

- **£285 per month** if you are part of a disabled couple but only one SDP was paid because one of you has a carer getting Carer's Allowance or UC as a carer.
- **£405 per month** for a couple who both received the SDP.

Transitional payments end if there is a break in your claim, if you change from claiming with a partner to claiming as a single person, or start claiming with a partner.

Transitional payments are **not an extra UC element**. They are **reduced as your benefit entitlement increases**, perhaps because your housing costs go up, you claim for an extra child or you qualify for the LCWRA element. For example, if your rent rises by £30 per month, your TP will be reduced by the same amount. Eventually, your TP will disappear as other benefit changes wipe it out.

Other Disability Premiums

There is a **Disability Premium (DP)** for income-based JSA and an **Enhanced Disability Premium (EDP)** for income-based JSA and income-related ESA. These also apply to **Housing Benefit**.

You get a DP if you get **PIP or DLA**.

You get an EDP if you or your partner get **enhanced rate PIP for Daily Living, high rate DLA for care** or are in the **ESA Support Group**.

These are separate from the SDP and can be paid on top of it if you qualify.

Found Fit for Work?

If you are found fit for work, you may need to claim **Universal Credit**. You cannot make a new claim for income-based JSA, even if you got an SDP with your ESA. The rules changed on **27th January 2021**.

Universal Credit only gives extra support to a disabled person if they have **limited capability for work related activity** (like the ESA Support Group) and it has **no SDP**, so you may get less benefit, even if you get a **Transitional Payment** to make up some of this loss.

If you want to **appeal against the decision**, you may be able to **stay on ESA**. Get **more advice** if you are in this situation.



For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our

Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

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Explaining the ...

Severe Disability Premium

Means-tested Benefits No 11



The Severe Disability Premium

The Severe Disability Premium (SDP) is not a separate benefit that you can claim on its own. It is a **premium**, an amount added to a means-tested benefit you already claim.

A SDP is worth up to **£66.95 per week** on top of your benefit. If you live in **Stoke-on-Trent** and qualify for a SDP, you may also qualify for more **Council Tax Support**.

Which Benefits can include the SDP?

A severe disability premium can be added to:

- Income Support (IS)
- *Income-based* Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- *Income-based* Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support

Qualifying for the SDP

To get a Severe Disability Premium you must meet all three of these conditions:

1. You must be 'severely disabled'.

This is **not a medical test**. It is based on the benefits you are entitled to. To get a severe disability premium, you must get either:

- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** for *Daily Living*, or
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** at the **middle or higher rate for care** or
- **Attendance Allowance**.



2. You must be treated as 'living alone'.

You are 'living alone' if:

- **No other adults live with you**. You might be a disabled lone-parent with dependent children or young people, and still 'live alone'.
- Another adult, or adults, share your home but they are **all severely disabled** too (getting one of the benefits listed), or they are registered blind or partially sighted.

3. Nobody Gets Carer's Allowance or a Universal Credit Carer's Element for looking after you.

If someone has *claimed* Carer's Allowance (CA) for looking after you, but **isn't actually paid it** because they get another benefit that 'overlaps' with CA, **you still meet this condition**.

If you have a carer who is thinking about claiming Carer's Allowance or Universal Credit, you should **both get specialist benefits advice**, in case the amount of benefit you lose by them making the claim is more than they would gain.

Be extra careful if the person receiving care is a **pensioner with over £16,000 in savings**, getting Pension Credit only **due to the SDP**, and Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Support through that. Without Pension Credit, they won't get HB or CTS, as their capital will be too high for them to make a claim.

How the SDP helps a Disabled Couple.

Paul and Sara are both disabled. They get income-based ESA of £180.50 per week. No-one lives with them and they have no carers. Paul gets PIP for daily living. If Sara claims PIP too, and gets a daily living component, they will have a SDP added to their ESA worth **£66.95 per week each**.

This will give them an extra **£131.70 a week**, taking their weekly ESA to **£309.20**.

Transitional Payments

If you get any of the benefits Universal Credit is replacing, **check soon** if you think you might be due a SDP. You could be **much better off** now and into the future if you **claim the SDP now**.

If you are getting a benefit including the SDP, you may get a **Transitional Payment (TP)** if a change of circumstances means you have to transfer to UC.

You won't get a TP if you have to claim UC because you **form a couple** with someone who is **getting UC already**.

There are 3 rates of transitional payment:

- **£120 per month** if you are single and get a limited capability for work-related activity element in your UC.
- **£285 per month** if you are single and do not get the LCWRA element.