

# Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

This is not an income replacement benefit like income support or incapacity benefit, but is there to help you with additional costs caused by your care and mobility needs. So you will not necessarily lose this if you go back into work.

To be awarded this benefit, your difficulties must have already lasted at least 3 months and be expected to last for at least the next 6 months. Awards can be made for a limited period (a minimum of 6 months) or indefinitely. DLA is made up of two components, 'Care' and 'Mobility' which can be awarded at different levels. The amount of benefit you get depends on the level you are awarded for each component.

**Hafal Tip:** You must be under 65 to claim DLA, but once it is awarded you can continue to get it beyond 65.

## Care Component

- Higher level – intensive care needs day AND night
  - Middle level – intensive care needs day OR night
  - Lower level – less intensive care needs or unlikely to be capable of cooking a meal
- Intensive care, if you have mental health problems, means needing continual supervision during the day or frequent supervision during the night to prevent harm coming to yourself or some-one else.

**Hafal tip:** Even if you only get lower care component it's worth claiming as it will increase your entitlement to your income replacement benefits, eg income support, incapacity benefit.

## Mobility Component

- Higher level – severe mental impairment
- Lower level – need guidance, supervision or reassurance in unfamiliar surroundings.

To be classed as having severe mental impairment, you must be severely mentally impaired AND have severe behavioural problems AND be in receipt of the highest level of the care component.

The care component can be suspended after 28 days in hospital or in accommodation provided out of public funds. The same applies to the mobility component but this is not affected by stays in residential care.

**Hafal tip:** You can choose how you spend the money, you do not have to use it to pay some-one to come into your home to give you help.



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