

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
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FINANCIAL HEALTH & PARKINSON'S

Welfare benefits, work, transport
Last updated 28.10.22

What I'll talk about

- Both working age and non-working age benefits
- Support for carer costs
- Cost of living payments
- Support with household fuel
- Council tax reduction and discount
- Additional sources of financial support
- Support with transport
- Where you can find out more

Working age benefits

- Means-tested Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit
- Non-means tested Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment

Non-working age benefits

- State Pension
- Means-tested Pension Credit (to **top up weekly income** to £182.60 if you're single or £278.70 if you have a partner. Savings up to £10,000 are disregarded. Every £500 over £10,000 is treated as the equivalent of £1 a week income)
- Non-means tested Attendance Allowance

Support for carer costs

- **Carers' Allowance** - carer provides 35 hours' care a week to someone on Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance (AA)
- **If State Pension is less than £69.70/week**, Carer's Allowance makes up difference
- **If State Pension is £69.70/week or more**, Carer's Allowance is **not paid**

Cost of living payments

- For those on **means-tested benefits**, including Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit (UC) and Pension Credit (PC): **£650** - first installment of £326 should have been received by the end of July. Second installment, of £324, should have been paid **by 23 November 2022**
- For those on **disability benefits**, including Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Attendance Allowance (AA): **£150**, should have been paid **by November 2022**
- For **pensioner households** receiving Winter Fuel Payment: **£300**, paid **from November 2022**

Support with household fuel

- Energy rebate of **£400** for all households - six monthly installments **from October 2022**
- The **Energy Price Guarantee** means that the **average** household energy bills should, **until 31 March 2023**, be no more than **£2,500**, **if** bills are paid by direct debit
- **Demand Flexibility Service** - **between November 2022 and March 2023**, **some** energy providers are offering discounts of up to £100 to people using electricity at off-peak times

Support with household fuel

- **Winter Fuel Payment** - £250 to £600, depending on age. Must be claiming State Pension **and** another benefit, eg Pension Credit or Attendance Allowance
- **Cold Weather Payment** - paid **if** the average temperature is 0oC (or 32oF) or lower over seven days between 1 November & 31 March - £25/day
- **Warm Home Discount** - £140 off electricity bill if a person gets the Guarantee Credit or Pension Credit **or** another means-tested benefit **and** your fuel supplier is part of the scheme

Possible planned power cuts

- Likelihood of planned power cuts is **very low**
- **If** they happen, they would most probably be in January or February 2023
- For no longer than **three hours at a time**
- Will be spread across the country
- **At least** 24 hours notice

Possible planned power cuts

Each energy network provider has a Priority Services Register:

- A priority number that you can call 24 hours a day
- Text and voice message alerts, letting you know when companies are aware of a large power cut in your area
- Tailored support if needed such as home visits, hot meals, advice and keeping your friends and relatives updated
- Where possible you will send receive text and voice messages when severe weather is expected to affect you, to help you prepare
- In cases customers may also be offered a free hotel overnight and transport to the hotel
- For complex power cuts, community welfare teams provide on-site support which includes hot drinks, hot meals, a wifi connection and charge points

Council tax

- Council Tax Reduction - administered by local authorities, means-tested and could be **up to** 100%
- **Council Tax Discount** - 25% discount for lone households, administered by local authorities

Other sources of financial support

- **Discretionary Housing Payment** - financial support administered by local authorities to help with rent or housing costs
- **Household Support Fund** - support administered by local authorities for those most in need to help with significantly rising living costs
- [Parkinson's UK grant](#) - People with Parkinson's and unpaid carers can apply for a Parkinson's UK Grant up to £1,500 to fund electrical items, respite care, specialist equipment or activities
- The [British Gas Energy Trust](#) can support people, no matter who your energy supplier is., who are struggling with gas and electricity debts by providing grants to clear those debts

Public transport savings

- Some bus services in England (outside London) have capped **single fares at £2** until March 2023
- **Free bus travel** after 9am - 9.30am for those of State Pension age or older **or** who have a health condition that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on ability to walk
- £20/year disabled persons railcard gives a **third off train fares**
- £30/year senior (60+) railcard gives a **third off train fares**

Private transport

- **Blue Badge** (cost up to £10 in England and £20 in Scotland & no charge in Wales), **on-street parking concessions**
- Blue Badge eligibility: **PIP** 'moving around' **8 or more points** or enduring and substantial disability which causes them, during the course of a journey, to be **unable to walk or experience very considerable difficulty whilst walking**

Private transport

- Blue Badges are **linked to the person** with the disability rather than any particular vehicle. You can use it with any car. This includes taxis and hire cars that you're driving, or travelling in as a passenger
- The Blue Badge holder **must be in the vehicle** when the Blue Badge is used

Private transport

Exemption from vehicle tax and clean air zone charges **if** receiving **higher/enhanced mobility rate** of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or, in Scotland, Adult Disability Payment (ADP).

Private transport

The **Motability Scheme** allows you to exchange your qualifying mobility allowance for a brand-new car, wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV), scooter or powered wheelchair

Qualifying disability allowances:

- **Enhanced Rate** of the **Mobility** Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Adult Disability Payment (Scotland)
- **Higher Rate Mobility** Component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement
- Armed Forces Independence Payment

Private transport

- You need to have at least 12 months remaining on your qualifying allowance when you apply to the Mobility Scheme
- [Check your eligibility](#)

Sources of advice and information

- [Parkinson's helpline and Parkinson's advisers](#) - support anyone with Parkinson's, their family or carer
- [Consumer Rights](#) - advice on funding for fuel bills
- [National Energy Action](#) - home energy advice (not currently taking on new cases)
- [The Wise Group](#) - home energy advice
- [StepChange](#) - debt advice
- [Citizens Advice](#) - debt and other forms of advice
- [Carers' Trust](#) - advice and information for unpaid carers
- [Age UK](#) - advice and information for older people

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Any questions?

What are your experiences?

Have you had any difficulty

- applying for or getting benefit
- travelling on public transport
- applying for a Blue Badge
- renewing a fix period driving licence
- in relation to work

If so, please let us know by clicking on this link:

<https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/get-involved/share-your-story>

Please contact the helpline: 0808 800 0303 or hello@parkinsons.org.uk

for further advice and information

Do you have a story to tell?

If you have experience of any of the issues talked about today, please do let me know. You can contact me by phone or email:

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