

Scottish Government - £500 payment for Personal Assistants - Portal closes 25 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

Further to previous correspondence, the Scottish Government is reminding all Personal Assistants that they may be entitled to a thank you payment of up to £500. This is in recognition of their tremendous work during the pandemic, and they have until **midnight 25 August 2021 to submit their application.**

The Scottish Government worked closely with disabled led organisations to develop the most streamlined process possible and an online application portal was launched on 30 June 2021. Since the application window has opened, over 3568 payments have been made in a swift and efficient manner. This would not have been possible without the support and dedication of these key stakeholders.

Scottish Government recognises the unique place that Personal Assistants and Personal Assistant Employers hold within social care and we encourage all eligible Personal Assistants to claim for this payment in recognition of their invaluable work throughout the pandemic.

*We would encourage all those who are eligible to make a claim prior to the deadline of **25 August at midnight.***

This is a reminder that a Personal Assistant is eligible if they are directly paid by an employer who receives funds to employ staff from Independent Living Fund (ILF) Scotland through their fund or from a Local Authority through Option 1 Social Care (Self Directed Support) Act 2013, and also if they are a PA to an adult and were paid by their PA over a continuous 4-week qualifying period between 17 March 2020 and 30 November 2020.

Full guidance and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found on the Scottish Government website at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-social-care-workforce-gbp500-payment-guidance-for-personal-assistants>.

In order to reach as many Personal Assistants as possible the application process is supported with a helpline provided by Self-directed Support Scotland (SDSS): 0800 841 1321 and a link to the online portal can be found here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/500PoundApplicationsForPAs/>