



Department for  
Work and Pensions

Your NINO  
Your Name

## Disability and Carers Service

Our address

**Carer's Allowance  
Palatine House  
Lancaster Road  
Preston  
PR1 1HB**

Our phone number

**01772 899793**

Our fax number

**01772 899814**

Textphone

**01772 899489**

Website

**[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)**

Date

Dear Mrs

### **About your claim for Carer's Allowance**

I am writing to you because we received your claim for Carer's Allowance (CA) on  
We have not yet given a decision.

### **Why a decision has not been given**

Your partner is getting an increase for you on their Incapacity Benefit. The law says that, if you get CA, your partner cannot get payment of this extra money for you at the same time. This letter and the enclosed form tell you about the Incapacity Benefit and CA. You can then decide which of the two benefits you wish to be paid.

### **What to do now**

Please read the rest of this form before completing the section called **Your reply** and send it back to us straightaway. You can use the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S.O'donnell

## Questions you might have about your claim

### What should I do if I want my partner to keep getting an increase of Incapacity Benefit?

Tick Box 1 on the section called **Your reply**, sign and date it and send it back to us. Use the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp. Your CA claim will be withdrawn and we will not contact you again about it.

### What do I need to do in the future if I choose to stay on my partner's Incapacity Benefit

Your partner should carry on claiming for you as usual. Any changes in your circumstances should be notified to your local benefit's office.

If your partner stops getting an increase for you on their Incapacity Benefit and you still care for a disabled person, you should write to us straightaway and tell us if you want to claim CA again.

### What should I do if I want to change to CA?

Tick Box 2 on the section called **Your reply**. You must sign and date and send it back to us. Use the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp. We will then transfer you from your partner's Incapacity Benefit to CA. This may take several weeks. We will let you know what the arrangements are. The local benefits' office will write to your partner telling them when to return their Incapacity Benefit order book so that the increase paid with their benefit for you can be deducted. In the meantime, your partner should carry on cashing their order book as usual. The extra Incapacity Benefit that your partner has received for you will be taken into account when we work out if we owe you back pay of CA.

### What should I do if in the future I choose CA?

You should contact us straightaway if your circumstances change. Your partner should contact the local benefits' office if you stop getting CA.

### What happens if I do not make a choice?

Unless you make a choice you will be paid CA instead of being included in your partner's Incapacity Benefit.

YOUR QUESTION	INCAPACITY BENEFIT (ADI)	CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)
How much will I get each week?	<p><b>£33.65</b> is paid on your partner's benefit for you if they are getting Incapacity Benefit (Short Term) at the lower or higher rate.</p> <p><b>£41.50</b> is paid on your partner's benefit for you if they are getting Incapacity Benefit (Short Term) at the lower or higher rate and they are over pension age.</p> <p><b>£43.15</b> is paid on your partner's benefit for you if they are getting Incapacity Benefit (Long Term).</p>	<b>£43.15</b>
Is it tax free?	If your partner's benefit is transitionally protected it is not taxed.	No
Can I do any work?	The earnings limit depends on whether you are living with your partner and the rate of benefit that you partner receives	For any week you earn more than <b>£77.00</b> after allowable expenses you will not get CA for the following week.
What effect does my choice have on the Severe Disability Premium which could be in payment to the person I am looking after?	None	If you get CA for <b>anyone</b> who receives Severe Disability Premium (SDP) on Income Support their SDP will stop.
What effect does my choice have on Income Support or income-based Jobseekers Allowance?	Your partners Incapacity Benefit is fully taken into account.	Your CA will be fully taken into account.
Will I qualify for the Carer Premium?	No	Yes, the Carer Premium is included in the assessments for the Income Support, income-based Job Seeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit
What if I have recently claimed Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit and have been disallowed?	Unless there is a change in your circumstances, you will still not be entitled.	If your income was assessed at less than <b>£25.10</b> over the applicable amount for Income Support, Housing Benefit, you may find that if you reapply after claiming CA you will be entitled.

YOUR QUESTION	INCAPACITY BENEFIT (ADI)	CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)
Will I get a Christmas bonus paid?	No	Yes
Will I qualify for National Insurance contributions?	No	Yes for each week of CA you will receive a national insurance contribution.
Can I claim for an increase of benefit?	Does not apply	<p>Yes, if you qualify you can get <b>£11.35</b> for each child (<b>£9.55</b> if you get an increase of child benefit). If your partner already gets an increase for the children, you will have to choose who gets the increase for the children, as the increase can only be paid once.</p> <p><b>You can also qualify for £25.80 for an adult. If the adult is your partner who is receiving Incapacity Benefit, you will not qualify for the increase of benefit for the adult.</b></p>
What happens if I go into hospital?	If you are in for 6 weeks or more, the increase on your partner's benefit will be reduced by 20% of the basic pension.	<p>CA can continue to be paid for up to 12 weeks in any period of 6 months if you temporarily cease to care for a severely disabled person because you go into hospital.</p> <p><b>There are different rules for other circumstances which cause temporary breaks in care.</b></p>
What happens if I choose Carer's Allowance?	Your partner will not receive the increase for you on their benefit.	Does not apply
How will I be paid?	As you are now on your partner's benefit.	By order book or by Direct Payment into an account.
If I choose Carer's Allowance will I get any arrears?	The money your partner has received will be taken into account. Your partner will stop getting this money when CA starts.	The money you partner received for you will be taken off any CA we owe you. Payment of CA will start from the date you were entitled.

YOUR QUESTION	INCAPACITY BENEFIT (ADI)	CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)
<p><b>What happens if I choose Carer's Allowance and then change my mind?</b></p>	<p>If CA has been in payment for 8 weeks or more (or the increase on your partner's benefit has stopped for 8 weeks or more), your partner will have lost the protection given when their benefit changed from Invalidity Benefit on 13/04/1995.</p> <p><b>The increase of Incapacity Benefit is only payable if your partner has entitlement or notional entitlement to an increase for you or if you are over age 60 and earn under the earning limit.</b></p>	<p>Once a legal decision has been made on your Carer's Allowance claim, you cannot withdraw it unless you no longer meet the qualifying conditions.</p> <p><b>If you choose not to receive payment of Carer's Allowance, other benefits, such as Income Support, may still consider that you get this money and take it into account.</b></p>
<p><b>Will I be able to claim Carer's Allowance in the future if I decide that my partner should continue to claim for me on their Incapacity Benefit?</b></p>	<p>Does not apply</p>	<p>Yes, providing you can show that you continue to meet the conditions for CA. However, CA can only be awarded using the backdating rules at the time of the new claim.</p>

**The notes in this form give general information only and are not a complete statement of the law**

If you want more information, please get in touch with us. Our address and phone number are at the top of this letter.

