

What's in this Booklet

This booklet gives the rates of payment for the various payments provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. It also contains the percentage rates of pay-related social insurance (PRSI) contributions for employees, employers and for self-employed people.

Tugann an leabhrán seo liosta dos na ráta íocaíochtaí éagsúla a chuireann an Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh ar fáil. Chomh maith leis sin taispeánann sé na rátaí árachais sóisialaigh pá-choibhneasa (ÁSPC) a bhaineann le fostaithe, fostóirí agus daoine atá féin-fhostaithe.

Detailed Information Leaflets on all the Department's schemes are available free of charge from:

- **your local Social Welfare Office**
or from:
- **Information Service**
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1.
Tel: (01) 8748444

Rates of Payment	Payable:
— From the Department —————→	from April 2000
— PRSI Contributions —————→	from 6 April 2000
— Payments from Health Boards —————→	for 2000

Please note that the tables contained in this booklet for some of the means - tested payments are not exhaustive and the relevant rate should be checked with the section of the Department dealing with that payment.

Payments available from the Health Boards are shown on pages 29 and 30. For more information on these services, you should contact:

- **your local Health Board Office**
or
- **Department of Health and Children**
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6714711

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Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI)

The rates of PRSI from 6 April, 2000 given in the following tables include the Social Insurance Contribution and the Health Contribution (2%).

The employee's portion of the social insurance contribution is paid on the reckonable earnings up to a ceiling of £26,500. The employer's portion continues to be payable on the reckonable earnings of each employee up to £36,600.

The 2% Health Contribution is payable by the employee on ALL reckonable earnings under Classes A1, J1, B1, C1, D1, H1, K1 and S1.

PRSI Exemption on low earnings

Employees covered under Classes A, B, C, D, E and H, with reckonable weekly earnings of not more than £226, will be exempt from paying PRSI for that week. However, the employer's share of PRSI remains payable as normal. **This will have no effect on the employee's entitlement to benefits and pensions.** There will be no annual refund payable to employees whose weekly earnings fluctuate above and below the £226 exemption limit.

PRSI-Free Allowance for Employees

From 6 April, 2000, the weekly (non-cumulative) PRSI-Free Allowance of £100 applies to the employees' social insurance contribution in Classes A, E and H in any week that reckonable earnings exceed £226 and £20 for those in Classes B, C and D. The allowance is also £20 per week for all class S contributors. This allowance does not apply to the Health Contribution and it does not affect the employer's contribution.

Recipients of Widow's/Widower's Pension/One-Parent Family Payment

Men and women receiving a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension or One-Parent Family Payment are exempt from paying the 2% Health Contribution. **Medical Card holders** are also exempt from this contribution.

Earnings Thresholds for PRSI

In general PRSI deductions are decided by the nature of the employment and the amount of the employees gross reckonable earnings in any week. The following earnings thresholds apply to Class A (employees in industrial, commercial and service-type employment under a contract of service and new entrants to the Public Service) except where otherwise indicated.

- Up to £29.99 (from ALL Class A employments)
PRSI payable at Class J0, regardless of hours worked.
- £30.00 — £226.00 (individual employments)
The exemption from payment of PRSI applies to ALL employees with weekly reckonable earnings of £226 or less. PRSI Classes A0, B0, C0, D0, E0 and H0 applies.
- £226.01 — £280.00 (individual employments)
This earnings band applies to Classes AX, BX, CX, DX, E1 and HX.



Note: In all other classes when reckonable earnings are £280 or less per week, PRSI is payable at Classes J0, M (for people within Class K) or S0.

- In excess of £280.00 (individual employments)
£280 is the new weekly earnings limit up to which Employees are exempt from paying the 2% Health Contribution. Therefore, employees who earn £280.01 or more in any week pay PRSI at
 - Class A1, B1, C1, D1, E1, H1, J1, S1 or K1 as appropriate or
 - Class A2, B2, C2, D2, E1, H2, J2, S2 or M respectively for medical card holders, people in receipt of a Social Welfare Widow's or Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment, or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

Contributions for Self-Employed People

Self-employed people, with a total income of £2,500 or more in the tax year, are liable to pay Class S social insurance contributions. These contributions are payable on gross income less allowable superannuation and capital allowances. The arrangements for paying self-employed contributions are:

- those who pay their tax direct to the Collector-General will pay their Social Insurance Contribution and Health Contribution with their income tax. They will be liable for a Social Insurance Contribution of 5% of income exceeding £1,040 up to a ceiling of £26,500 or £215, whichever is greater, in addition to the Health Contribution where applicable;
- those paying PAYE tax will have their contributions deducted from their income by their employers;
- those who have been told by an Inspector of Taxes that they need not make a return of income, are liable to pay a flat rate contribution of £124 a year to the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. (These contributions can be paid by instalments.);
- those whose principle means of livelihood comes from share fishing and who have been classified as self-employed may opt to pay an additional contribution for certain benefits under Class P. They will pay a contribution of 5% of income (up to £26,500) or £215 whichever is the greater, in addition to the PRSI being paid under Class S.

Voluntary Contributions

If you cease to be covered by compulsory PRSI, either as an employee or as a self-employed person, and you are under age 66, you may opt to become insured on a voluntary basis, provided you satisfy certain conditions. See *information leaflet SW 8* for details. There are three rates of Voluntary Contributions:

High Rate	6.6%	for people who paid PRSI at Classes A, E and H
Low Rate	2.6%	for people who paid PRSI at Classes B, C and D
		If your income was less than £4,750 in the 1999/2000 tax year, you must pay a minimum Voluntary Contribution as a % of £4,750.
Special Rate		for people previously insured at Class S, there is a flat rate Voluntary Contribution of £215.

High Rate	Low Rate	Special Rate	Benefits Covered
✓			Retirement Pension
✓		✓	Old Age (Contributory) Pension
✓	✓	✓	Widow's and Widower's (Contributory) Pension
✓	✓	✓	Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
✓	✓	✓	Bereavement Grant.

Private Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class A			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
£30 - £226	A0	ALL	Nil	8.50	8.50	Nil	8.50	8.50
£226.01 - £280	AX	First £100 Balance	Nil 4.50	8.50 8.50	8.50 13.00	Nil Nil	8.50 8.50	8.50 8.50
In excess of £280	A1	First £100 Balance	2.00 6.50	12.00 12.00	14.00 18.50	2.00 2.00	12.00 12.00	14.00 14.00
	**A2	First £100 Balance	Nil 4.50	12.00 12.00	12.00 16.50	Nil Nil	12.00 12.00	12.00 12.00

Community Employment Participants ONLY

Up to £226	A8	ER	on full allowance	0.50
		EE	on full allowance	Nil
In excess of £226	A9	ER	on full allowance	0.50
		EE	on allowance OVER £100	4.50

** Class A2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class A

People in industrial, commercial and service-type employment who are employed under a contract of service with reckonable earnings of £30 or more per week from all employments, Civil and Public Servants recruited from 6 April, 1995.

Class A Benefits

- Unemployment Benefit
- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Bereavement Grant
- Treatment Benefit
- Occupational Injuries Benefit
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

Private Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class J			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £.280	J0	All	Nil	0.50	0.50	Nil	0.50	0.50
In excess of £280	J1	All	2.00	0.50	2.50	2.00	0.50	2.50
	**J2	All	Nil	0.50	0.50	Nil	0.50	0.50

** Class J2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class J

The Class J contribution normally relates to people with reckonable earnings of less than £30 per week (from ALL employments). However, a small number of employees are insurable at Class J irrespective of earnings e.g. employees over age 66, people in subsidiary employment etc. - see SW 14.

Class J Benefits

- Occupational Injuries Benefit.

Class E			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £226	E0	All	Nil	8.12	8.12	Nil	8.12	8.12
In excess of £226	E1	First £100 Balance	Nil	8.12	8.12	Nil	8.12	8.12
			3.83	8.12	11.95	Nil	8.12	8.12

People within Class E

Ministers of Religion employed by the Church of Ireland Representative Body. PRSI is remitted under the Special Collection System and the rates quoted do not include the Health Contribution. This contribution should be paid directly to the Revenue Commissioners when paying income tax.

Class E Benefits

- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Bereavement Grant
- Treatment Benefit
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

Public Sector Employments

Class B			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £226	B0	All	Nil	2.01	2.01	Nil	2.01	2.01
£226.01 - £280	BX	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.01	2.01	Nil	2.01	2.01
			0.90	2.01	2.91	Nil	2.01	2.01
In excess of £280	B1	First £20 Balance	2.00	2.01	4.01	2.00	2.01	4.01
			2.90	2.01	4.91	2.00	2.01	4.01
	**B2	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.01	2.01	Nil	2.01	2.01
			0.90	2.01	2.91	Nil	2.01	2.01

****Class B2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.**

People within Class B

Permanent and pensionable Civil Servants, Registered Doctors and Dentists employed in the Civil Service and Gardaí, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class B Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Limited Occupational Injuries Benefits
- Bereavement Grant
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Public Sector Employments

Class C			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,000		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £226	C0	All	Nil	1.85	1.85	Nil	1.85	1.85
£226.01 - £280	CX	First £20 Balance	Nil	1.85	1.85	Nil	1.85	1.85
			0.90	1.85	2.75	Nil	1.85	1.85
In excess of £280	C1	First £20 Balance	2.00	1.85	3.85	2.00	1.85	3.85
			2.90	1.85	4.75	2.00	1.85	3.85
	**C2	First £20 Balance	Nil	1.85	1.85	Nil	1.85	1.85
			0.90	1.85	2.75	Nil	1.85	1.85

**Class C2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefits/Allowance.

People within Class C

Commissioned Army Officers and members of the Army Nursing Service, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class C Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Bereavement Grant
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

Public Sector Employments

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class D			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £226	D0	All	Nil	2.35	2.35	Nil	2.35	2.35
£226.01 - £280	DX	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.35	2.35	Nil	2.35	2.35
			0.90	2.35	3.25	Nil	2.35	2.35
In excess of £280	D1	First £20 Balance	2.00	2.35	4.35	2.00	2.35	4.35
			2.90	2.35	5.25	2.00	2.35	4.35
	**D2	First £20 Balance	Nil	2.35	2.35	Nil	2.35	2.35
			0.90	2.35	3.25	Nil	2.35	2.35

** Class D2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widows/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class D

Permanent and pensionable employees in the public service other than those mentioned in Classes B and C, recruited prior to 6 April, 1995.

Class D Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Occupational Injuries Benefits
- Bereavement Grant
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Public Sector Employments

Class H			CUMULATIVE EARNINGS CEILINGS					
Weekly Earnings Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly earnings	Up to and including £26,500			From £26,500.01 to £36,600		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £226	H0	All	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
£226.01 - £280	HX	First £100	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
		Balance	4.40	11.30	15.70	Nil	11.30	11.30
In excess of £280	H1	First £100	2.00	11.30	13.30	2.00	11.30	13.30
		Balance	6.40	11.30	17.70	2.00	11.30	13.30
	**H2	First £100	Nil	11.30	11.30	Nil	11.30	11.30
		Balance	4.40	11.30	15.70	Nil	11.30	11.30

** Class H2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.

People within Class H

NCO's and enlisted personnel of the Defence Forces.

Class H Benefits

- Unemployment Benefit
- Disability Benefit
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Invalidity Pension
- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Retirement Pension
- Bereavement Grant
- Treatment Benefit
- Carer's Benefit (from Oct. 2000).

Only certain benefits are payable during service.

Occupational Pensions

EE : Employee ER : Employer

Class K			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS					
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £26,500			Income over £26,500		
			EE %	ER %	Total %	EE %	ER %	Total %
Up to £280	No contribution payable. Record under Class M .		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
In excess of £280	K1	All	2.00	Nil	2.00	2.00	Nil	2.00

People within Class K

People receiving income which is not subject to social insurance contributions but which is liable for the Health Contribution such as Occupational Pensions, income deriving from positions of certain office holders (for example, Judiciary and State Solicitors) and income of people over age 66 previously liable for Class S.

Class K Benefits

- Nil.

Class M**NO CONTRIBUTION PAYABLE****People within Class M**

The M Class should be used for people with Nil contribution liability (for example, employees under age 16, people within Class K with a Nil liability etc.).

Class M Benefits

- In certain circumstances Occupational Injuries Benefits may be payable.

Self-Employment

S/E : Self-Employed contributor

Class S			CUMULATIVE INCOME CEILINGS	
Weekly Income Thresholds	PRSI Class	How much of weekly income	Up to and including £26,500 S/E %	Income over £26,500 S/E %
Up to £280	S0	First £20 Balance	Nil 5.00	Nil Nil
In excess of £280	S1	First £20 Balance	2.00 7.00	2.00 2.00
	**S2	First £20 Balance	Nil 5.00	Nil Nil

****Class S2 applies to Medical Card Holders, people getting a Social Welfare Widow's/Widower's Pension, One-Parent Family Payment or Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance.**

People within Class S

Self-employed people including certain company directors, people in business on their own account and people with income from investments and rents. For instruction regarding application of Class S, - see **SW 14**.

Class S Benefits

- Widow's/Widower's (Contributory) Pension
- Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Bereavement Grant.

Class P (optional)

	%
First £26,500 of all income	5.00
Income OVER £26,500	Nil

People within Class P

Sharefishermen/women who are classified as self-employed and who are already paying PRSI under Class S. This contribution is over and above the PRSI being paid under Class S.

Class P Benefits

- Limited Unemployment Benefit
- Limited Disability Benefit
- Treatment Benefit.

Unemployment Payments

Unemployment Benefit from 27 April

see booklet SW 65

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult ▲	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate * £13.20
	Half-rate * £6.60

Unemployment Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase ▲
— Less than £35	£34.80	£30.50
— £35 and less than £50	£50.00	£30.50
— £50 and less than £70	£60.70	£30.50
— £70 or more	£77.50	£47.00

Unemployment Assistance from 26 April

see booklet SW 65

	Rate per week SHORT-TERM	Rate per week LONG-TERM
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£76.00	£77.50
<i>Increases:</i>		
— Qualified Adult ▲	£47.00	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate * £13.20	* £13.20
	Half-rate * £6.60	* £6.60

The long-term rate applies to you if you have been getting an unemployment payment for at least 390 days (15 months).

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Part-time Job Incentive Scheme from 26 April 00

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£ 49.00
If you are getting an increase for a Qualified Adult	£ 81.60

The supplement is not affected by your wages from the part-time job.

▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Family Income Support Payments

Child Benefit

see leaflet SW 42

	Rate per month	Rate from September
1st & 2nd Child	£34.50	£42.50
3rd and subsequent children	£46.00	£56.00
ALL MULTIPLE BIRTHS:	Special Grants	Rate of Payment
	— Birth	£500
	— At age 4	£500
	— At age 12	£500

Twins - Child Benefit is payable at one and a half times (150%) the normal monthly rate for each child.

All Other Multiple Births -

Double the normal monthly rate of Child Benefit is payable.

Maternity Benefit from 1 May

see leaflet SW 11

Adoptive Benefit from 1 May

see leaflet SW 37

	Rate per week
MAXIMUM rate	£172.80
MINIMUM rate	£90.70

The rate payable is 70% of your earnings in the relevant tax year subject to a reckonable earnings ceiling.

Health & Safety Benefit from 1 May

see leaflet SW 21

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

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Health and Safety Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase
— Less than £35	£34.80	£30.50
— £35 and less than £50	£50.00	£30.50
— £50 and less than £70	£60.70	£30.50
— £70 or more	£77.50	£47.00

Family Income Supplement from 4 May

see leaflet **SW 22**

To qualify for Family Income Supplement (FIS), your net average weekly family income must be below a certain amount for your family size.

IF YOU HAVE: **and your family income is LESS than:**

1 child	£233
2 children	£253
3 children	£273
4 children	£293
5 children	£318
6 children	£338
7 children	£355
8 or more children	£372

The FIS you receive is 60% of the difference between your net family income (that is, gross pay less Tax, Employee PRSI, Health Contribution, Superannuation) and the income limit which applies to your family.



Note: A minimum supplement of £10 per week is payable.

Supplementary Welfare Allowance from 1 May

see booklet **SW 54**

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£76.00
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	£13.20

Carer's Allowance from 4 Maysee leaflet **SW 41**

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

Where the Carer is caring for:

ONE PERSON**MORE THAN ONE PERSON**

Rate per week

Rate per week

Up to £6	£80.50	£120.80
Over £6 and up to £8	£78.50	£118.80
Over £8 and up to £10	£76.50	£116.80
Over £10 and up to £12	£74.50	£114.80
Over £12 and up to £14	£72.50	£112.80
Over £14 and up to £16	£70.50	£110.80
Over £16 and up to £18	£68.50	£108.80
Over £18 and up to £20	£66.50	£106.80
Over £20 and up to £22	£64.50	£104.80
Over £22 and up to £24	£62.50	£102.80
Over £24 and up to £26	£60.50	£100.80
Over £26 and up to £28	£58.50	£98.80
Over £28 and up to £30	£56.50	£96.80
Over £30 and up to £32	£54.50	£94.80
Over £32 and up to £34	£52.50	£92.80
Over £34 and up to £36	£50.50	£90.80
Over £36 and up to £38	£48.50	£88.80
Over £38 and up to £40	£46.50	£86.80
Over £40 and up to £42	£44.50	£84.80
Over £42 and up to £44	£42.50	£82.80
Over £44 and up to £46	£40.50	£80.80
Over £46 and up to £48	£38.50	£78.80
Over £48 and up to £50	£36.50	£76.80
Over £50 and up to £52	£34.50	£74.80
Over £52 and up to £54	£32.50	£72.80
Over £54 and up to £56	£30.50	£70.80
Over £56 and up to £58	£28.50	£68.80
Over £58 and up to £60	£26.50	£66.80
Over £60 and up to £62	£24.50	£64.80
Over £62 and up to £64	£22.50	£62.80
Over £64 and up to £66	£20.50	£60.80
Over £66 and up to £68	£18.50	£58.80
Over £68 and up to £70	£16.50	£56.80
Over £70 and up to £72	£14.50	£54.80
Over £72 and up to £74	£12.50	£52.80
Over £74 and up to £76	£10.50	£50.80
Over £76 and up to £78	£8.50	£48.80
Over £78 and up to £80	£6.50	£46.80
Over £80 and up to £82	£4.50	£44.80
Over £82 and up to £84	£2.50	£42.80
Over £84	Nil	£40.80

Increases:

Rate per week

Rate per week

- For Carers aged 66 or over
- EACH Child Dependant

£8.00

£12.00

**Full rate £13.20

*Half rate £6.60

**Payable if you are single, widowed, or separated.

*Payable if you are living with your spouse/partner.

Widow's/Widower's**(Non-Contributory) Pension** from 5 May**Deserted Wife's Allowance** from 4 May**Prisoner's Wife's Allowance** from 4 Maysee booklet **SW 26**see leaflet **SW 43****Where the weekly means as****assessed by the Department are:****Under age 66****Rate per week****Aged 66 or over****Rate per week**

Up to £6	£77.50	£85.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£75.50	£83.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£73.50	£81.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£71.50	£79.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£69.50	£77.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£67.50	£75.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£65.50	£73.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£63.50	£71.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£61.50	£69.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£59.50	£67.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£57.50	£65.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£55.50	£63.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£53.50	£61.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£51.50	£59.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£49.50	£57.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£47.50	£55.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£45.50	£53.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£43.50	£51.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£41.50	£49.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£39.50	£47.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£37.50	£45.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£35.50	£43.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£33.50	£41.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£31.50	£39.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£29.50	£37.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£27.50	£35.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£25.50	£33.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£23.50	£31.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£21.50	£29.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£19.50	£27.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£17.50	£25.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£15.50	£23.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£13.50	£21.50
Over £70 and up to £72	£11.50	£19.50
Over £72 and up to £74	£9.50	£17.50
Over £74 and up to £76	£7.50	£15.50
Over £76 and up to £78	£5.50	£13.50
Over £78 and up to £80	£3.50	£11.50
Over £80 and up to £82	Nil	£9.50
Over £82 and up to £84	Nil	£7.50
Over £84 and up to £86	Nil	£5.50

Increases:

- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- For people aged 80 or over

Rate per week

£6.00
£5.00

One-Parent Family Payment from 4 May (Widowed lone parents from 5 May)

see booklet **SW 82**Where the weekly means as
assessed by the Department are:Under age 66
Rate per weekAged 66 or over
Rate per week

Up to £6	£77.50	£85.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£75.50	£83.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£73.50	£81.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£71.50	£79.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£69.50	£77.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£67.50	£75.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£65.50	£73.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£63.50	£71.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£61.50	£69.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£59.50	£67.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£57.50	£65.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£55.50	£63.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£53.50	£61.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£51.50	£59.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£49.50	£57.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£47.50	£55.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£45.50	£53.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£43.50	£51.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£41.50	£49.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£39.50	£47.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£37.50	£45.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£35.50	£43.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£33.50	£41.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£31.50	£39.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£29.50	£37.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£27.50	£35.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£25.50	£33.50
Over £58 and up to £60 (see note below)	£23.50	£31.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£21.50	£29.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£19.50	£27.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£17.50	£25.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£15.50	£23.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£13.50	£21.50
Over £70 and up to £72	£11.50	£19.50
Over £72 and up to £74	£9.50	£17.50
Over £74 and up to £76	£7.50	£15.50
Over £76 and up to £78	£5.50	£13.50
Over £78 and up to £80	£3.50	£11.50
Over £80 and up to £82	Nil	£9.50
Over £82 and up to £84	Nil	£7.50



Note: If you are getting One-Parent Family Payment, you could earn up to £115.38 per week and may still qualify for full payment. If you earn between £115.38 and £230.76, you may qualify for a reduced payment. If you are in receipt of One-Parent Family Payment, and your earnings subsequently exceed £230.76 per week, your payment may continue for one year at **half rate**.

Increases:

- EACH Child Dependant
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- For people aged 80 or over

Rate per week

£15.20
£6.00
£5.00

Orphan's (Contributory) Allowance from 5 May

see leaflet SW 48

Rate per Week

Rate payable per Orphan

£55.60

Orphan's (Non-Contributory) Pension from 5 May

see leaflet SW 48

Where the weekly means as
assessed by the Department are:**Rate per week**

Up to £6	£55.60
Over £6 and up to £8	£53.60
Over £8 and up to £10	£51.60
Over £10 and up to £12	£49.60
Over £12 and up to £14	£47.60
Over £14 and up to £16	£45.60
Over £16 and up to £18	£43.60
Over £18 and up to £20	£41.60
Over £20 and up to £22	£39.60
Over £22 and up to £24	£37.60
Over £24 and up to £26	£35.60
Over £26 and up to £28	£33.60
Over £28 and up to £30	£31.60
Over £30 and up to £32	£29.60
Over £32 and up to £34	£27.60
Over £34 and up to £36	£25.60
Over £36 and up to £38	£23.60
Over £38 and up to £40	£21.60
Over £40 and up to £42	£19.60
Over £42 and up to £44	£17.60
Over £44 and up to £46	£15.60
Over £46 and up to £48	£13.60
Over £48 and up to £50	£11.60
Over £50 and up to £52	£9.60
Over £52 and up to £54	£7.60
Over £54 and up to £56	£5.60
Over £56 and up to £58	£3.60

**Widow's/Widower's
(Contributory) Pension** from 5 May
Deserted Wife's Benefit from 4 May

see booklet SW 25

see leaflet SW 43

	Contributions	Under Age 66	Aged 66 or over
		Rate per week	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£81.10	£89.10
	36 - 47	£79.90	£87.70
	24 - 35	£77.60	£85.20



Note: A yearly average of 39 weeks PRSI paid or credited under the 3 or 5 tax year condition will secure a maximum personal rate of £81.10 - under age 66, £89.10 - aged 66 or over.

Increases:

	Rate per week
— EACH Child Dependant	£17.00
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra Allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Carer's Benefit from Oct. 2000

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	*** £88.50
Increases:	
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate ** £13.20
	Half rate * £6.60

** Payable if you are single.

* Payable if you are living with your spouse/partner.

*** An additional increase will be payable if caring for more than one person

Employment Support Payments

Farm Assist from 26 April

see booklet SW 27

Rate per week	
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult (▲)	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate * £13.20
	Half-rate * £6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Back to Education Allowance from April/May

see booklet SW 70

Payment is made at a standard rate which is not means tested.

For unemployment payments, Back to Education Allowance is equivalent to the maximum standard rate of Unemployment Benefit.

For One-Parent Family Payment, Disability Allowance, Blind Person's Pension (& Invalidity Pension from Sept 2000), the allowance is paid at a rate equivalent to the maximum rate of the relevant social welfare payment.

Back to Work Allowance (Employees)

see leaflet SW 93

- 75% of social welfare payment for the first year
- 50% of social welfare payment for the second year
- 25% of social welfare payment for the third year.

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance

see leaflet SW 92

- 100% of social welfare payment for the first year
- 75% of social welfare payment for the second year
- 50% of social welfare payment for the third year
- 25% of social welfare payment for the fourth year.

▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Payments for Ill or Incapacitated People

Disability Benefit from 1 May

see booklet SW 9

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
<i>Increases:</i>	
— Qualified Adult ▲	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

Disability Benefit rates are graduated according to earnings as follows:

Average Weekly Earnings	Personal rate	Qualified Adult Increase ▲
— Less than £35	£34.80	£30.50
— £35 and less than £50	£50.00	£30.50
— £50 and less than £70	£60.70	£30.50
— £70 or more	£77.50	£47.00

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Invalidity Pension from 4 May

see leaflet SW 44

	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE:	
— Under age 65	£81.10
— Aged 65 or over	£96.00
<i>Increases:</i>	
QUALIFIED ADULT	
— Under age 66	£53.30
— Aged 66 or over	£58.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£15.20
	Half-rate *£7.60

*An increase of £15.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

	Rate per week
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Other payments are available for incapacitated people from the Health Boards - see page 29.

▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Disability Allowance from 3 May

see booklet SW 29

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

Rate per week

Up to £2	£77.50
Over £2 and up to £4	£75.50
Over £4 and up to £6	£73.50
Over £6 and up to £8	£71.50
Over £8 and up to £10	£69.50
Over £10 and up to £12	£67.50
Over £12 and up to £14	£65.50
Over £14 and up to £16	£63.50
Over £16 and up to £18	£61.50
Over £18 and up to £20	£59.50
Over £20 and up to £22	£57.50
Over £22 and up to £24	£55.50
Over £24 and up to £26	£53.50
Over £26 and up to £28	£51.50
Over £28 and up to £30	£49.50
Over £30 and up to £32	£47.50
Over £32 and up to £34	£45.50
Over £34 and up to £36	£43.50
Over £36 and up to £38	£41.50
Over £38 and up to £40	£39.50
Over £40 and up to £42	£37.50
Over £42 and up to £44	£35.50
Over £44 and up to £46	£33.50
Over £46 and up to £48	£31.50
Over £48 and up to £50	£29.50
Over £50 and up to £52	£27.50
Over £52 and up to £54	£25.50
Over £54 and up to £56	£23.50
Over £56 and up to £58	£21.50
Over £58 and up to £60	£19.50
Over £60 and up to £62	£17.50
Over £62 and up to £64	£15.50
Over £64 and up to £66	£13.50
Over £66 and up to £68	£11.50
Over £68 and up to £70	£9.50
Over £70 and up to £72	£7.50
Over £72 and up to £74	£5.50
Over £74 and up to £76	£3.50

Increases:

- Qualified Adult ▲
- EACH Child Dependant

Rate per week

Full rate	£47.00
Half-rate	*£13.20
	*£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

- ▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Blind Person's Pension from 5 Maysee booklet **SW 76**

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Under age 66 Rate per week	Aged 66 or over Rate per week	Under age 66 Increase per week for Qualified Adult
Up to £6	£77.50	£85.50	£47.00
Over £6 and up to £8	£75.50	£83.50	£46.00
Over £8 and up to £10	£73.50	£81.50	£45.00
Over £10 and up to £12	£71.50	£79.50	£44.00
Over £12 and up to £14	£69.50	£77.50	£43.00
Over £14 and up to £16	£67.50	£75.50	£42.00
Over £16 and up to £18	£65.50	£73.50	£41.00
Over £18 and up to £20	£63.50	£71.50	£40.00
Over £20 and up to £22	£61.50	£69.50	£39.00
Over £22 and up to £24	£59.50	£67.50	£38.00
Over £24 and up to £26	£57.50	£65.50	£37.00
Over £26 and up to £28	£55.50	£63.50	£36.00
Over £28 and up to £30	£53.50	£61.50	£35.00
Over £30 and up to £32	£51.50	£59.50	£34.00
Over £32 and up to £34	£49.50	£57.50	£33.00
Over £34 and up to £36	£47.50	£55.50	£32.00
Over £36 and up to £38	£45.50	£53.50	£31.00
Over £38 and up to £40	£43.50	£51.50	£30.00
Over £40 and up to £42	£41.50	£49.50	£29.00
Over £42 and up to £44	£39.50	£47.50	£28.00
Over £44 and up to £46	£37.50	£45.50	£27.00
Over £46 and up to £48	£35.50	£43.50	£26.00
Over £48 and up to £50	£33.50	£41.50	£25.00
Over £50 and up to £52	£31.50	£39.50	£24.00
Over £52 and up to £54	£29.50	£37.50	£23.00
Over £54 and up to £56	£27.50	£35.50	£22.00
Over £56 and up to £58	£25.50	£33.50	£21.00
Over £58 and up to £60	£23.50	£31.50	£20.00
Over £60 and up to £62	£21.50	£29.50	£19.00
Over £62 and up to £64	£19.50	£27.50	£18.00
Over £64 and up to £66	£17.50	£25.50	£17.00
Over £66 and up to £68	£15.50	£23.50	£16.00
Over £68 and up to £70	£13.50	£21.50	£15.00
Over £70 and up to £72	£11.50	£19.50	£14.00
Over £72 and up to £74	£9.50	£17.50	£13.00
Over £74 and up to £76	£7.50	£15.50	£12.00
Over £76 and up to £78	£5.50	£13.50	£11.00
Over £78 and up to £80	£3.50	£11.50	£10.00
Over £80 and up to £82	Nil	£9.50	£9.00
Over £82 and up to £84	Nil	£7.50	£8.00
Over £84 and up to £86	Nil	£5.50	£7.00

Increases:

- EACH Child Dependant
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- For people aged 80 or over
- Additional Increase for Qualified Adult aged 66 or over

	Rate per week
Full rate	£13.20
Half-rate	£6.60
	£6.00
	£5.00
	£4.70

Occupational Injuries Benefits Payments

Injury Benefit from 1 Maysee leaflet **SW 30****Unemployability Supplement** from 1 Maysee leaflet **SW 31**

Rate per week

PERSONAL RATE

£77.50

Increases:

— Qualified Adult (▲)		£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate	*£13.20
	Half-rate	*£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

Disablement Benefit from 5 Maysee leaflet **SW 31****Over 90% Disablement**

Maximum PERSONAL PENSION £101.20 per week

20% to 90% Disablement

Reduced pension

— 90%	£91.10
— 80%	£81.00
— 70%	£70.80
— 60%	£60.70
— 50%	£50.60
— 40%	£40.50
— 30%	£30.40
— 20%	£20.20

Up to 19% Disablement

A lump sum may be payable up to a maximum of

£7,080

Medical Care Schemesee leaflet **SW 34**

This Scheme covers the cost of certain medical care expenses incurred as a result of an occupational accident or disease. However, these expenses must not already have been met by the Health Board or by way of Treatment Benefit from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Constant Attendance Allowance from 1 Maysee leaflet **SW 31**

	Rate per week
100% Disablement	
Standard rate	£42.30
Reduced Standard rate	£21.20
Severe Disablement	
Severely disabled people	£63.50
Exceptionally Severe Disablement	
Exceptionally severely disabled people	£84.60

Death Benefits (Survivor's Benefits) from 5 Maysee leaflet **SW 32**

	Rate per week
Pension for a widow or widower	£99.40
<i>Increases:</i>	
— EACH Child Dependant	£17.00
DEPENDENT PARENT'S PENSION	
Where deceased was Unmarried	
— one parent	£99.40
— other parent	£48.80
Where deceased was Married	
— each parent	£48.80

Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over

£6.00 per week

Orphan's Pension

£57.90 per week

Funeral Grant (Lump Sum)

£500

Payments for Retired or Elderly People

Retirement Pension from 4 May

see booklet **SW 18**

Old Age (Contributory) Pension from 5 May

	Contributions	Rate per week
PERSONAL RATE	48 or over	£96.00
	20 - 47	£94.10
— Old Age (Contributory) Pension only	15 - 19	£72.10
	10 - 14	£48.00

Increases:

	Rate per week
— Qualified Adult UNDER age 66	£60.20
— Qualified Adult aged 66 or over	£64.60
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£15.20
	Half rate *£7.60

*An increase of £15.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of a payment for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

	Rate per week
— Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over	£6.00
— Extra allowance for people aged 80 or over	£5.00

Pre-Retirement Allowance from 4 May

see leaflet **SW 80**

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
Increases:	
— Qualified Adult ▲	£47.00
— EACH Child Dependant	Full rate *£13.20
	Half-rate *£6.60

*An increase of £13.20 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

▲ A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135 gross per week, see page 31/32.

Old Age (Non-Contributory) Pension from 5 May see booklet SW 16

Where the weekly means as assessed by the Department are:

	Rate per week	Increase per week for Qualified Adult
Up to £6	£85.50	£51.70
Over £6 and up to £8	£83.50	£50.70
Over £8 and up to £10	£81.50	£49.70
Over £10 and up to £12	£79.50	£48.70
Over £12 and up to £14	£77.50	£47.70
Over £14 and up to £16	£75.50	£46.70
Over £16 and up to £18	£73.50	£45.70
Over £18 and up to £20	£71.50	£44.70
Over £20 and up to £22	£69.50	£43.70
Over £22 and up to £24	£67.50	£42.70
Over £24 and up to £26	£65.50	£41.70
Over £26 and up to £28	£63.50	£40.70
Over £28 and up to £30	£61.50	£39.70
Over £30 and up to £32	£59.50	£38.70
Over £32 and up to £34	£57.50	£37.70
Over £34 and up to £36	£55.50	£36.70
Over £36 and up to £38	£53.50	£35.70
Over £38 and up to £40	£51.50	£34.70
Over £40 and up to £42	£49.50	£33.70
Over £42 and up to £44	£47.50	£32.70
Over £44 and up to £46	£45.50	£31.70
Over £46 and up to £48	£43.50	£30.70
Over £48 and up to £50	£41.50	£29.70
Over £50 and up to £52	£39.50	£28.70
Over £52 and up to £54	£37.50	£27.70
Over £54 and up to £56	£35.50	£26.70
Over £56 and up to £58	£33.50	£25.70
Over £58 and up to £60	£31.50	£24.70
Over £60 and up to £62	£29.50	£23.70
Over £62 and up to £64	£27.50	£22.70
Over £64 and up to £66	£25.50	£21.70
Over £66 and up to £68	£23.50	£20.70
Over £68 and up to £70	£21.50	£19.70
Over £70 and up to £72	£19.50	£18.70
Over £72 and up to £74	£17.50	£17.70
Over £74 and up to £76	£15.50	£16.70
Over £76 and up to £78	£13.50	£15.70
Over £78 and up to £80	£11.50	£14.70
Over £80 and up to £82	£9.50	£13.70
Over £82 and up to £84	£7.50	£12.70
Over £84 and up to £86	£5.50	£11.70
Over £86 and up to £88	£3.50	£10.70

Increases:

- EACH Child Dependant
- Living Alone Allowance for people aged 66 or over
- Extra allowance for people aged 80 or over

Rate per week

Full rate	£13.20
Half-rate	£6.60
	£6.00
	£5.00

Extra Benefits

Fuel Allowance

see leaflet SW 17

Allowance Payable from mid-October to mid-April

Rate per week

£5.00

Smokeless Fuel Allowance

see leaflet SW 17a

Allowance Payable from mid-October to mid-April

Rate per week

£3.00

Free Electricity Allowance

see booklet SW 39

Allowance

- Individual Account
- Group Account

Normal Standing Charges PLUS

1,500 units per year
£12.30 per month

Free Natural Gas Allowance

see booklet SW 39

Standard Tariff Allowance

The allowance covers:

- the supply charge of £22.00 and up to £5.00 of free natural gas in each two-monthly billing period in winter and
- a credit of £18.00 against your overall natural gas bill in each two-monthly billing period in summer.

For details on other tariffs see booklet SW 39.

Free Bottled Gas Refill Allowance

see booklet SW 39

For the Period:

- January to April
- May to June
- July to August
- September to December

Allowance

5 cylinders
2 cylinders
2 cylinders
5 cylinders

Free Television LicenceSee leaflet **SW 39**

If you qualify for a Free Electricity/Natural Gas/Bottled Gas Refill Allowance you are entitled to a free colour television licence from the next due renewal date of your licence.

Free Telephone Rental Allowancesee leaflet **SW 45**

This allowance covers the full cost of the yearly rental and up to 20 free units per two monthly billing period. It does not include installation costs.

Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowancesee leaflet **SW 75**

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is payable to parents whose income limits are at or below the following amounts:

Couple with:	Income Limit	Lone Parent with:	Income Limit
— 1 child	£176.40	— 1 child	£111.10
— 2 children	£191.60	— 2 children	£128.10
— 3 children	£206.80	— 3 children	£145.10
— 4 children	*£222.00	— 4 children	**£162.10
*Limit is increased by £15.20 for each additional child			
**Limit is increased by £17.00 for each additional child			

Allowance**Rate payable**

— Rate for each child aged 2 - 11	£63.00
— Rate for each child aged 12 - 17*	£78.00

*and children aged 18 - 22 if in full-time education for whom a Child Dependant Allowance is payable.

Bereavement Grantsee leaflet **SW 47**

	Rate
— Child	£500.00
— Adult	£500.00
Widowed Parent's grant (for widowed people with dependant child/ren)	£1000.00

Payments from Health Boards

Blind Welfare Allowance from May 2000

A Supplementary Allowance payable in addition to Disability Allowance to blind people over age 16 and under age 18 in respect of:

	Rate per week
— an Adult Dependant	£2.85
— a Child Dependant	£3.00

A Supplementary Allowance is payable to blind people receiving a Blind Person's Pension, Disability Allowance or Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance (who can supply a certificate of visual impairment) or to people who are getting another Social Welfare / Health Board payment who are registered with the National Council for the Blind.

	Rate per week
— Blind Pensioner over age 18	£24.00
— Blind Couple	£48.00
— Increase for each Child Dependant	£3.40

Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance from May 2000

	Rate per week
Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£77.50
<i>Increases for Dependants:</i>	
— Increase for Qualified Adult	£52.90
— Increase for each Child Dependant	£13.20

Other Allowances and Grants

	Rate payable
Mobility Allowance	£45.60 per month
Domiciliary Care Allowance - Maximum PERSONAL RATE	£117.30 per month
Respite Care Grant - For Domiciliary Care recipients	£300 (June 2000)
Maternity Cash Grant - For medical card holders	£8.00
Motorised Transport Grant - For disabled people, up to	£3,171

Charges in Public Hospitals

	Private per day	Semi-Private per day	*Day Care
— Health Board Regional Hospitals and Voluntary Teaching Hospitals	£183.00	£143.00	£131.00
— County Hospitals and Voluntary Non-Teaching Hospitals	£151.00	£122.00	£109.00
— District Hospitals	£94.00	£81.00	£70.00



Note: These charges are additional to the Public Hospital statutory In Patient charge.

Everyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland is entitled to hospital services as an in-patient in a public ward or as an out-patient at a public clinic.

***Day Care:** This charge applies to private/semi-private day beds or to day-cases in other private/semi-private beds.

Hospital Charges

The Public Hospital statutory in-patient charge is £26.00 per night subject to a maximum of £260.00 in a 12 month period. People who attend the Accident and Emergency Department directly without having a referral note from their G.P., will be liable for a charge of £25 which will apply only to the first visit of any episode of care. This charge does not apply to attendances at out-patient clinics.

Income Guidelines for Medical Card from March 2000

(Gross Income less PRSI deductions)

	Under age 66	Age 66-69	Age 70-79	Age 80 or over
— Single person living alone	£93.50	£101.50	£168.50	£177.50
— Single person living with family	£83.00	£88.00	£146.00	£152.00
— Married couple	£135.00	£151.00	£252.50	£265.00

The above amounts are increased as follows:

	Per week
— Each child under age 16	£16.50
— Other dependants	£18.00
— House expenses e.g. rent, mortgage in excess of	£16.50
— Cost of travelling to work in excess of	£15.00

Drugs Payment Scheme

Under this Scheme, an individual or family only has to pay the first £42 per month of the cost of prescribed medicines approved for this purpose by the Minister for Health and Children. **For further details of the Health Schemes, please contact your local Health Board** - see page 34 for list of Health Boards.

Appendix 1

Reduced Rate Increase for a Qualified Adult May 2000

If you are getting one of the payments listed below and your spouse/partner has earnings/income of between £70 and £135.00 gross per week, an increase for him/her continues to be paid at a reducing rate. This applies to:

Disability Benefit, Disability Allowance, Unemployment Benefit, Unemployment Assistance, Pre-Retirement Allowance, Occupational Injury Benefit, Unemployability Supplement, Farm Assist.

Increases:

Spouse/Partner's Gross Weekly Income/Earnings	Rate per week
— Up to £70.00	£47.00
— From £70.01 to £75.00	£44.50
— From £75.01 to £80.00	£42.00
— From £80.01 to £85.00	£39.50
— From £85.01 to £90.00	£37.00
— From £90.01 to £95.00	£33.50
— From £95.01 to £100.00	£30.00
— From £100.01 to £105.00	£26.50
— From £105.01 to £110.00	£23.00
— From £110.01 to £115.00	£19.50
— From £115.01 to £120.00	£16.00
— From £120.01 to £125.00	£12.50
— From £125.01 to £130.00	£9.00
— From £130.01 to £135.00	£5.50
— Over £135.00	Nil

Disability and Unemployment Benefit only.

Where a person's average weekly earnings are less than £70 per week, the following increases are payable:

Increases:

Spouse/Partner's Gross Weekly Income/Earnings	Rate per week
— £70 or less	£30.50
— From £70.01 to £75.00	£28.40
— From £75.01 to £80.00	£26.30
— From £80.01 to £85.00	£24.20
— From £85.01 to £90.00	£22.10
— From £90.01 to £95.00	£20.00
— From £95.01 to £100.00	£17.90
— From £100.01 to £105.00	£15.80
— From £105.01 to £110.00	£13.70
— From £110.01 to £115.00	£11.60
— From £115.01 to £120.00	£9.50
— From £120.01 to £125.00	£7.40
— From £125.01 to £130.00	£5.30
— From £130.01 to £135.00	£3.20
— Over £135	Nil

Invalidity Pension from May 2000

Spouse/Partner's Gross Weekly Income/Earnings	Under age 66	Aged 66 or over
	Rate per week	Rate per week
— £70 or less	£53.30	£58.00
— From £70.01 to £75.00	£49.60	£54.00
— From £75.01 to £80.00	£45.90	£50.00
— From £80.01 to £85.00	£42.20	£46.00
— From £85.01 to £90.00	£38.50	£42.00
— From £90.01 to £95.00	£34.80	£38.00
— From £95.01 to £100.00	£31.10	£34.00
— From £100.01 to £105.00	£27.40	£30.00
— From £105.01 to £110.00	£23.70	£26.00
— From £110.01 to £115.00	£20.00	£22.00
— From £115.01 to £120.00	£16.30	£18.00
— From £120.01 to £125.00	£12.60	£14.00
— From £125.01 to £130.00	£8.90	£10.00
— From £130.01 to £135.00	£5.20	£6.00
— Over £135.00	Nil	Nil

Retirement/Old Age Contributory Pension May 2000

Spouse/Partner's Gross Weekly Income/Earnings	Under age 66	Aged 66 or over
	Rate per week	Rate per week
— Up to £70	£60.20	£64.60
— From £70.01 to £75.00	£56.00	£60.10
— From £75.01 to £80.00	£51.80	£55.60
— From £80.01 to £85.00	£47.60	£51.10
— From £85.01 to £90.00	£43.40	£46.60
— From £90.01 to £95.00	£39.20	£42.10
— From £95.01 to £100.00	£35.00	£37.60
— From £100.01 to £105.00	£30.80	£33.10
— From £105.01 to £110.00	£26.60	£28.60
— From £110.01 to £115.00	£22.40	£24.10
— From £115.01 to £120.00	£18.20	£19.60
— From £120.01 to £125.00	£14.00	£15.10
— From £125.01 to £130.00	£9.80	£10.60
— From £130.01 to £135.00	£5.60	£6.10
— Over £135.00	Nil	Nil

Áras Mhic Dhiarmada

Store Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 6797777

- Disability Benefit Enquiries
- Tel: (01) 8748444
- Information Service
- PRSI Information
- EU International Organisation Liaison Section
- Voluntary and Community Services
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance

Townsend Street

157 - 164 Townsend Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 8748444

- Information on Unemployment Assistance or Benefit
- Farm Assist
- Back to Education
- Occupational Injuries Benefits

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

P.O. Box 3840

Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 7043165

Tel: (01) 7043867

Employment Support Services:

- Back to Work Allowance
- Employers' PRSI Exemption Scheme

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

P.O. Box 3988, Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 7043875/6

- Students Summer Jobs Scheme

Oisín House

212 - 213 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 8748444

- Accounts Branch
- Freedom of Information Unit
- Public Office (9.15am to 5.00pm)
- International Records
- International Operations
- PRSI (Refund of Contributions) Section

Gandon House

Amiens Street

Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 8748444

- Central Records Section
- Client Identity Services
- Public Office (9.15am to 5.00pm)

Marlborough Street

101 - 104 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1.

Tel: (01) 8748444

- Social Welfare Inspectors
- Scope Section (Insurability of Employment)
- Family Affairs Unit

Letterkenny

Social Welfare Services Office

St. Oliver Plunkett Road

Letterkenny

Co. Donegal.

Tel: (074) 25566 or (01) 8748444

- Child Benefit
- Treatment Benefit (Dental, Optical and Aural Benefits)

Longford

Social Welfare Services Office

Government Buildings

Ballinalee Road

Longford.

Tel: (043) 45211 or (01) 8748444

- Invalidity Pension
- Pre-Retirement Allowance
- Disablement Benefit
- Carer's Allowance
- Maternity Benefit
- Adoptive Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Bereavement Grant
- Family Income Supplement (FIS)
- Rent Allowance
- Disability Allowance

Waterford

Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs

Social Welfare Services Office

Cork Road

Waterford.

Tel: (051) 356000 or (01) 8748444

- Self-Employment Section
- Special Collection System for
non-PAYE employees
- Voluntary Contributions

Sligo

Pension Services Office

College Road

Sligo.

Tel: (071) 69800 or (01) 8748444

- Blind Person's Pension
- Old Age Pensions
- Retirement Pension
- Deserted Wife's Benefit/Allowance
- Orphan's Allowance/Pension
- Prisoner's Wife's Allowance
- Widow's and Widower's Pensions
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Free Bottled Gas Refill Allowance
- Free Electricity/Natural Gas Allowance
- Free Telephone Rental Allowance
- Free Television Licence
- Free Travel

Local Social Welfare Offices

See your local Telephone Directory for details of
your local Social Welfare Office - also listed in
the **Guide to Social Welfare Services**
SW 4.

Offices administering Health Services

Enquiries regarding health services should be
made to the appropriate Health Board. The
Health Boards have local offices in the various
counties covered by them.

Eastern Health Board

Dr. Steeven's Hospital
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 6790700 or

FREEFONE 1 800 520 520

North Eastern Health Board

Kells

Co. Meath.

Tel: (046) 40341

Southern Health Board

Cork Farm Centre

Dennehy's Cross

Cork.

Tel: (021) 545011

Mid-Western Health Board

31 - 33 Catherine Street

Limerick.

Tel: (061) 316655

South Eastern Health Board

Lacken

Dublin Road

Kilkenny.

Tel: (056) 51702

North Western Health Board

Manorhamilton

Co. Leitrim.

Tel: (072) 55123

Western Health Board

Merlin Park Regional Hospital

Galway.

Tel: (091) 751131

Midland Health Board

Arden Road

Tullamore

Co. Offaly.

Tel: (0506) 21868