

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY K.M. WILSON OF ST. CLEMENT
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 27th JANUARY 2025
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2025**

Question

“Will the Minister provide details of the number of people over the last 5 years who were in receipt of financial support from the Employment, Social Security, and Housing Department broken down into each of the different types of benefit paid by the Department; and will she further provide the total financial value of each type of benefit paid for each of the last 5 years?”

Answer

The tables below relate to spending under the control of the Minister for Social Security. In addition, the Department also administers student finance grants. The tables demonstrate the significant range of benefits available and the distribution of around half a billion pounds a year to benefit recipients.

These tables use data from internal departmental records and allocate payments according to the date the payment was made. They do not include accounting adjustments which are used to reconcile payments to correct time periods and management of debtors. As such, the tables below present a coherent view of the data included but the detailed numbers and values will not match exactly to audited accounts etc.

1. Number of people

Funding Source	Description	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Health Insurance Fund	Health Access Scheme		9,836	9,269	8,939	8,848
	HIF - all other benefits *	74,895	79,425	80,569	81,672	83,588
	Pharmaceutical Benefit **	2,158,156	2,190,620	2,282,486	2,287,899	2,213,367
Long-Term Care Fund	Long Term Care	1,610	1,690	1,741	1,842	1,872
Social Security Fund	Death Grant	803	803	844	889	839

Funding Source	Description	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Home Carers Allowance	212	218	209	230	244
	Incapacity Pension	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
	Invalidity Benefit	400	366	337	309	284
	Long Term Incapacity Allowance	4,169	4,300	4,357	4,457	4,477
	Maternity Allowance	1,003	242			
	Parental Allowance	33	1,546	2,158	2,140	1,968
	Maternity/Parental Grant	682	953	816	776	688
	Old Age Pension	34,384	34,685	34,730	34,986	35,136
	Short Term Incapacity Allowance	16,558	17,000	18,904	16,048	16,364
	Survivors Allowance	152	152	164	152	133
	Survivors Pension	568	519	463	413	349
Tax Funded	Income Support	13,500	11,757	10,677	10,110	9,837
	Income Support Special Payment	3,101	3,060	2,915	2,939	2,886
	Christmas Bonus	4,157	4,117	4,039	4,195	4,321
	Cold Weather Bonus	1,061	1,013	1,607	1,939	1,818
	Community Cost Bonus	506	952	3,596	3,638	3,274
	Diffuse Mesothelioma Special Payment	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
	Pension Plus Scheme	1,530	1,675	1,666	1,872	2,082
Tax funded: Covid-19 Pandemic Support	C19 Children's Dental Scheme			345		
	CRESS (COVID-19 Related Emergency Support Scheme)	408				
	Economic Stimulus	7,640	<10			
Tax funded: Short Term Schemes	Cost of Living Temp Scheme			7,579	<10	
	Parental Support Payment				51	
	Registered Employee Support Payment					288

* The figure provided relates to the number of adults receiving financial support with a GP appointment during the year. There may be additional numbers who have accessed one of the HIF funded services but did not also receive a HIF benefit from a GP consultation.

** the figure provided relates to the number of prescription items funded by a HIF benefit during the year.

2, Value of benefits

Funding Source	Group Description	Total Payments in 2020 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2021 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2022 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2023 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2024 (£,000s)
Health Insurance Fund	Health Access Scheme		£1,268	£1,325	£1,519	£1,866
	Non-HAS Payments to GPs (Medical Benefit, Pathology, etc.)	£6,439	£8,020	£7,718	£11,921	£18,896
	Pharmaceutical Benefit - Dispensing Fees	£7,786	£8,752	£7,812	£8,819	£9,235
	Pharmaceutical Benefit - Drugs	£13,949	£17,386	£15,700	£17,688	£19,099
Long-Term Care Fund	Long Term Care	£57,858	£61,063	£64,247	£77,637	£86,127
Social Security Fund	Death Grant	£702	£720	£780	£851	£864
	Home Carers Allowance	£2,090	£2,141	£2,144	£2,384	£2,878
	Incapacity Pension (included in LTIA total below)					
	Invalidity Benefit	£4,730	£4,430	£4,198	£4,041	£3,926
	Long Term Incapacity Allowance	£20,600	£21,972	£23,587	£26,227	£28,691

Funding Source	Group Description	Total Payments in 2020 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2021 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2022 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2023 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2024 (£,000s)
	Maternity Allowance	£2,624	£384			
	Parental Allowance	£12	£3,795	£5,007	£5,084	£5,009
	Parental Allowance Interim	£134	£18			
	Maternity/Parental Grant	£490	£641	£594	£590	£577
	Old Age Pension	£203,601	£207,460	£218,763	£235,124	£258,671
	Short Term Incapacity Allowance	£15,459	£15,455	£16,341	£16,886	£19,499
	Survivors Allowance	£572	£685	£502	£666	£799
	Survivors Pension	£3,101	£2,941	£2,857	£2,567	£2,516
Tax Funded	Income Support	£83,648	£79,020	£72,902	£77,632	£84,380
	Income Support Special Payment	£1,493	£1,446	£1,401	£1,896	£1,576
	Christmas Bonus	£358	£355	£348	£487	£505
	Community Cost Bonus	£114	£360	£1,870	£1,958	£1,873
	Cold Weather Bonus	£185	£203	£172	£668	£611
	Diffuse Mesothelioma Special Payment	£23	£28	£26	£23	£98
	Parental Bereavement Leave					£29
	Pension Plus Scheme	£369	£460	£479	£637	£954
	Television Licences 75+	£100	~			
Tax funded: Covid-19 Pandemic Support	C19 Children's Dental Scheme			£86		
	CRESS (COVID-19 Related Emergency Support Scheme)	£548				

Funding Source	Group Description	Total Payments in 2020 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2021 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2022 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2023 (£,000s)	Total Payments in 2024 (£,000s)
	Economic Stimulus	£1,267	~			
Tax funded: Other Short Term Schemes						
	Cost of Living Temp Scheme			£3,112	£2	
	Parental Support Payment				£17	
	Registered Employee Support Payment					£71

~ benefit total of less than £500 in year