

Take-up rates of Scottish benefits: November 2023

November 2023

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Introduction

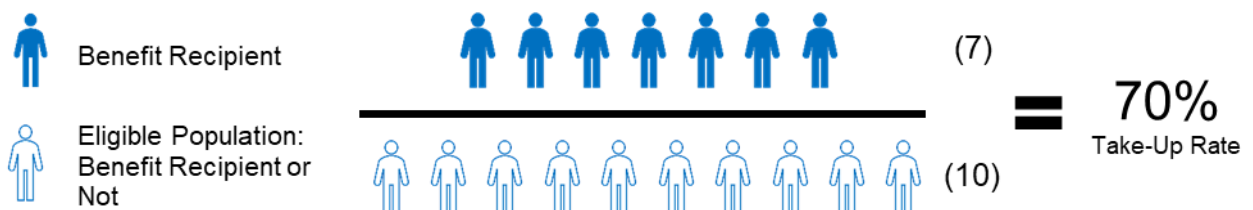
The [Social Security Scotland Charter](#) sets out what people should expect from Scotland's social security system. This includes working towards a better future by investing in the people of Scotland and making a positive difference to all our lives. As part of this the Scottish Government has committed to improving take-up, ensuring as many people as possible get the benefit support they are entitled to and making a particular effort to reach people who are most likely to be excluded.

Analysis of take-up rates are important to understand to what extent social security benefits delivered in Scotland are reaching the people intended and how that is changing over time. This is the second annual publication of estimates of take-up of the Scottish benefits delivered by [Social Security Scotland](#), covering:

- Scottish Child Payment (including local authority estimates)
- Best Start Grant
- Best Start Foods
- Young Carer Grant
- Funeral Support Payment
- Job Start Payment

What is take-up?

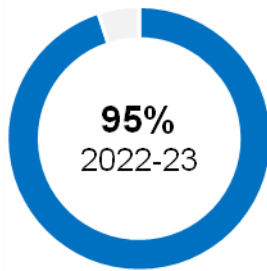
- A take-up rate is the percentage of people entitled to a benefit that receive it.
- Some people do not apply for benefits they are entitled to, this could be due to: social barriers (e.g. perceived stigma of applying for benefits), costly or complex access (e.g. complex application process), or a lack of information (e.g. people being unaware of available support).
- Take-up rates are calculated by dividing the number of recipients of a benefit by the number of people eligible for the benefit (whether they received the benefit or not).
- While the number of people receiving these benefits is known, the number of people eligible to claim these benefits has to be estimated. **This means the take-up rates in this publication are estimates only and contain a degree of uncertainty.**



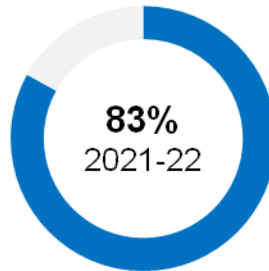
Take-Up Rate Estimates

Most recent estimates of take-up for each benefit are outlined below, with time series estimates for previous years in Table 1 and Table 2, showing how estimated take-up rates have changed over time.

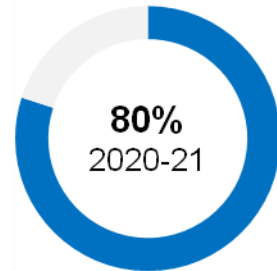
Scottish Child Payment: under 6s



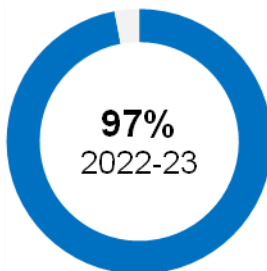
BSG: Pregnancy & Baby Payment



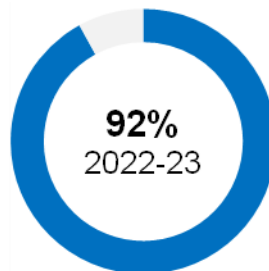
BSG: Early Learning Payment



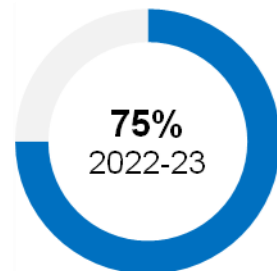
BSG: School Age Payment



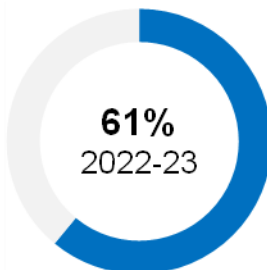
Best Start Foods



Young Carer Grant



Funeral Support Payment



Job Start Payment

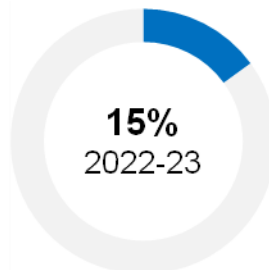


Table 1. Annual Estimates of Take-Up: Five Family Payments

Year	Scottish Child Payment (under 6s)	BSG: Pregnancy and Baby Payment	BSG: Early Learning Payment	BSG: School Age Payment	Best Start Foods
2019-20	..	83%	85%	73%	..
2020-21	..	84%	80%	91%	71%
2021-22	87%	83%	..	77%	92%
2022-23	95%	97%	92%

Table 2. Annual Estimates of Take-Up: Other

Year	Young Carer Grant	Job Start Payment	Funeral Support Payment
2019-20
2020-21	68%	30%	49%
2021-22	73%	29%	66%
2022-23	75%	15%	61%

Methodology

A detailed overview of the methodology used to estimate take-up is provided at the end of this publication.

Analysis of Take-Up Rate Estimates

Overview

All the figures presented in this publication are estimates and there is more uncertainty for benefits with lower numbers of recipients as there is a higher degree of uncertainty within the eligibility calculations. Therefore fluctuations in estimated take-up rates year to year should be expected.

Benefit take up rates are likely to be influenced by levels of awareness of the benefit, whether the benefit is a regular or one-off payment, the value of the benefit, and the characteristics of recipients (e.g. age profile etc.).

The estimated take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods – the ‘Five Family Payments’ – are generally higher than the other Scottish benefits.

There are a number of possible reasons for this. For example, eligible families can make a combined application for all of the five family payments resulting in a simplified process. There are also more opportunities to reach and inform eligible families about the Five Family Payments through the public services they already access as part of supporting their children to grow, learn and develop. This helps to spread awareness through word of mouth, complementing the wider marketing efforts of Social Security Scotland.

Scottish Child Payment

Results

The estimated take-up rate of Scottish Child Payment for children aged under 6 is 95% for 2022-23. This is a substantial increase from last year’s estimate of 87% for 2021-22 and suggests the vast majority of eligible families with children aged under 6 are receiving the payment.

Eligibility for Scottish Child Payment was extended in November 2022 from eligible children aged under 6 to under 16 therefore a full financial year take-up rate estimate for children aged 6 to 15 is not yet possible. However, the estimated take-up rate of children aged 6 to 15 at the end of the financial year in March 2023 is 77%.

Similarly, a full financial year take-up rate estimate for all children aged under 16 is not yet possible, however, the estimated take-up rate of all children aged under 16 at the end of the financial year in March 2023 is 83%.

Both of these snapshot figures reflect lower take-up rates for older children than younger children. However, they are not directly comparable as they represent a point after less than 6 months of benefit delivery, compared to the more established delivery to younger children that began in February 2021.

These estimates for older children have also increased since the eligibility extension began and are expected to continue to increase over time, as awareness of eligibility increases, as observed with take-up rates for younger children. Younger children may be expected to continue to have higher take-up rates than older children due to a number of reasons, including associated education and health settings having more involvement in benefit awareness than for older children. However, the Scottish Fiscal Commission expect some gradual convergence of those take-up rates over time.

This publication includes estimated take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment at the local authority level for the first time, again as a snapshot for all children aged under 16 at the end of the financial year in March 2023. These estimates range from 75% to 90% and indicate a positive relationship between take-up of Scottish Child Payment and deprivation, as measured by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking, and to a lesser extent a negative relationship between take-up and rurality, as measured by urban rural classifications. Take-up rates tend to be higher in more deprived and also more urban local authorities. See pages 12-16 for all estimates.

What are we doing?

Ahead of the extension of Scottish Child Payment to eligible children under 16, Social Security Scotland updated marketing materials to reflect the payment was now available to older children and a targeted marketing campaign was launched to reach families with older children. It was recognised these families were less likely to be aware of Scottish Child Payment because the Five Family Payments had previously been available to younger children only. This included a national TV campaign and digital, social and radio advertising. Information was also sent to primary and secondary schools encouraging them to share information on their channels as user research indicated families expect to receive this kind information from schools.

Social Security Scotland will continue to target communication, marketing and wider stakeholder engagement activity to raise awareness that children over six are now eligible for Scottish Child Payment.

This is the first time estimates of take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment by local authority have been published. Social Security Scotland is committed to working collaboratively with local authorities to ensure their services are available to people across a variety of channels and in locations that are accessible to them. The Local Delivery service includes a team of specially trained client advisers who support people to apply in every local authority area in Scotland. People can get support at home, via phone or video call, or in a community location convenient to them. Research shows people want to access support in places and services they are already interacting with, and appointments with the Local Delivery service are available in 197 outreach venues across Scotland that are co-located with organisations already supporting the local community.

Best Start Grant

Results

The estimated take-up rate for Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment in 2021-22 is 83%. This is very similar to last year's estimate of 84% for 2020-21 and the estimate of 83% for 2019-20. Given that applications can be made between a 9 month window, 2021-22 is the latest full year an estimate can be produced for, to ensure all clients counted as eligible have been given their full window to apply. Next year's publication will cover 2022-23.

The estimated take-up rate for Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment in 2020-21 is 80%, a decline from last year's estimate of 85% for 2019-20. This difference may be partly explained by particularly high take-up at the beginning of delivery, in May 2019, where over 10,000 payments were made to clients in one month alone. Automation of payments to clients already receiving Scottish Child Payment began in November 2022, so take-up rates are likely to increase for 2022-23 onwards. However, as above, due to the 18 month application window for Early Learning Payment, 2020-21 is the latest full year an estimate can be produced for. Next year's publication will cover 2021-22.

The estimated take-up rate for Best Start Grant School Age Payment in 2022-23 is 97%, a substantial increase from last year's estimate of 77% for 2021-22. This broadly reflects the impact of the introduction of automated payments in November 2022 and indicates the vast majority of clients eligible for the payment are now receiving it.

What are we doing?

The introduction of automation for both Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment means eligible children will automatically receive the payments if they are in receipt of Scottish Child Payment without the need to apply. Alongside automation, Social Security Scotland continues to promote Best Start Grant as part of the wider Five Family Payments campaign.

Best Start Foods

Results

The estimated take-up for Best Start Foods for 2022-23 is 92%. This indicates take-up remains high for this benefit and is stable over the past year.

The estimated take-up rate for 2020-21 and 2021-22 have been revised since last year's publication due to methodological improvements and updated data becoming available. The estimate for 2020-21 has been revised to 71% (from 74%), and the estimate for 2021-22 has been revised to 92% (from 88%). Eligibility for Best Start Foods is more difficult to estimate than the other Five Family Payments due to the income limit currently in place, due to be removed in February 2024.

What are we doing?

In partnership with the Scottish Grocers' Federation (SGF) Healthy Living Programme, Social Security Scotland has carried out a nationwide advertising campaign that promoted Best Start Foods in more than 2200 local convenience stores across Scotland. This partnership builds on collaboration with larger supermarkets to raise awareness of Best Start Foods and encourage people to apply for and use the card to buy healthy food. This has been complemented by marketing activity particularly focused on explaining how to use the pre-paid card.

Young Carer Grant

Results

The estimated take-up rate for Young Carer Grant in 2022-23 is 75%, a slight increase from last year's estimate of 73% for 2021-22 and a year on year increase in estimated take-up rates since 2020-21. However, relatively small differences in estimated take-up rates over time should be treated with caution. There is a particular difficulty in accurately estimating the size of the eligible population for

Young Carer Grant due to the small size of the eligible population and difficulties in collecting information about caring in survey data.

What are we doing?

Social Security Scotland continues to promote Young Carer Grant on channels that research shows young people engage with. Marketing activity is increased at key campaign moments throughout the year, such as Young Carer Action Day, to help raise awareness of the payment. The Local Delivery service works in partnership with carers centres in each local authority area to promote awareness of Young Carer Grant to eligible young carers.

Job Start Payment

Results

The estimated take-up rate for Job Start Payment in 2022-23 is 15%, substantially lower than last year's estimate of 29% for 2021-22 and the lowest take-up rate of any Scottish benefit.

According to the latest published [statistics](#), there were 660 authorised applications for Job Start Payment in 2022-23 from 2,160 total applications. This demonstrates a large number of people eligible for the payment are not applying for it and a large number of people who do apply are deemed not eligible.

What are we doing?

The Scottish Government is acting on findings of the [Job Start Payment evaluation](#) that showed low levels of awareness and high application denial rates could be impacting take-up rates. Earlier this year Social Security Scotland implemented a number of operational and guidance changes to address high application denial rates. This included redirecting people who don't meet eligibility criteria to call Social Security Scotland, extending the application window from within 3 months of a job offer to 6, disregarding income from a work trial, and simplifying evidence requirements for the job offer.

Social Security Scotland are also working to increase awareness of Job Start Payment among eligible young people, employers and organisations who support young people looking for work. This includes promoting the payment via national and local media and marketing campaigns during 2022-23, and promoting Job Start Payment throughout 2023-24, including working with DWP Youth Work Coaches and Skills Development Scotland.

Funeral Support Payment

Results

The estimated take-up rate for Funeral Support Payment in 2022-23 is 61%, lower than last year's estimate of 66% for 2021-22 but higher than the estimate of 49% for 2020-21. There is a higher degree of uncertainty in the estimate of eligibility for Funeral Support Payment than other benefits because of the need to identify the likelihood of the person responsible for the funeral being eligible within the methodology. For that reason it is reasonable to expect variation in take-up rates year to year. Another potential reason why take-up of Funeral Support Payment is lower than other benefits is that people may make provision to cover funeral costs themselves, for example with money left in the deceased person's estate, and therefore choose not to claim the benefit. Or some people may in fact be ineligible due to the level of funds in the estate but are still included in the eligible population when calculating estimated take-up.

What are we doing?

One finding from the [Funeral Support Payment evaluation](#) showed although the payment was viewed positively by applicants, the awareness of the payment could be improved. Social Security Scotland promote the payment throughout the year, and increase communication activity when the death rate is higher and more people are expected to need financial help to support funeral costs. For example, a marketing campaign across print, digital and radio channels ran in February and March 2023. Social Security Scotland also engage with key stakeholders, such as registrars, to help raise awareness among organisations supporting eligible people who might need help to pay for funeral costs.

Future Analysis Developments

This publication includes snapshot estimates of take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment following its extension to eligible children aged under 16 and also provides snapshot estimates of take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment by local authority.

Scottish Government analysts continue to work on developing methodologies to estimate take-up rates for the other Scottish benefits not yet reported on (e.g. disability and carer benefits), which were still in the process of being launched or migrated for the most recent financial year (2022-23). It is not possible to robustly estimate the number of recipients of benefits when case transfer is incomplete as the caseload is split between Social Security Scotland and the Department for Work and Pensions. A further update will be provided in next year's publication when further

coverage (e.g. Child Disability Payment) of take-up rates should be possible (covering 2022-23) and further work has been undertaken to estimate eligibility for disability benefits.

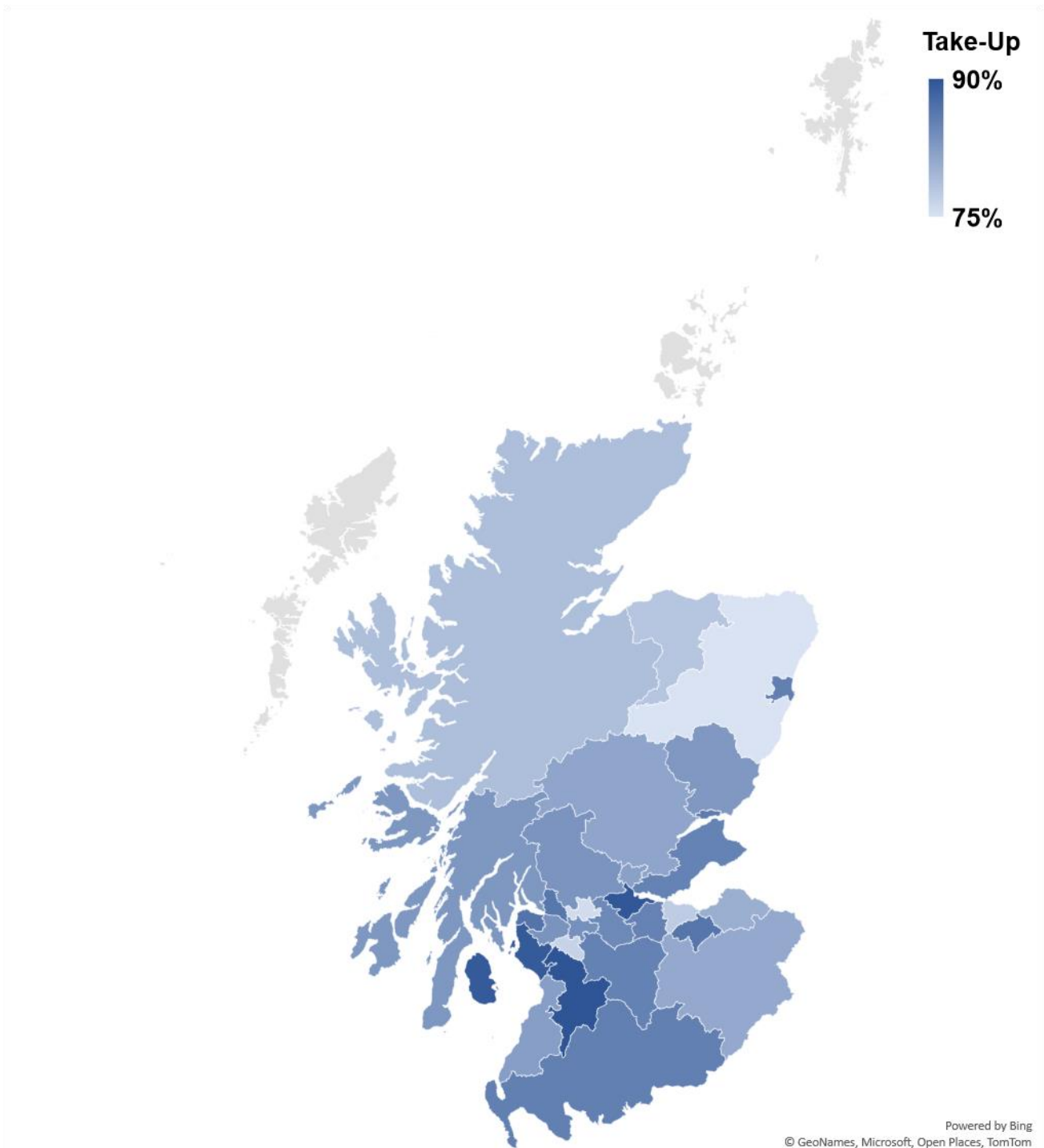
Estimates of take-up have not been included for the following benefits:

[Child Winter Heating Payment](#) is paid automatically to children and young people who receive Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment at a certain rate. Similarly, [Winter Heating Payment](#) is paid automatically to people on low-income qualifying benefits, and [Carer's Allowance Supplement](#) is paid automatically to people who receive Carer's Allowance.

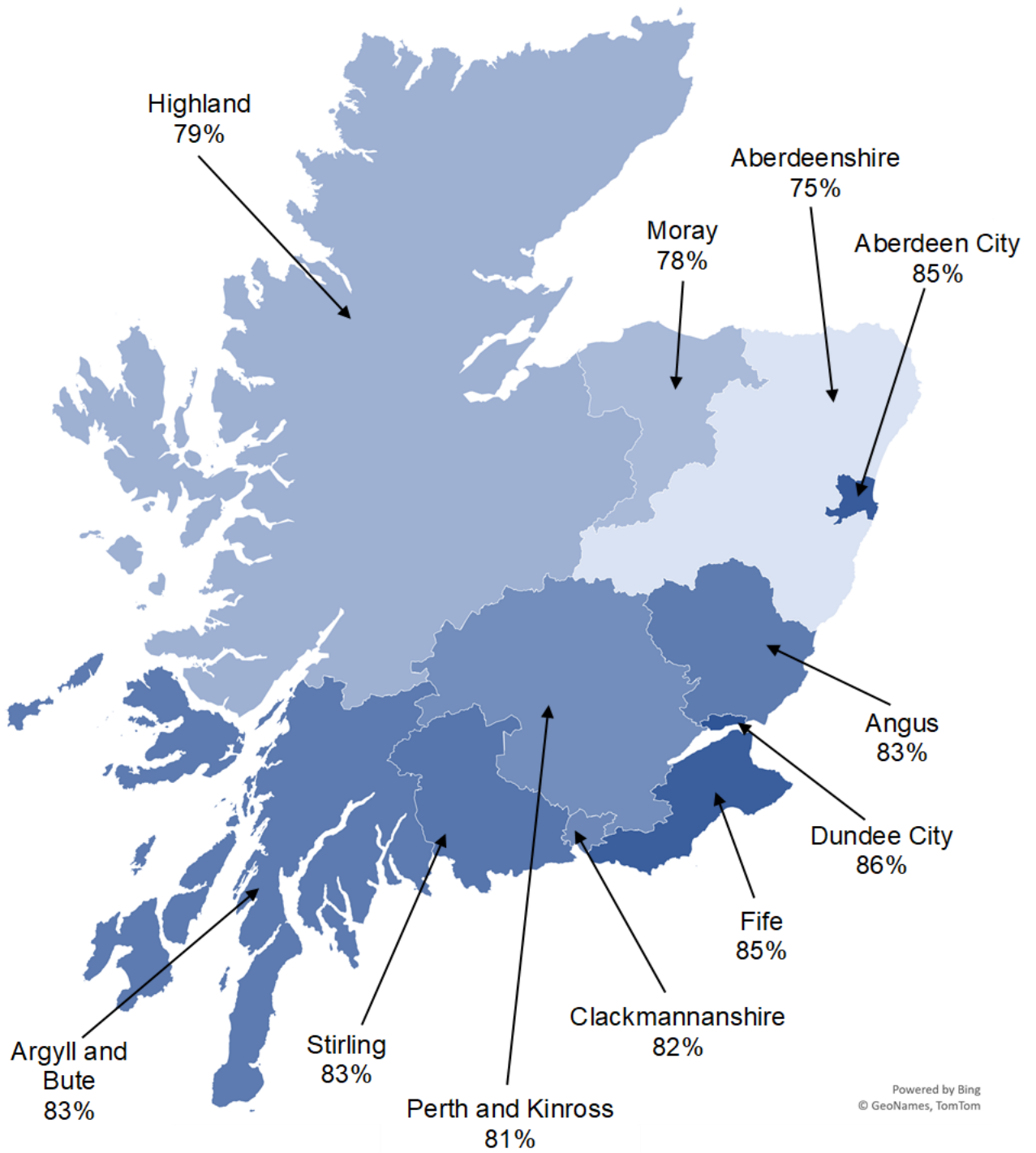
Scottish Child Payment: Local Authority Take-Up Rate Estimates

The following maps and table (Table 3) show estimated take-up rates for Scottish Child Payment (all children under 16) across local authorities in Scotland as a snapshot for March 2023:

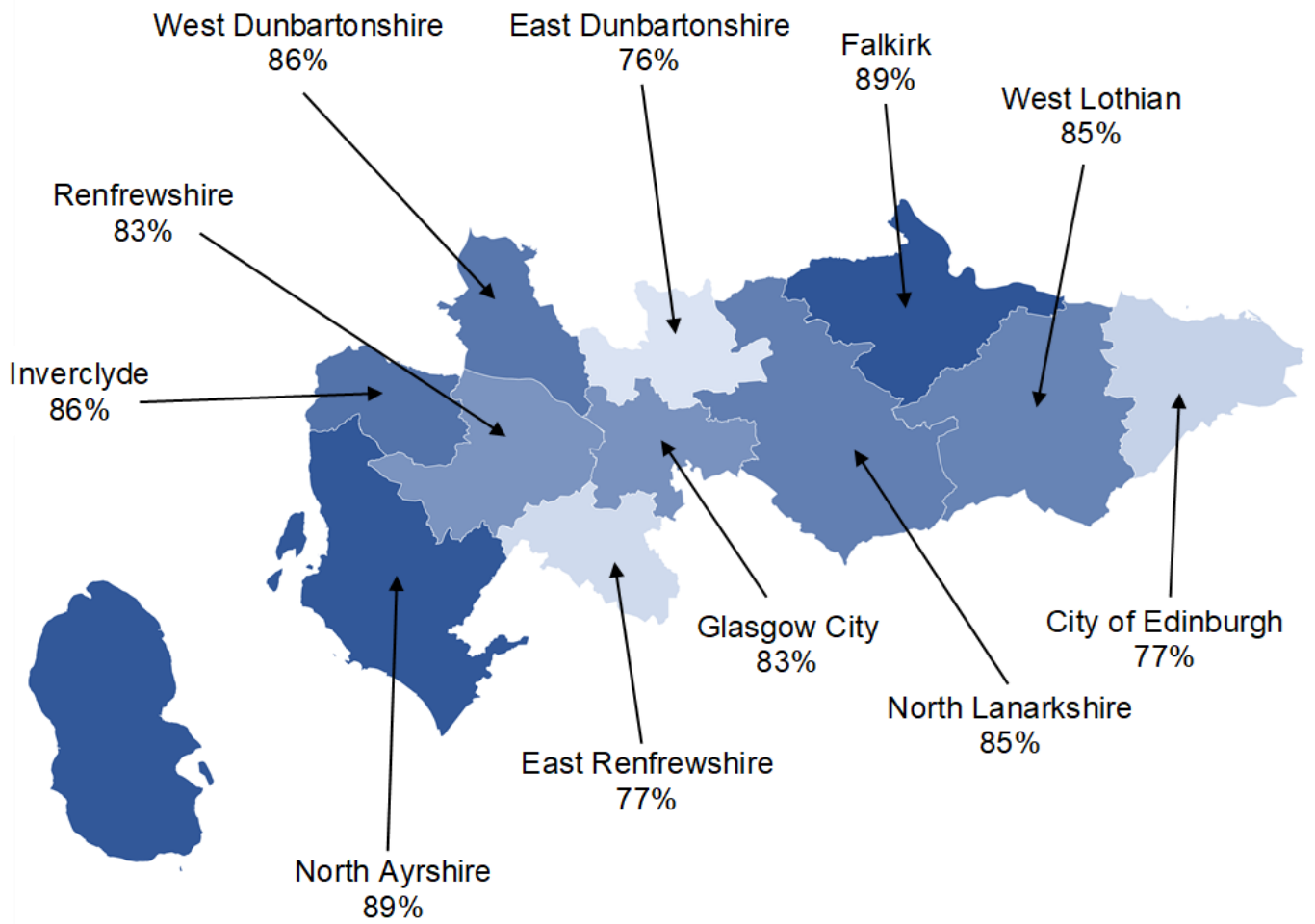
Scotland



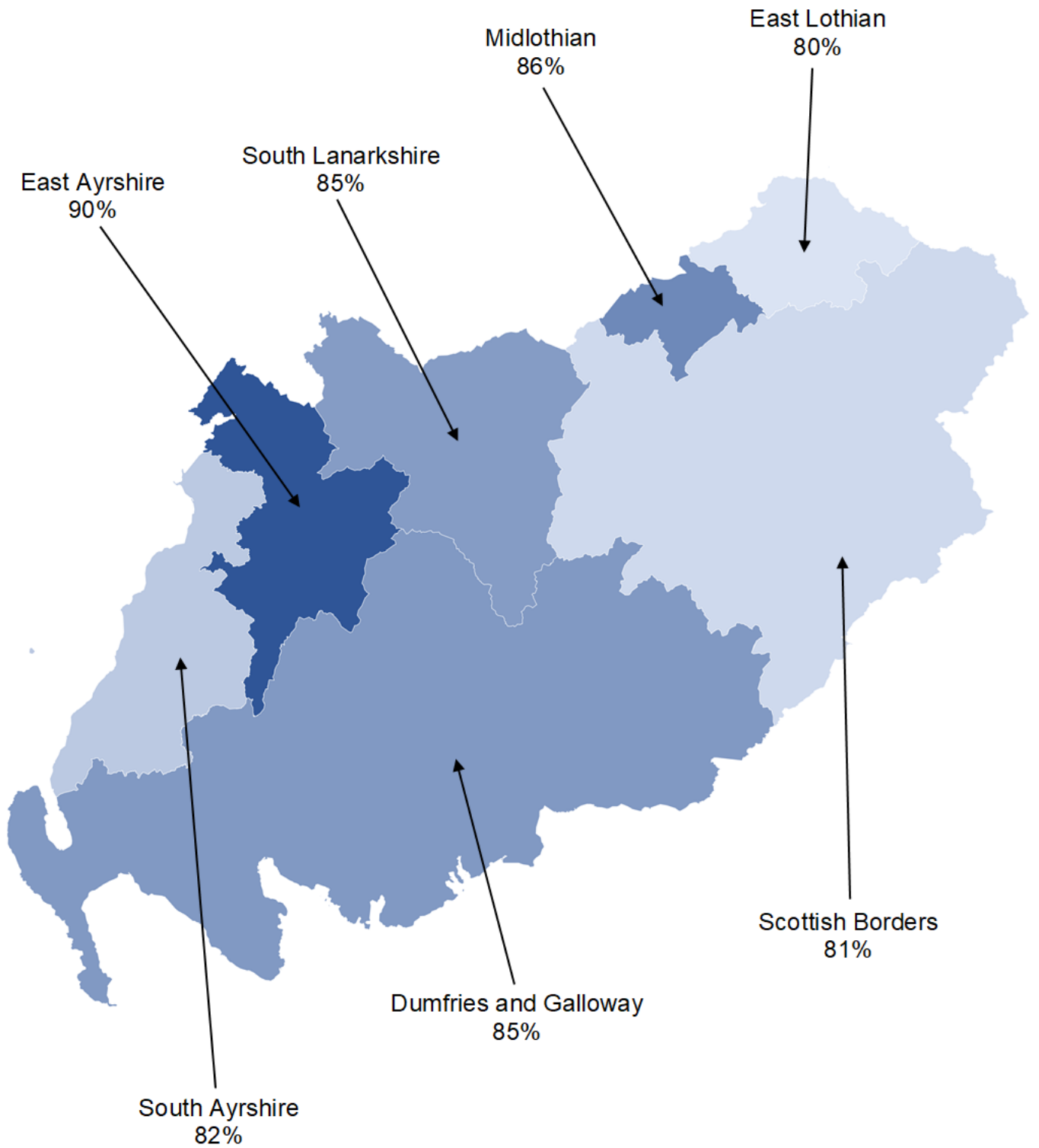
Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



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© GeoNames, TomTom

Table 3. Local Authority Level Estimates of Take-Up: Scottish Child Payment

Local Authority	Estimated Take-Up Rate for March 2023
Aberdeen City	85%
Aberdeenshire	75%
Angus	83%
Argyll and Bute	83%
Clackmannanshire	82%
Dumfries and Galloway	85%
Dundee City	86%
East Ayrshire	90%
East Dunbartonshire	76%
East Lothian	80%
East Renfrewshire	77%
Edinburgh, City of	77%
Falkirk	89%
Fife	85%
Glasgow City	83%
Highland	79%
Inverclyde	86%
Midlothian	86%
Moray	78%
North Ayrshire	89%
North Lanarkshire	84%
Perth and Kinross	81%
Renfrewshire	83%
Scottish Borders	81%
South Ayrshire	82%
South Lanarkshire	85%
Stirling	83%
West Dunbartonshire	86%
West Lothian	85%

Estimates for Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Na h-Eileanan Siar have not been included because the number of recipients is below 1000 children, deemed to be below the minimum threshold required for confidence in estimates.

Take-Up Strategy Update

As families across Scotland face the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis, ensuring people are aware of and are encouraged to access financial support they are entitled to, is more important than ever. Our social security service design and delivery are underpinned by core values of dignity, fairness, and respect. At the heart of this approach is recognition social security is a human right, and it is imperative we support people to realise this right by delivering a supportive and accessible system. While there remains work to be done, we are reassured by the figures in this publication that on the whole, our approach to encouraging take-up of Scottish benefits has so far been effective.

Progress over the past year (2022-23)

To make sure we are putting money into eligible people's pockets, the Scottish Government alongside Social Security Scotland, have over the past year continued to deliver on the principles set out in our second [Benefit Take-Up Strategy](#).

Marketing, communications and engagement activities play a fundamental role in raising awareness of financial support available. Social Security Scotland carry out a range of activity across online and offline channels to ensure eligible people are aware of, and are supported and encouraged to apply for their entitlements. Using insight, research, evaluation, and coproduction to ensure target audiences are effectively identified, key messages are crafted to maximise engagement which are deployed through appropriate channels including stakeholders and their networks.

Simplifying application processes and automating payments are among the most effective uses of data to support benefit take-up by minimising burden on individuals. In 2022, Social Security Scotland introduced improvements to reduce manual processing of Scottish Child Payment applications called 'straight through processing'. This increased automation allows some applications to be processed automatically, providing vital support to families in a timely manner. [Statistics](#) published in August 2023, show the median time taken to process an application was 13 working days in June 2023, down from 40 working days in March.

The Scottish Government continues to fund the Social Security Independent Advocacy Service, which has supported over 2,000 people to date when accessing and applying for Social Security Scotland assistance. The Local Delivery service has, over the past 12 months, completed over 50,000 appointments to help people access devolved payments, with over 27,000 of these appointments conducted in people's homes. In addition, Social Security Scotland have recently opened their headquarters in Dundee to the public, allowing people to see specially trained advisors without the need for an appointment.

Forward Look: The Year Ahead (2023-24)

The refreshed Benefit Take-Up Strategy is structured around five guiding principles which underpin our approach to maximising take-up across the suite of devolved payments:

- 1. Prioritise person-centred approaches**
- 2. Communicate and engage effectively**
- 3. Bring services to people**
- 4. Encourage cross-system collaboration**
- 5. Continuously learn and improve**

Drawing on the take-up estimates included in this publication, and in line with wider government priorities, we will shape the coming year's work according to these principles, ensuring we continue to build on good work already in place across the Scottish social security system.

Principle 1: Prioritise person-centred approaches

Child Poverty Pathfinders

Income via social security is a key driver in tackling child poverty in Scotland and strengthening support for families. In 2022 two pathfinders were established in Glasgow and Dundee, working with key partners including the Department for Work and Pensions, relevant local authorities, and third and public sector organisations, to test innovative and local approaches to support families out of poverty. While there are differences in the way they are implemented, both pathfinders seek to deliver a whole system approach to integrate child poverty initiatives – bringing together services and connecting families to support and benefits they are entitled to. The Glasgow pathfinder adopts a 'no wrong door' approach providing full holistic support, including income maximisation via take-up of social security entitlements, while efforts in Dundee have focused on reaching families who did not previously engage with local services. Over the coming year, both child poverty pathfinders will continue to adopt these holistic, person-centred approaches, with ongoing evaluation set to strengthen learning and help us further improve access to the specific services families require.

Principle 2: Communicate and engage effectively

Targeting approaches: Seldom-Heard Groups and Stigma Research

Adopting tailored approaches will allow us to support the communities most in need of assistance, both through the development and implementation of targeted activity and by tackling the key barriers that prevent take-up.

We will take specific action to ensure our messaging reaches and resonates seldom-heard communities, adopting tailored communications where we know traditional channels are less likely to be successful. However, to effectively target activity, it is imperative that the Scottish Government is confident in its understanding of which groups are seldom-heard. To facilitate the development of tailored engagement and marketing strategies, we have commissioned independent research to gain a robust and analytical understanding of the current seldom-heard landscape. Findings from this research will be used by Social Security Scotland to develop bespoke approaches to market devolved payments to these groups.

We understand societal barriers such as stigma can prevent people accessing support they are entitled to. We have sought to tackle stigma by adopting a rights-based approach to social security, working to change the narrative and challenge negative perceptions of benefit receipt. To continue to develop effective policy and take-up initiatives, the Scottish Government is undertaking a participatory research process in partnership with the Poverty Alliance, to identify the impacts and challenges stigma presents across the take-up journey, exploring practical examples to tackle this with people with lived experience. In this way, we can ensure the experiences of those who have and will access the Scottish social security system, continue to shape its design and implementation.

Principle 3: Bring services to people

An accessible service delivered with Dignity, Fairness and Respect

As additional social security benefits are delivered within devolved powers, ensuring the current system meets the needs of those it supports is of equal importance. We continue to make access to social security available to people in a way that suits them best, through a variety of channels and in the most appropriate locations. As part of efforts to continuously improve service delivery, access to Local Delivery support is now available across 197 co-located outreach venues in every local authority in Scotland. To ensure we are specifically targeting locations in line with client footfall, usage of venues will be monitored and re-evaluated every 6 months, allowing new outreach venues to open across the country on a regular basis.

In addition to ensuring our own services are accessible, the Scottish Government continues to promote accessibility within the advice sector via targeted funding. In this financial year we will be increasing our total investment in Welfare Advice and Health Partnerships to £4,125,000, over three years, providing dedicated welfare rights advisors in up to 180 GP practices across Scotland's most deprived settings. Following completion of the 'test and learn' phase in 2024, a full and robust evaluation will be published including findings across key metrics such as service user financial gain and impact on deprivation and poverty. Early findings have already highlighted the value of bringing services to people. Almost 10,000 people

were supported by the service between January 2022 and March 2023 and were helped to take-up £16.2 million of benefits they were eligible for and 89% of those were 'new' users of advice.

Principle 4: Encourage cross-system collaboration

Strategic Data Sharing

We recognise in order to effectively maximise take-up, we will require the support of our valued partners. Delivering efficient and effective public services is one of the missions of the Scottish Government to 2026, and public service reform is central to this mission. Public service reform requires a cross-government approach, and close engagement with public sector, third sector and business partners to help deliver fiscally sustainable public services which improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. Data sharing has been identified as an early priority to explore, supporting joint efforts to tackle child poverty and maximise incomes via take-up of social security entitlements. As part of a holistic approach to income maximisation, we are working with a number of local authorities to explore opportunities for appropriate sharing of data and evidence across the systems that support Scotland's population. This has the potential to increase awareness of entitlements and remove the barriers to access by allowing targeting and promotion of support.

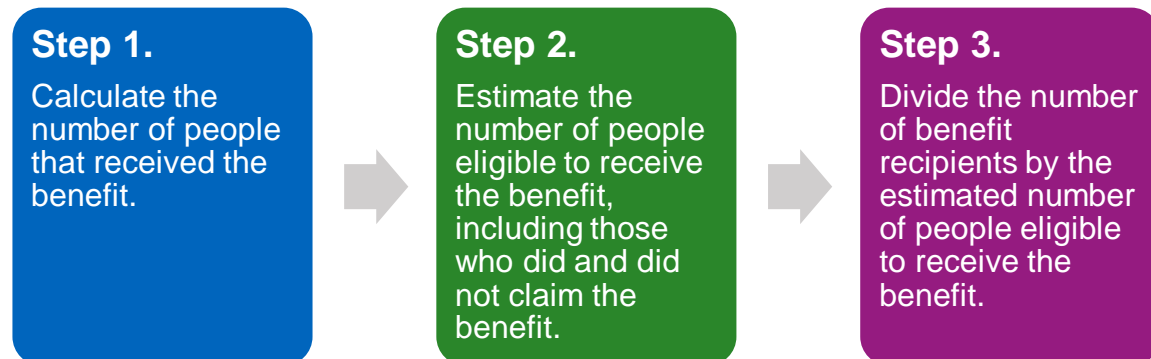
Principle 5: Continuously learn and improve

Adult Disability Payment Review

While efforts continue to establish robust methodologies to estimate take-up rates for devolved disability payments, work is underway to support take-up activity across the full suite of devolved benefits, including assistance for disabled people. The launch of Adult Disability Payment marked a change in approach to delivering disability assistance in Scotland, with the benefit founded on key principles of dignity, fairness and respect. Continuing to deliver this benefit in line with our founding principles is a priority for the Scottish Government. We are therefore committed to completing an independent review of Adult Disability Payment, as set out in this year's Programme for Government. This review will enable us to gain insights on disabled people's experiences applying for and receiving this payment. It will also examine disabled people's awareness of this financial support and will seek to understand how this can be improved, in line with general consideration of the effectiveness of Adult Disability Payment take-up.

Methodology

There are three steps to estimating take-up rates, summarised below.



Step 1. All benefits

- Published data or monitoring information requested from Social Security Scotland is used to calculate the number of recipients for each benefit.

Step 2. Scottish Child Payment, Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods

- Data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on the number of children by age group in families claiming Universal Credit or Tax Credits is used to calculate the proportion of children these Scottish benefits can be claimed for.
- This proportion is then multiplied by the total number of births or children in the specific age range for each of these Scottish benefits. This produces our estimate of the number of children these benefits can be claimed for.
- Adjustments are made for the Best Start Foods income thresholds and people flowing into eligibility over the application period for Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment.

Step 2. Scottish Child Payment (local authority estimates)

- Data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on the number of children by age group, and local authority, in families claiming Universal Credit or Tax Credits is used to estimate the number of children in each local authority these Scottish benefits can be claimed for.

Step 2. Young Carer Grant

- Data from the Scottish Surveys Core Questions from 2021-22 is used to estimate the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds providing at least 16 hours of unpaid care per week.
- This is multiplied by the number of people aged 16 to 18, to estimate the number of young people eligible to claim the benefit.
- Young carers who claim Carer's Allowance or provide care to someone not in receipt of a qualifying disability benefit are subtracted from the estimate of the eligible population, as they are not eligible for the benefit.

Step 2. Job Start Payment

- DWP provided aggregated estimates of the number of Universal Credit claimants living in Scotland aged 16 to 24, who had no earned income (according to HMRC earnings data) for a period of at least six months prior to receiving some income from employment. We believe this provides the best available estimate for the number of people eligible for the Job Start Payment.
- An adjustment is made to account for the requirement to work 12 or more hours per week.

Step 2. Funeral Support Payment

- The microsimulation model UKMOD is used to estimate the proportion of the population in receipt of a qualifying reserved benefit for Funeral Support Payment.
- This proportion is then multiplied by the total number of deaths to estimate the number of people eligible to claim Funeral Support Payment.

Step 3. All benefits

- Divide the number of benefit recipients by the estimate of the eligible population to calculate the take-up rate.

Further Information

Further information about these benefits and how to apply can be found on the Scottish Government's website:

- [Scottish Child Payment](#)
- [Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods](#)
- [Funeral Support Payment](#)
- [Job Start Payment](#)
- [Young Carer Grant](#)

Interim evaluations of these benefits have been [published](#) by the Scottish Government. Social Security Scotland [publish statistics](#) about the number of applications and payments made for these benefits. Due to revisions to previous take-up rate estimates, comparisons over time should be made with the latest figures in this year's publication rather than [last year's publication](#).

The DWP publish information on the number of young children in families claiming Universal Credit on [Stat-Xplore](#). These statistics are available from June 2020; prior to this, specific monitoring information shared by the DWP has been used. HMRC publish similar information for [Tax Credits](#).

The aggregated estimates provided by DWP for estimating take-up of Job Start Payment have the following caveats:

- The estimates exclude self-employed people and those employed by small businesses that are not enrolled on RTI systems.
- The estimates only count people the first time they meet the specified criteria. However, while people can become eligible more than once, a person cannot reapply for Job Start Payment within two years of receiving the benefit.

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Any questions about this publication can be sent by email to the Scottish Government's Central Enquiry Unit mailbox (ceu@gov.scot), addressed to:

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