

Policy 4 Available Income

Owner: ILF Scotland

Subject: Available
Income

Version: 2.0

Last Amended: 14th July 2017

Date Reviewed: 14th July 2017

Next Review: 1st July 2018

1.0 Background

ILF users are expected to make a contribution towards their care and support costs.

This policy explains how the contribution is to be calculated and that the contribution will operate by way of a reduction in the value of the gross ILF award.

This policy preserves the protection given to certain Group 1 (former Extension Fund) candidates indefinitely.

ILF Scotland Directors cannot take exceptional decisions in specific cases on the grounds of financial hardship. However where a decision has been taken previously to disregard available income it will be honoured for the agreed period.

2.0 Policy

Effective from 20th July 2017, no charge calculated on any person resident in Scotland should exceed £104 weekly. This should be the case for all users in Scotland whether Group 1 or 2, irrespective of age.

The AI policy calculation will still be undertaken in the manner given in this document, but where the users contribution is calculated by this policy to be above £104 weekly, even by one penny- the actual charge will be £104. Where the normal calculation results in any amount less than £104 weekly, even by one penny, then that lesser amount applies. The previous protections referred to above still apply.

A candidate (with the exception of Group 1 protected candidates) is usually expected to contribute the aggregate of:

1. ½ higher rate DLA Care Component or ½ Attendance Allowance.
2. where the candidate is in receipt of Constant Attendance Allowance ½ CAA received or ½ DLA whichever is the lesser amount.
3. any Severe Disability Premium paid with Income Support or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or any additional amount for severe disability paid with Pension Credit.
4. the full amount of any Special Transitional Additions received.
5. If the candidate is not in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Guarantee Credit the difference between their weekly resources and their weekly needs. This is the ILFS notional assessment calculation. **See Guidance at Appendix 1.**
6. The maximum contribution expected from any ILF Scotland recipient is capped at £104 weekly, including those recipients subject to the ILF Scotland notional assessment calculation (see point 5 above).

Group 1 protected candidates are not expected to contribute 1 and 2 above, but will contribute any additional income up to the maximum outlined in 6 above. Where the rate of DLA is revised this does not change the protected status as long as the user remains eligible for funding.

From the aggregate sum that this calculation produces, the amount of any charge paid against a local authority contribution of Qualifying Support and Services, will be deducted. If that produces a nil result then the user contribution is nil. No other charges paid by a candidate to a local authority or other organisation may be deducted.

Where an award is revised on or after 20 August 2010 no account can be taken of increases to local authority charges– see Changes to Local Authority Charges Policy for full details.

Where previously a reduced contribution of available income has been agreed, or this contribution has been waived in entirety that decision will stand for the agreed term or where this was for an unspecified period will remain in place indefinitely unless the user's financial circumstances change. The ILFS Directors may review any decision where the candidate's financial circumstances change.

The ILFS contribution is based on an assessment of the care and support required by the users. The total cost of this is then calculated and payments are made to the user after deducting their available income.

3.0 Procedural considerations

Available Income will always be deducted in full from the weekly cost of care or the weekly cost of a retainer. Examples:

1. If someone is paid on receipt of invoice rather than automatically, the Available Income will be deducted from the invoice total.
2. Where a retainer is paid for part of the usual care plan i.e. for the PA element but not the agency element, the full Available Income must be deducted from the gross retainer amount.
3. If a User requires a replacement award for a limited or on-going period available income should always be deducted. This includes reduced awards that may be put in place at the outset of a package.

Reviews and overpayments

When calculating any overpayment or unspent funding amount we will take into consideration the net amount that ILFS has actually overpaid. No overpayment will be raised on the user's contribution and ILFS will not monitor if this is used towards Qualifying Support and Services.

The procedure for calculating Available Income can be found at appendix 1.

4.0 Source

5.0 History Date Reviewed

Appendix 1

Notional Assessment Guide

Note that if the outcome of the notional assessment is an expected contribution greater than the sum of £104 weekly the contribution is capped at this level.

SECTION A – Allowances and Premiums (IS/JSA Rates)

1. **Personal Allowances:** Select according to client/partner's/child benefit recipient's age.
2. **Group Premium:** Select according to client's status. Please note that where the income of the child benefit recipient (parent or guardian) is being assessed, disability premiums are only applicable where the parent/guardian is disabled.
3. **Standard Minimum Guarantee:** Select according to status if client or partner is aged 60 or over
4. **Carer Premium:** allow if Carers Allowance is received by user's partner (or if there is an underlying entitlement but CA is not being paid because of benefit rules)
5. **Dependants:** Child, Family and Disabled Child Premiums **no longer included** in Section A in line with IS practice and in parallel with this change Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit are no longer treated as income (see Section D below).

SECTION B - Allowable Costs:

Rent: Allow for this after deduction of any housing benefit.

Mortgage: 1st mortgage only: Allow all aspects of repayment (interest, endowment, etc). If 2nd property exists it may count as capital. Minute to EO for decision - **see Mortgage Payments policy.**

Mortgage protection plan: Allow cost of mortgage protection payments, however if policy activated our treatment of mortgage payments will be affected – **see Mortgage Payments policy.**

Weekly water rates and weekly Council Tax The Funds will take the full amount of the client and their partner's council tax, net of any benefit, into account within the notional assessment.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland Water and Council taxes are combined.

Weekly Loan Interest: Disability related home improvement/ adaptation loans only. **See Loan Interest policy.**

Weekly School Meals: Applies to children 5 –16 years old; up to 18 if in full time education. **see School Meals Allowance policy.**

Weekly child maintenance payments: all child maintenance payments – CSA, court order and voluntary – are allowable.

Board and lodging payments by the user. See board and lodging policy.

SECTION C – Applicable Amount = A + B

SECTION D - Income

Income type: Income (excluding earnings and payments in lieu of earnings made under an Income Protection Insurance Policy), benefits, New Deal payments, pensions e.g. retirement and occupational pensions, Incapacity Benefit.

Paid to: Client and/or partner. Where the user is a young person and Child Benefit is in payment the means of the person receiving the Child Benefit (normally parents) are assessed.

Income from people living in the client's home. Refer to the senior management team for guidance.

Disregards: Please see table at Appendix 1 for details of incomes that can be disregarded in full or in part.

NOTE additional new disregards from 1/10/07

1. Student Loans (Administered by the Student Loans Company Limited. SLC administers government funded student loans. Confirmation that the loan is administered by SLC should be obtained and noted on file).
2. Student grants or bursaries.
3. Any form of child maintenance.

Treatment of capital: Tariff of £1.00 for each £250.00 between £14,250.00 and £23,250.00.

Net weekly D = Income after/subject to appropriate disregards.

Assessed available income = Total net weekly **D**–applicable amount **C**.

If the resulting amount is positive this amount is to be treated as available towards the cost of care (QSS).

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

Client's Age: Where the user is a young person and child benefit is in payment the means of the person receiving the Child benefit (normally parents) are assessed.

No regard will be taken of any War Pension/War Widow Pension/War Disability supplement, or War pension mobility supplement. This disregard will extend to both the ILF user and their partner including where the latter is, or is also, a War pensioner.

APPENDIX 2 - INCOME DISREGARDS

DISREGARDED	DISREGARD
Earnings	FULL
Payments in lieu of earnings under an Income Protection Insurance Policy	
Statutory Sick, Maternity, Adoption, Paternity Pay	
Working Tax Credit	
Pension Savings Credit	
Constant Attendance Allowance, Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance, Severe Disablement Occupational allowance (paid with War or Industrial Disablement Pensions)	
War Disability Pension and War Widow/Widowers Pension	
War pensioners mobility supplement	
Student Loans (if administered by the Student Loan Company Ltd.	
Student grants or bursaries	
Child Maintenance	
DISREGARDED UNDER INCOME SUPPORT (GEN) REGS SCHEDULE 9	
Child benefit	FULL
Child tax credit	
Education Maintenance Allowance	
Macfarlane Trust, Eileen Trust, Social Fund	
Regular charitable and voluntary payments	
Income from personal injury trust funds or PI lump sums held in Court	
Widowed parent's allowance	
Widowed mother's allowance	

Socialist persecution payments	£10
Guarantee income payment	
Board and lodging/income from subletting	Refer to SMT

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The disregards listed in the first part of the table is a full list.

The list of disregards under Schedule 9 is not a complete list, but consists of those that staff at ILFS are most likely to come across.

Income not listed above should normally be taken fully into account. Any queries as to whether an income not listed above may qualify for a full or partial disregard should be referred to the senior management team.