

Who qualifies for the Severe Disability Premium?

A Severe Disability Premium can be included in an award of: Pension Credit, Income-Related ESA, Income Support, Income-Based JSA or Housing Benefit. The eligibility criteria are follows:

Single person

- No non-dependant aged 18 or over is normally residing with the claimant / the claimant is not the non-dependant of someone else, **and**
- They receive a qualifying disability benefit (see below), **and**
- No-one gets paid Carers Allowance or has a Carer Element in their UC award for looking after them.



Couple, single rate - is paid where one member of the couple qualifies:

- No non-dependant aged 18 or over is normally residing with them / they are not the non-dependants of someone else, **and**
- One of them gets a qualifying disability benefit (see below) and no-one gets paid Carers Allowance or has Carer Element in the UC award for looking after this member of the couple, and the other is certified as severely sight impaired or blind. Or
- Both get a qualifying disability benefit (see below) but Carers Allowance is being paid or has a Carer Element in the UC award for looking after just one of them.

Couple, couple rate - is paid where both members qualify:

- No non-dependant aged 18 or over is normally residing with them / they are not the non-dependants of someone else, **and**
- Both get a qualifying disability benefit (see below), **and**
- No-one gets paid Carers Allowance or has a Carer Element in their UC award for looking after either of them.



Qualifying disability benefits for Severe Disability Premium

- Attendance Allowance
- Daily Living Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) /Adult Disability Payment (ADP)
- Middle or High Rate Care Component of Disability Living Allowance /Child Disability Payment
- Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP)
- Constant Attendance Allowance or Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance paid with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit or War Pension Benefit or War Pension (can be paid to working age claimants).



Non-dependants do NOT include:

- those that get a qualifying disability benefit (see above) themselves, or
- those who are certified as severely sight impaired or blind, or
- Lodgers, boarders, joint tenants[^], or other tenants who are separately liable for the rent.

[^] For PC, IR-ESA, IS and IB-JSA this can only be a close relative if the joint tenancy started before 11th April 1988, or if later, on or before the date on which the claimant (or claimant's partner) first occupied the property.

NOTE: Where moved in to care for the claimant (and they have never lived with them before) then not classed as a non-dependant for first 12 weeks.