Ministers intend to do.

### **3. Policy on up-rating of Social Security assistance**

3.1 The Scottish Government's current policy is to use the CPI 12 month rate for September as the measure of inflation to up-rate devolved social security assistance. CPI is a National Statistic and is a headline measure of inflation in the UK. It is also used by the Bank of England for inflation targeting and official forecasts are available for CPI.

3.2 The CPI 12 month rate for September is published in October so allows its use in the Scottish Government budget process that begins shortly afterwards, ensuring sufficient funds are allocated to fund up-rating of social security assistance, and also sufficient time to update Social Security Scotland payments system in time to pay new payment rates in April.

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<sup>7</sup> House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee: Measuring Inflation Report ([link](#))

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Government – Up-rating policy paper and analytical report ([link](#))

<sup>9</sup> Social Security Committee report ([link](#))

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Commission on Social Security: Up-rating report 2019 ([link](#))

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Government responses to Scottish Commission on Social Security recommendations ([link](#))

<sup>12</sup> Up-rating devolved Social Security assistance : multi criteria decision analysis ([link](#))

3.3 In October 2024, the Office for Budget Responsibility published their latest Economic and Fiscal Outlook<sup>13</sup>, confirming that annual CPI inflation is expected to remain close to the 2% target throughout the forecast period. A temporary rise from 2% is predicted in 2025 driven by higher gas and electric prices. However, at this time, there is significant uncertainty around the forecast for CPI inflation as various factors can driver lower or higher inflation including wage growth or the continuing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

3.4 In summary, CPI remains the most appropriate inflation measure for up-rating of assistance and the annual rate to September is the most appropriate period. However, the Scottish Government is committed to keep its up-rating policy under review and will consider alternative approaches if there is a material change to inflation measures.

## 4. Social Security Payments in 2024-25

4.1 The social security payments Social Security Scotland are responsible for during the financial year 2024-25 are:

4.2 **Carer's Allowance Supplement:** providing extra support to people who receive Carer's Allowance in Scotland. Paid every six months, it was initially set at a level that would raise Carer's Allowance to match the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for those aged 25 and over. This payment has been up-rated annually since 2018-19 in line with section 81 of the 2018 Act, which calculates the supplement as the difference between Carer's Allowance and JSA, had it been up-rated in line with inflation.

4.3 As a result of this up-rating and since the UK Government has not routinely up-rated JSA in line with inflation, Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement combined now exceed the equivalent weekly rate of Jobseeker's Allowance. The rate of Carer's Allowance Supplement in 2024-25 is £288.60 in each bi-annual payment.

4.4 **Young Carer Grant (YCG):** provides eligible young carers aged 16, 17 and 18 with a payment of £383.75, which can be applied for each year. Since 2020-21, this payment has been up-rated in accordance with the legal requirement.

4.5 **Carer Support Payment (CSP):** is designed to provide financial assistance to those people supplying regular and substantial care to someone in receipt of a qualifying disability benefit. To be eligible to receive this payment, earnings must be a specific amount or less a week after tax, National Insurance and expenses. The earnings limit for 2024-25 is £151.00.

4.6 This payment replaces Carer's Allowance for people in Scotland and the current rate of this payment for 2024-25 is £81.90. Although there is a statutory duty to up-rate CSP, there is no statutory duty to up-rate the earnings limits.

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<sup>13</sup> [Office for Budget Responsibility - Economic and fiscal outlook - October 2024](#)



4.7 **Child Disability Payment (CDP):** provides support for the extra costs that a child or young person with disabilities may have. This payment replaced Disability Living Allowance for children (DLAC) in Scotland and is available to children and young people from the age of 3 months to 18 years old, who have care and/or mobility needs as a result of a disability.

4.8 CDP consists of a care and a mobility component, and an eligible child may qualify for either of these or both, depending on the nature of their disability. The care component has three different payment rates: lowest (£28.70), middle (£72.65) and highest (£108.55). The mobility component comprises two rates: lower (£28.70 if the child is 5 or over) and higher (£75.75 for children aged 3 or over). Both care and mobility components are paid four-weekly in arrears, except for terminally ill children, whom Social Security Scotland pay weekly. There is a statutory requirement to up-rate Child Disability Payment.

4.9 **Adult Disability Payment (ADP):** provides financial assistance to help meet the additional costs of living with a disability or health condition. It is the most complex form of assistance delivered by Social Security Scotland. This payment replaces Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in Scotland for individuals aged between 16 and state pension age (subject to some exceptions) who are making an application for disability assistance.

4.10 It consists of two components, the daily living component and the mobility component. The first provides two levels of assistance for individuals who face increased barriers to carrying out daily living activities as a result of physical or mental health condition(s) and/or disability with the standard rate (£72.65) and the enhanced rate (£108.55). The mobility component provides two levels of assistance for individuals who face increased barriers to carrying out mobility activities as a result of physical or mental health condition(s) and/or disability: the standard rate (£28.70) and the enhanced rate (£75.75).

4.11 A transitional rate for ADP was introduced for adults in Scotland who currently receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and were under 65 when PIP was introduced on 8 April 2013. ADP does not have an equivalent of the lowest rate of the care component in DLA so in this situation, people are transferred to a special 'transitional rate' of the daily living component paid at the lowest rate of the care component, currently £28.70. This transitional rate will be paid until the case is reviewed against the eligibility rules for ADP. There is a statutory requirement to up-rate ADP including this transitional rate.

4.12 **Pension Age Disability Payment (PADP):** provides support to older people who have a disability or long term health condition that means they need assistance with looking after themselves, or supervision to keep them safe. PADP consists of two rates of assistance, the higher rate (£108.55) and the lower rate (£72.65). This payment is designed to replace Attendance Allowance (AA) and following the successful pilot in Argyll & Bute, Highland, Aberdeen City, Orkney and Shetland, the payment will be available across the whole of Scotland from late April 2025.

4.13 **Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance (SADLA):** is intended to improve outcomes for disabled people, by providing financial assistance to help meet the additional

costs of living with a disability or health condition. This form of assistance will replace Disability Living Allowance in Scotland for adults who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance as administered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of Scottish Ministers in Scotland. It will be a closed benefit, meaning it will not be open to new applications. It is intended only for those whose awards are transferred from Disability Living Allowance. This new benefit will be delivered by Social Security Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

4.14 SADLA consists of a care and mobility component. The care component provides three rates of assistance: lowest (£28.70), middle (£72.65) and highest (£108.55). The mobility component comprises of two rates: lower (£28.70) and higher (£75.75).

4.15 **Short-term assistance:** is available where Social Security Scotland has made a decision to reduce or stop an ongoing award and that decision is subject to a request for a re-determination or an appeal. The intention is to ensure that an individual is not discouraged from challenging a decision or from accessing administrative justice by having to manage, for a period of time, with a reduced income. At this time, this assistance is available for ADP, PADP, CDP and it will also be available for SADLA when it is introduced. The value of the short-term assistance would always reflect any up-rating during the period that it is in payment, ensuring that while a re-determination or appeal remains live, the client is not disadvantaged compared to an individual who remains entitled to the principal form of assistance.

4.16 **Scottish Child Payment (SCP):** is paid as a top up of certain qualifying reserved benefits (notably Universal Credit) using powers available under the 2018 Act. It is intended to help towards the costs of supporting a family and forms part of the wider Scottish Government strategy to combat child poverty. Available to children under 16, it is paid every four weeks in arrears to clients with the currently weekly rate set at £26.70. There is a statutory requirement to up-rate Scottish Child Payment under the 2018 Act.

4.17 **Funeral Support Payment (FSP):** is a one-off payment designed to help meet the costs of a funeral with the current flat rate at £1,257.75 for funeral costs but with provision for further associated costs also available (e.g. cremation costs). FSP has provided an average payment of £2,087 towards the total costs of each funeral claimed for so far in 2024-25. The total value of FSP paid out in the first three months of 2024-25 is just over £3 million. There is a statutory requirement to up-rate this payment each year.

4.18 **Best Start Grant (BSG):** provides support during three key transition points in a child's early years. The Pregnancy and Baby Payment provides £754.65 for a first child and £377.35 for second and subsequent children (with some exceptions for the higher payment to be made in certain circumstances for subsequent children). Both the Early Learning Payment and the School Age Payment provides £314.45 per child, with the former designed to support child development and the latter to help with the costs of preparing for school. The UK

Government makes no equivalent provision to either the Early Learning or School Age Payments. There is no statutory requirement to up-rate BSG.

4.19 **Best Start Foods (BSF)**: is a payment available to low-income pregnant women, their partners and children aged up to three years old. It is paid as a credit onto a payment card that can be used to buy healthy foods such as milk, fruit and vegetables. The rates were increased in April 2024 to £5.30 per week for each child 1 year or older, and £10.60 per week for every child under 1 year old. In February 2024, legislation was passed which removed the income thresholds for this payment, increasing eligibility by around 15,000 people. The legislation also confirmed that the higher rate of BSF is calculated as double the basic rate. As this payment is not delivered under the 2018 Act, there is no statutory requirement to up-rate or to provide inflation-adjusted figures in this report, but they are included for completeness.

4.20 **Job Start Payment (JSP)**: provides a one-off payment to eligible young people to help them with costs they may incur when starting a new job. A payment of £314.45 or £503.10 (higher award if responsible for a child) is available to young people who reside in Scotland aged 16 to 24 and aged up to 25 for care leavers. Job Start Payment is not delivered under the 2018 Act and so there is no statutory requirement to up-rate or to provide inflation-adjusted figures on this payment in the report but these have been included for completeness.

4.21 **Child Winter Heating Payment (CWHP)**: provides an annual payment of £251.50 (rate in 2024-25) to children and young people with disabilities in receipt of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance, Child Disability Payment or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment or Adult Disability Payment, to support households with the additional costs associated with winter fuel bills. There is no statutory requirement to up-rate Child Winter Heating Payment.

4.22 **Winter Heating Payment (WHP)**: is an annual payment of £58.75 (rate for 2024-25) for households in receipt of certain low-income benefits who may have extra heating needs over winter, such as those living with a disability, or have responsibility for a child under 5. There is no statutory requirement to up-rate Winter Heating Payment.

4.23 **Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (PAWHP)**: is a payment designed to mitigate some of the impact of additional domestic heating costs for those of state pension age with a low income. It is currently a single annual payment of £200 or £300 for individuals, dependent on the person's age and their entitlement to relevant benefits during the qualifying week. Proposed changes to PAWHP were announced in the Scottish Budget on 4 December 2024, with the aim to deliver this winter heating payment universally to every pensioner household.

## 5. **Devolved Assistance that continues to be delivered by the DWP**

5.1 Scottish Ministers have legal, policy and funding responsibility for other forms of assistance that are delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through agency arrangements. These agency arrangements are required until all clients in Scotland are transferred from carer and disability benefits provided by the DWP to assistance provided by Scottish Ministers.

5.2 Carer's Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Severe Disablement Allowance and the Industrial Injuries Scheme (comprising of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits and the Industrial Death Benefit) are administered by the DWP on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Although there is not a requirement under the 2018 Act to include these forms of assistance in this report, they have been included to help provide a more complete view of the steps taken by the Scottish Government to investigate the impact of inflation for all devolved payments.

5.3 Scottish Ministers are committed to annually up-rate those devolved forms of assistance at the same rate as the DWP, which for 2025-26 is generally the CPI 12 month rate for September (1.7%), rounded to the nearest 5p. Exceptions include the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit where the 100% degree of disablement entitlement is rounded to the nearest 10p and the lower rates rounded to the nearest 1p while the Industrial Death Benefit (IDB) is normally up-rated through the triple lock guarantee, which ensures that pensions increase by the greatest of average earnings, prices as measured by CPI, or 2.5%.

5.4 IDB is part of the Industrial Injuries Scheme and is paid to the widow, widower or dependents of someone who has died as a result of an industrial injury or disease. In 2025-26, the UK Government has determined that IDB will increase by 4.1% in line with the growth in Average Weekly Earnings in the year to May-July 2024. The higher rate widow's pension of £169.50 will increase to £176.45, the lower rate widow's pension of £50.85 to £52.94. The widower's pension of £156.20 will increase to £176.45. This is a closed benefit and was abolished for all new claims in 2012 and is payable only if the person died before 1988.

5.5 Social Security Scotland will progressively take over administering these benefits from the DWP but until then, Scottish Ministers will be responsible for bringing forward legislation through powers under UK legislation to up-rate these payments in April 2025.

## 6. Inflation-adjusted figures

6.1 Under section 86A of the 2018 Act there is a requirement to calculate the inflation-adjusted figures for all devolved assistance in Chapter 2 of Part 2 or sections 79 and 93, which are in effect: Young Carer Grant, Carer Support Payment, Funeral Support Payment, Best Start Grant, Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, Scottish Child Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Child Disability Payment, Pension Age Disability Payment and Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance. The inflation-adjusted figures are provided in **Table 1**. The 2025-26 levels for these benefits have been up-rated with the annual September 2024 rate of CPI (1.7%).

**Table 1 - Assistance covered by Section 86A of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>2024-25 levels</b>	<b>Inflation-adjusted figures</b>
<b>Carer Support Payment</b>	£81.90	£83.30
<b>Young Carer Grant</b>	£383.75	£390.25
<b>Scottish Child Payment</b>	£26.70	£27.15
<b>Child Disability Payment</b>		
Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Adult Disability Payment</b>		
Daily Living Component Enhanced Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Daily Living Component Standard Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Mobility Component Enhanced Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Standard Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Transitional rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment (higher rate)</b>	£108.55	£110.40
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment (lower rate)</b>	£72.65	£73.90
<b>Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance</b>		
Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Funeral Support Payment (higher rate)</b>	£1,257.75	£1,279.15
<b>Funeral Support Payment (lower rate)</b>	£153.50	£156.10
<b>Funeral Support Payment (medical device removal)</b>	£25.35	£25.80
<b>Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b> (1st Child Payment or subsequent child if relevant exemption applies)	£754.65	£767.50
<b>Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b> (Subsequent Child Payment & Multiple Pregnancy Supplement)	£377.35	£383.75
<b>Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment</b>	£314.45	£319.80
<b>Best Start Grant School Age Payment</b>	£314.45	£319.80
<b>Child Winter Heating Payment</b>	£251.50	£255.80
<b>Winter Heating Payment</b>	£58.75	£59.75
<b>Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (higher rate)</b>	£300.00	£305.10
<b>Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (lower rate)</b>	£200.00	£203.40

Note: rounding to the nearest 5p is applied

6.2 **Table 2** presents inflation-adjusted figures for the other forms of devolved assistance that are not covered by section 86A. The inflation-adjusted levels have been calculated using the CPI 12 month rate for September 2024 (1.7%).

**Table 2** - Assistance not covered by Section 86A of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

<b>Benefit (weekly rate unless otherwise shown)</b>	<b>2024-25 levels</b>	<b>Inflation-adjusted levels</b>
<b>Attendance Allowance (higher rate)</b>	£108.55	£110.40
<b>Attendance Allowance (lower rate)</b>	£72.65	£73.90
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>	£81.90	£83.30
<b>Carer's Allowance Supplement (bi-annual amount)</b>	£288.60	£293.50
<b>Disability Living Allowance</b>		
- Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
- Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
- Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
- Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
- Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit</b>		
Standard rate 1.0	£221.50	£225.30
0.9	£199.35	£202.77
0.8	£177.20	£180.24
0.7	£155.05	£157.71
0.6	£132.90	£135.18
0.5	£110.75	£112.65
0.4	£88.60	£90.12
0.3	£66.45	£67.59
0.2	£44.30	£45.06
<b>Personal Independence Payment</b>		
- Daily Living Component Enhanced Rate	£108.55	£110.40
- Daily Living Component Standard Rate	£72.65	£73.90
- Mobility Component Enhanced Rate	£75.75	£77.05
- Mobility Component Standard Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Severe Disablement Allowance – (basic rate)</b>	£98.40	£100.05
- Age related addition – higher rate	£14.70	£14.95
- Age related addition – middle rate	£8.15	£8.30
- Age related addition – lower rate	£8.15	£8.30
- Adult Dependant increase for SDA	£48.40	£49.20
<b>Best Start Foods – (higher rate)</b>	£10.60	£10.80
<b>Best Start Foods – (lower rate)</b>	£5.30	£5.40
<b>Job Start Payment – (standard rate)</b>	£314.45	£319.80

<b>Job Start Payment – (higher rate)</b>	£503.10	£511.65
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Note: rounding to the nearest 5p is applied except IIDB where the 100% degree of disablement entitlement is rounded to the nearest 10p and the lower rates rounded to the nearest 1p

## 7. Up-rating Policy for 2025-26

7.1 During the Scottish Budget on 4 December 2024, it was announced that the Scottish Government will increase all forms of assistance delivered under the 2018 Act by 1.7%. Best Start Foods and Job Start Payment, where up-rating remains at the discretion of Ministers, will also be up-rated by 1.7%.

7.2 IDB will increase by 4.1% in line with the growth in Average Weekly Earnings in the year from May-July 2024. The earnings limit for Carer Support Payment will also be increased to £196.00 (the equivalent of 16 hours at the new National Living Wage) aligning with the increase of the earnings limit for Carer's Allowance. Legislation will be brought forward to up-rate these forms of assistance by April 2025.

7.3 The new rates of assistance are presented in **Table 3**.

**Table 3 – 2025-26 assistance rates for payments administered by Social Security Scotland.**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Assistance Rates 2025-26</b>
<b>Carer Support Payment</b>	£83.30
<b>Young Carer Grant</b>	£390.25
<b>Scottish Child Payment</b>	£27.15
<b>Child Disability Payment - Care Component Highest Rate</b>	£110.40
<b>Child Disability Payment - Care Component Middle Rate</b>	£73.90
<b>Child Disability Payment - Care Component Lowest Rate</b>	£29.20
<b>Child Disability Payment - Mobility Component Higher Rate</b>	£77.05
<b>Child Disability Payment - Mobility Component Lower Rate</b>	£29.20
<b>Adult Disability Payment - Daily Living Component Enhanced Rate</b>	£110.40
<b>Adult Disability Payment - Daily Living Component Standard Rate</b>	£73.90
<b>Adult Disability Payment - Mobility Component Enhanced Rate</b>	£77.05
<b>Adult Disability Payment - Mobility Component Standard Rate</b>	£29.20
<b>Adult Disability Payment - Transitional rate</b>	£29.20
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment (higher rate)</b>	£110.40
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment (lower rate)</b>	£73.90
<b>Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance</b>	
- Care Component Highest Rate	£110.40
- Care Component Middle Rate	£73.90
- Care Component Lowest Rate	£29.20
- Mobility Component Higher Rate	£77.05

- Mobility Component Lower Rate	£29.20
<b>Funeral Support Payment (higher rate)</b>	£1,279.15
<b>Funeral Support Payment (lower rate)</b>	£156.10
<b>Funeral Support Payment (medical device removal)</b>	£25.80
<b>Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment 1st child</b> (or subsequent child if relevant exemption applies)	£767.50
<b>Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b> (Subsequent Child Payment & Multiple Pregnancy Supplement)	£383.75
<b>Best Start Grant - Early Learning Payment</b>	£319.80
<b>Best Start Grant - School Age Payment</b>	£319.80
<b>Child Winter Heating Payment</b>	£255.80
<b>Winter Heating Payment</b>	£59.75
<b>Pension Age Winter Heating Payment – (higher rate)</b>	£305.10
<b>Pension Age Winter Heating Payment – (lower rate)</b>	£203.40
<b>Job Start Payment – (standard rate)</b>	£319.80
<b>Job Start Payment – (higher rate)</b>	£511.65
<b>Best Start Foods – (higher rate)</b>	£10.80
<b>Best Start Foods – (lower rate)</b>	£5.40

Note: rounding to the nearest 5p is applied

7.4 Scottish Ministers will also bring forward legislation to up-rate the forms of assistance within devolved competence under UK legislation and delivered by the DWP via agency arrangements by April 2025. A summary of the devolved Social Security assistance rates to be delivered in Scotland in 2025-2026 is available in **Annex A**.

7.5 The UK Government also up-rates reserved social security benefit and pension rates each year. The rates for 2025-26 can be found at [Proposed Benefit and Pension rates 2025 to 2026](#).

## 8. Carer's Allowance Supplement Statement

8.1 Section 81 of the 2018 Act provides a formula for determining the rate of Carer's Allowance Supplement by calculating the difference between the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance. To ensure the support provided through the Supplement is protected as prices in the economy rise, Section 81 provides for the amount of Jobseeker's Allowance used in this calculation to be up-rated for inflation, while also taking into account any realised changes in the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance since the introduction of the Supplement. This means that since the introduction of Carer's Allowance Supplement in 2018, the Jobseeker's Allowance rate used for its calculation was up-rated with inflation despite the actual rate of Jobseeker's Allowance remaining frozen at 2015-16 prices under the UK Government benefit freeze policy until April 2020.

8.2 As no legislation is required to up-rate Carer's Allowance Supplement, Scottish Ministers are to publish a statement before the start of each new tax year, explaining how



inflation has been calculated for this purpose. It is appropriate to include this statement within this report.

8.3 For 2025-26, Scottish Ministers have chosen to up-rate the 2024-25 bi-annual rate of Carer's Allowance Supplement of £288.60 by 1.7%, to £293.50. This is equivalent to a weekly rate of £11.29, or £11.30 when rounded to the nearest 5p.

8.4 Up-rating the weekly Jobseeker's Allowance rate used in last year's calculation of Carer's Allowance Supplement (£93.00-) by the CPI 12 month rate for September of 1.7% produces £94.60 (to the nearest 5p). Compared with the 2025-26 rate of Carer's Allowance (£83.30) this is a weekly difference of £11.30, a 1.7% rise (before 5p rounding, when at £11.29) from the £11.10 weekly Carer's Allowance Supplement rate set in 2024-25.

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 This report has explained the Scottish Government's approach to up-rating social security assistance for the financial year 2025-26.

## Devolved Social Security Assistance Rates 2024-2025

Weekly rates unless otherwise shown.

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Rates 2024-25</b>	<b>Rates 2025-26</b>
<b>Attendance Allowance – (higher rate)</b>	£108.55	£110.40
<b>Attendance Allowance – (lower rate)</b>	£72.65	£73.90
<b>Carer's Allowance</b>	£81.90	£83.30
Carer's Allowance Supplement (bi-annual payment)	£288.60	£293.50
<b>Disability Living Allowance</b>		
Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit</b>		
Standard Rate 1.0	£221.50	£225.30
0.9	£199.35	£202.77
0.8	£177.20	£180.24
0.7	£155.05	£157.71
0.6	£132.90	£135.18
0.5	£110.75	£112.65
0.4	£88.60	£90.12
0.3	£66.45	£67.59
0.2	£44.30	£45.06
<b>Constant Attendance Allowance – exceptional rate</b>	£177.40	£180.40
<b>Constant Attendance Allowance – intermediate rate</b>	£133.05	£135.30
<b>Constant Attendance Allowance – normal maximum rate</b>	£88.70	£90.20
<b>Constant Attendance Allowance – part-time rate</b>	£44.35	£45.10
<b>Exceptionally severe disablement allowance</b>	£88.70	£90.20
<b>Maximum of aggregate weekly benefit payable for successive accidents</b>	£221.50	£225.30
<b>Industrial Injuries Unemployability Supplement permitted earnings level (annual amount)</b>	£9,542.00	£10,166.00
<b>Maximum life gratuity</b>	£14,700.00	£14,950.00
<b>Unemployability Supplement</b>	£137.00	£139.35
<b>Increase for early incapacity – (higher rate)</b>	£28.40	£28.90
<b>Increase for early incapacity – (middle rate)</b>	£18.20	£18.50
<b>Increase for early incapacity – (lower rate)</b>	£9.10	£9.25
<b>Increase under para 4 of schedule 7 SSCBA 1992 to weekly disablement pension (increase for dependent children)</b>	£11.35	£11.35
<b>Maximum reduced earning allowance</b>	£88.60	£90.12
<b>Maximum retirement allowance</b>	£22.15	£22.53
<b>Industrial Death Benefit – Widow (higher rate)</b>	£169.50	£176.45
<b>Industrial Death Benefit – Widow (lower rate)</b>	£50.85	£52.94

<b>Industrial Death Benefit – Widower rate</b>	£169.50	£176.45
<b>Weekly rate of allowance in respect of children under paragraph 18 of Schedule 7</b>	£11.35	£11.35
<b>Personal Independence Payment</b>		
Daily Living Component Enhanced Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Daily Living Component Standard Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Mobility Component Enhanced Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Standard Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Severe Disablement Allowance – (basic rate)</b>	£98.40	£100.05
- Age related addition – (higher rate)	£14.70	£14.95
- Age related addition – (middle rate)	£8.15	£8.30
- Age related addition – (lower rate)	£8.15	£8.30
- Adult Dependency Increase payable with SDA	£48.40	£49.20

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>
<b>Child Disability Payment</b>		
Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Adult Disability Payment</b>		
Daily Living Component Enhanced Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Daily Living Component Standard Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Mobility Component Enhanced Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Standard Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Transitional Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment – (higher rate)</b>	£108.55	£110.40
<b>Pension Age Disability Payment – (lower rate)</b>	£72.65	£73.90
<b>Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance</b>		
Care Component Highest Rate	£108.55	£110.40
Care Component Middle Rate	£72.65	£73.90
Care Component Lowest Rate	£28.70	£29.20
Mobility Component Higher Rate	£75.75	£77.05
Mobility Component Lower Rate	£28.70	£29.20
<b>Scottish Child Payment</b>	£26.70	£27.15
<b>Carer Support Payment</b>	£81.90	£83.30
<b>Best Start Foods – (higher rate)</b>	£10.60	£10.80
<b>Best Start Foods – (lower rate)</b>	£5.30	£5.40

Grants or one-off payments

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Rates 2024-25</b>	<b>Rates 2025-26</b>
<b>Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b> (1st child payment unless a relevant exemption applies)	£754.65	£767.50
<b>Best Start Grant - Pregnancy and Baby Payment</b> (Subsequent Child Payment & Multiple Pregnancy Supplement)	£377.35	£383.75
<b>Best Start Grant - Early Learning Payment</b>	£314.45	£319.80
<b>Best Start Grant - School Age Payment</b>	£314.45	£319.80

<b>Child Winter Heating Payment (annually)</b>	£251.50	£255.80
<b>Winter Heating Payment (annually)</b>	£58.75	£59.75
<b>Pension Age Winter Payment (annually) (higher rate)</b>	£300.00	£305.10
<b>Pension Age Winter Payment (annually) (lower rate)</b>	£200.00	£203.40
<b>Funeral Support Payment – (standard rate)</b>	£1,257.75	£1,279.15
<b>Funeral Support Payment: other expenses element where there is a funeral plan</b>	£153.50	£156.10
<b>Funeral Support Payment - removal of implanted medical devices</b>	£25.35	£25.80
<b>Job Start Payment – (standard rate)</b>	£314.45	£319.80
<b>Job Start Payment - (higher rate)</b>	£503.10	£511.65
<b>Young Carer Grant (annually)</b>	£383.75	£390.25