

Your NINO [REDACTED]

Your Name [REDACTED]

Disability and Carers Service

Our address

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

Our phone number

01772 899630

Our fax number

01772 899930

Textphone

01772 899489

Website

www.direct.gov.uk/carers

Date

13/02/2007

Dear [REDACTED]

About your Carer's Allowance

I am writing to you because we have received your claim to Carer's Allowance on 12/02/2007. We have not yet given a decision.

Why a decision has not been given

You are getting Severe Disablement Allowance. The law says that you cannot get Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance at the same time. However, you do have the right to choose which of these two benefits is paid to you. This letter and the attached form tell you about Carer's Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance and let you make the choice between the two benefits.

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.

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

You can claim Carer's Allowance or report a change of circumstances online at the following address, www.direct.gov.uk/carers.

Yours sincerely



Miss J. L. Cross

Customer [REDACTED]

Customer Name [REDACTED]

Questions you might have about your claim

What if I want to keep getting Severe Disablement Allowance?

Tick the Severe Disablement Allowance box on the back called **Your reply**, sign and date it and send it back in the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp. **A formal decision on your Carer's Allowance claim will be sent to you. This will say you are entitled to Carer's Allowance but that you will not get paid Carer's Allowance.** You should carry on claiming Severe Disablement Allowance as usual. You should notify your local benefits office if your circumstances change.

If you stop getting Severe Disablement Allowance and you are still caring for a disabled person, you should write to the Carer's Allowance Unit straightaway and tell us that your Severe Disablement Allowance has finished and that you want to get Carer's Allowance.

Carer Premium

If you are getting Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax, you may get carer premium. This is paid if you are entitled to Carer's Allowance. The local authority paying your Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit may include a carer premium when they work out how much benefit you can get.

Pension Credit

If you are getting Pension Credit the appropriate amount used to calculate your entitlement will be increased if you are entitled to Carer's Allowance.

What if I want to change to Carer's Allowance?

Tick the Carer's Allowance box on the back called **Your reply**, sign and date it and send it back in the envelope we have sent you. It does not need a stamp.

We will then arrange for your Severe Disablement Allowance to be reduced by the amount of Carer's Allowance we pay. This may take several weeks and the office paying your Severe Disablement Allowance will be in touch with you about this. The Severe Disablement Allowance that you have received will be taken into account when calculating Carer's Allowance that is due.

What should I do in the future if I choose Carer's Allowance?

You should tell us straightaway if your circumstances change. You should also continue sending in evidence of your incapacity to your local benefits office. Tell them if you stop satisfying the conditions for Severe Disablement Allowance or your Carer's Allowance has stopped.

What happens if I do not make a choice?

The law says that if you do not make a choice you will be paid Carer's Allowance instead of Severe Disablement Allowance.

How long have I got to choose?

Send the form back to us within 10 days of the date at the top of this letter. Please fill in 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.

Customer NINO

Customer Name

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| How much will I get each week? | £47.45 or more if you get an age related addition. | £46.95 |
| Is it tax-free? | Yes. | No. |
| Will I get the Christmas Bonus? | Yes. | Yes. |
| Can I do any work? | You cannot get Severe Disablement Allowance during the qualifying period. However, you may be able to take on some work after you become entitled to Severe Disablement Allowance but you must inform your local Benefits' Office before you start this work. | If you earn more than £84 a week, after certain expenses have been deducted, you will not get Carer's Allowance. |
| Can I get extra money for a dependant? | Yes - £28.25 a week for an adult and £11.35 for a child (£9.25 if you get an increase of Child Benefit). | Yes - £28.05 a week for an adult and £11.35 for a child, if entitlement can be established on 05/04/03. (£9.25 if you get an increase of Child Benefit). |
| If I have an adult dependant can they earn any money? | Yes - £57.45 a week if they live with you (or £45.09 if you have been getting Severe Disablement Allowance since before September 1985). If they do not live with you they can earn £28.25 a week. | Yes - £28.05 a week. The dependant must live with you. |
| What effect does my choice have on Income Support? | Your Severe Disablement Allowance will be taken off your Income Support. But you will be entitled to the Disability Premium as part of your Income Support. This is £24.50 a week for a single person or £34.95 if both partners are entitled to the premium. | Your Carer's Allowance will be taken off Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (but you will get the carer premium - see below). |
| Will I qualify for the Carer Premium? | Yes - If you also get Income Support, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. | Yes - If you also get Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit. |
| Will I qualify for the extra amount for carers? | Yes - If you also get Pension Credit. | Yes - If you also get Pension Credit. |

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| <p>If I choose Carer's Allowance, will I get any arrears?</p> | <p>No - Your Severe Disablement Allowance will go down by the amount of Carer's Allowance you get.</p> | <p>No - The Severe Disablement Allowance you have already had will be taken off any Carer's Allowance due to you.</p> <p>Payment of Carer's Allowance will start from a current date.</p> |
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| <p>How will I be paid?</p> | <p>By cheque or direct into an account either every 4 or 13 weeks in arrears. New claims that started on or after 13 April 1995 are paid every 2 weeks in arrears by a cheque or direct into an account.</p> | <p>Into your account every week in advance or every 4 weeks (3 weeks in arrears and 1 week in advance) or by cheque.</p> |
| <p>What happens if I choose Carer's Allowance now and then do not keep up my entitlement to Severe Disablement Allowance while I am getting Carer's Allowance?</p> | <p>If you do not continue to show that you satisfy the conditions for getting Severe Disablement Allowance (for example by sending in medical certificates) it will stop. If you stop getting Severe Disablement Allowance for more than 8 weeks or 52 weeks, if you are entitled to the 52-week benefit protection, you will lose the protection given to Severe Disablement Allowance customers on 06/04/01. This means that you will not be able to claim Severe Disablement Allowance again.</p> | |
| <p>If I decide to keep getting Severe Disablement Allowance will I be able to get Carer's Allowance in the future?</p> | | <p>Yes - If you can show that you satisfy the conditions for getting Carer's Allowance.</p> |

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| What happens if I go into hospital? | Payment of Severe Disablement Allowance will be reduced after you have been in hospital for 52 weeks. | Carer's Allowance can continue to be paid for up to 12 weeks in any period of 6 months if you temporarily stop looking after the person you usually look after, for example, because you go into hospital. |
| What happens if the person you look after stops getting Attendance Allowance, Constant Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance at the middle or highest rate? | You can carry on getting Severe Disablement Allowance. | Your Carer's Allowance will stop. |
| If the person I look after gets Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit will my choice have any effect on them? | No. | If they get a Severe Disablement Premium as part of their Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit it may stop. |
| Will I get National Insurance (NI) credits on my NI account? | Yes. | Yes. You will receive National Insurance Contributions equivalent to the Lower Earnings Limit. |