



Disability Related  
Expenditure 2026-27

**Disability related expenditure (DRE)** is money that you spend on items and services that help you manage or cope with a disability or a long-term health condition. It is money that we may recognise as an 'outgoing' when we do a financial assessment to find out how much you can afford to pay towards your care.

## Thinking about what would be disability related expenditure

It can be difficult to think about disability related expenditure and what costs relate to your disability and what costs relate to day-to-day life. Try to think about what is different between what you have to spend compared to a relative, friend or neighbour who does not have your disability or long-term health condition.

### **Disability related expenditure costs usually fall into one of these two categories:**

1. **Specialised items and services:** you may use things that are made especially to help with your disability, such as wheelchairs and care support. These items may have additional costs, like repair and insurance.
2. **Increased use of non-specialised items and services:** you may have to use things more because of your disability, such as transport or heating.

## **This guide sets out our standard or maximum allowances for disability related expenses:**

- Costs for disability related services that support the whole household (like a cleaner) will be shared equally between all adults in the household (unless you have a good reason for us to consider a different way of sharing costs).
- Where a service is made up of different elements we will only consider costs for the part(s) that meet a disability related need. Hairdressing is a good example - we will allow a claim for the cost of washing your hair if your disability prevents you doing this yourself, but not the cost of cutting/styling as most people have to pay for this.
- You must provide bills, invoices and statements to support your claim. If you don't we will use our discretion to decide if your claim is reasonable.
- Allowances for special equipment needed due to a disability or condition will be based on the life span of the equipment and either the purchase price you paid or a lower cost alternative if we believe would be reasonable to meet your identified needs.
- If you must pay for maintenance of equipment - we will make an allowance for this in your financial assessment.

**Please Note:** We won't consider costs incurred for:

- General items or services required for daily living and used by the general population;
- Any item or service met by a payment from a Grant or where another funding source has been provided;
- The difference between the actual cost and a lower cost alternative where we consider it was reasonable for a lower cost alternative;
- Structural or landscaping work (e.g. tree surgery, path laying or re-laying) in gardens or to buildings unless:
  - The work is to help prevent falls (e.g. installing handrails or repairing footpaths) or;
  - The modifications to the garden or building are essential for you to be able to use/store securely a scooter or wheelchair that you need to use, or to provide secure storage for a scooter and the facility is used as such. In this case, the amount will be calculated as if the modifications were equipment with a suitable life span applied.



## Calculating Disability Related Expenditure

Once DRE has been agreed it will be deducted from your chargeable income and a final contribution to your services will be calculated.

Disability Related Expenditure Item	Example	Evidence Required
Privately-arranged registered care services (including respite care)	Allowable ONLY where this is part of an agreed care assessment and support plan AND the council arranged support is reduced accordingly.	Invoices or bills from the provider/ personal assistants
Additional laundry and replacement bedding costs (where more than 4 loads washing / week needed due to incontinence or other disability-related or medical reason)	Use a special detergent and do 4+ loads of washing per week due of incontinence or risk of infection.  <b>A fixed amount of £5.10 per week.</b>  <b>Wear and tear of bedding £2.61 per week.</b>	Details of the number of loads of washing each week detailed in care assessment or support plan. Plus detail of incontinence issue.
Community alarm system	Actual cost paid unless included within Housing Benefit award.	Bills / bank statements.
Specific diet / pureed food	Extra food costs specific to your impairment and not available on the NHS. Only the price difference between a specialist product and a regular item will be considered at our discretion.	Receipts or invoices and needs identified in care assessment or support plan.

<p><b>Heating costs</b></p>	<p>Your heating costs are higher due to your impairment and allowed if the amount is over and above the following fuel bills expected for the size of your property, as follows:</p> <p><b>Annual Average fuel amounts:</b></p> <p><b>Flat/Terrace:</b> Single occupancy: £2,194 Couple/shared occupancy: £2,954</p> <p><b>Semi-detached:</b> Single occupancy: £2,397 Couple/shared occupancy: £3,076</p> <p><b>Detached:</b> Single occupancy: £2,835 Couple/shared occupancy: £3,739</p>	<p>The % below will be applied to average bills. The resulting amount will be disregarded from your available income.</p> <p>Please state clearly your household type in your application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild / moderate disability: 20% utility disregard</li> <li>• Mobility issues/ health condition: 30% utility disregard</li> <li>• Equipment dependent disability: 45% utility disregard</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional clothing and footwear</b></p>	<p>Expenditure on footwear over £47 per pair of specialist shoes (averaged over 1 year). For specialist clothing and frequent replacements – up to £9.30 per week.</p>	<p>Receipts of purchases need to be identified in care assessment or support plan.</p>
<p><b>Legal Expenses</b></p>	<p>Legal expenses for the establishment of Guardianship for example can be considered if Legal Aid is not accessible.</p>	<p>Only considered if Legal Aid was not applicable.</p>

<p><b>Basic cleaning</b></p>	<p>Disability or condition prevents the person doing this themselves and only where there is no other able bodied person residing in the household or not provided by family or via care providers as part of care plan. A maximum contribution up to £1,340 per annum.</p>	<p>Invoices or bills from the provider and identified in care assessment or support plan and not already provided by a Carers or Service Users Budget.</p>
<p><b>Basic gardening</b></p>	<p>Only considered where there is no other able bodied person is residing in the household or providing support or not provided by family. A maximum contribution of £156 per annum.</p>	<p>Invoices or bills from the provider and identified in care assessment or support plan and not already provided by a Carers Budget. Cover basic maintenance only.</p>
<p><b>Purchase and maintenance of equipment</b></p>	<p>Equipment includes hoists, powered and turning beds, scooter/wheelchair and stair lifts. For wheelchair and mobility equipment these costs will be allowed net of any ADP mobility component received.</p>	<p>Invoices or bills from provider (excluding any Council/NHS funding) and identified in care assessment or support plan. Cost should be broken down over expected lifetime of equipment.</p>
<p><b>Financial Management Charges</b></p>	<p>Where a Financial Guardianship is in place or a Financial management Service and the service charges for the management of the individual finances then these costs can be considered.</p>	<p>Invoices or bills from provider (excluding any Council/NHS/DFG funding) and identified in care assessment or support plan.</p>

<p><b>Travel and transport costs where Adult Social Care have confirmed that transport, to meet an eligible need, is necessary and proportional.</b></p>	<p>Transport costs necessitated by illness or disability Including costs of transport to day services, over and above the ADP mobility weekly benefit if in payment. Discretion will be taken not to include these costs if a suitable cheaper form of transport e.g. council provided transport to day services is available but has not been used. Average mileage is 10,000 miles per year</p>	<p>Receipts or bills from provider and identified in care assessment or support plan, that excessive mileage is required that would cost more than the ADP mobility weekly benefit. Petrol 20p per mile - £2,000 per year / £39 per week. Actual- £average = DRE disregard. Electric 8p per mile ( home charging) -£800 per year /£15.38 per week Actual- £average = DRE disregard Mileage over 10,000 miles per year and related to travel required due to disability.</p>
<p><b>Chiropody / Podiatry</b></p>	<p>Actual cost up to a maximum £379 averaged over one year (equivalent to max £7.28/week), if NHS chiropody not available (based on 6 weekly visits).</p>	<p>More than one invoice or bill from provider to evidence the customer is receiving this service on a 6 weekly basis and not as a 1 off session. Care assessment must identify restricted movement.</p>
<p><b>Window washing</b></p>	<p>Window washing is a cost all households have, only considered where able bodied person could not safely provide the service. Considered only on quarterly basis £104 per year.</p>	<p>Will be considered under exceptional circumstances.</p>

<b>Hair Cutting</b>	Allowable where the customer is unable to attend standard hair dresser. We will consider the cost up to a max of £8.63 per week.	At least 2 receipts for the service and identified in care assessment or support plan.
<b>Other Disability Related Expenses</b>	Other Disability Related Expenses may be allowed with good reason and proof of costs. These will be at the discretion of the East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership.	Evidence of charge being made. Full cost of the charge can be disregarded.

Average annual amounts based on good practice guide developed by the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers and updated in 2026 by 3% to reflect the Consumer Price Index in January 2026

[Consumer Price Inflation Tables- Office for National Statistics](#)

If you think you have DRE and are paying towards your non residential social care please email:

[awchargingappeals@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:awchargingappeals@eastlothian.gov.uk) and request an **appeals form**.

You will need to complete the form with your income and expenditure as well as the DRE. The appeal will then be considered and if required your social care charges amended.

**More information can be found at;**

[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/elhscp](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/elhscp)



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to deliver the  
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Best care  
Best value for our  
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John Muir House  
Brewery Park  
Haddington, EH41 3HA  
[elphscp@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:elphscp@eastlothian.gov.uk)  
[www.eastlothian.gov.uk/elhscp](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/elhscp)