

**Disability Related
Expenditure**

Disability related expenditure (DRE) is money that you spend on items and services that helpth 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 you're 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)	If you have to use a special detergent and do more laundry which exceeds 4 loads per week because of incontinence or risk of infection. A fixed amount of £4.95 per week.	Details required about the number of loads of washing each week detailed in care assessment or support plan.
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.

Additional clothing and footwear

Expenditure on footwear over £46 per pair of specialist shoes (averaged over 1 year). For specialist clothing and frequent replacements – **up to £9.00 per week** – if good reason.

Receipts of purchases Need to be indemnified in care assessment or support plan.

Heating costs

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:

Annual Average fuel amounts:

- **Flat/Terrace:**

Single occupancy – £2,130

- **Flat/Terrace:**

Couple/shared occupancy – £2,810

- **Semi-detached:**

Single occupancy – £2,260

- **Semi-detached:**

Couple/shared occupancy – £2,987

- **Detached:**

Single occupancy – £2,752

- **Detached:**

Couple/shared occupancy – £3,631

Bills from your energy provider/ bank statements for a 12 month period.

Basic Gardening	Only considered where there is no other able bodied person residing in the household or not provided by family. A maximum contribution of £170 per annum.	Invoices or bills from the provider and identified in care assessment or support plan and not already provided by a Carers Budget.
Basic cleaning	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. A maximum contribution up to £1,300 per annum	Details required about the number of loads of washing each week detailed in care assessment or support plan.
Purchase and maintenance of equipment	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 DLA mobility component received.	Invoices or bills from provider (excluding any Council/NHS/DF G funding) and identified in care assessment or support plan.

Transport costs if necessitated by illness or disability (If transport is not provided by Adult Social Care or Health)	Actual costs, net of any DLA Mobility received, or PIP Mobility received, if they are incurred solely or mainly due to disability and the needs are identified in the Assessment. Allow actual commercial costs (if reasonable) up to £29.00/week or more if evidence is provided.	Receipts or bills from provider and identified in care assessment or support plan.
Chiropody	Actual cost up to a maximum £368 averaged over one year (equivalent to max £7.10/week), if NHS chiropody not available (based on 6 weekly visits).	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.
Hair Washing	Allowable where the customer is unable to wash own hair and hair wash is not part of the care package. We will consider the actual cost up to a maximum of £8.63 per week.	At least 2 receipts for the service and identified in care assessment or support plan.

Other Disability Related Expenses

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 and receipts of purchase. Evidence of need within care assessment or support plan.

Average annual amounts based on good practice guide developed by the National Association of Financial Assessment Officers 2023-24 and updated in 2025 to reflect an average inflationary increase of 2.4%

[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 and request an **appeals form**.

You will need to complete the form with your income and expenditure as well as you 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/downloads/download/13039/non-residential_social_care_charges

**Working together
to deliver the
Best health
Best care
Best value for our
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