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Qualifying conditions for our schemes change from time to time. Always check with your local Social Welfare Office or with Information Services to see if qualifying conditions have changed (see page 6 for contact details).

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication. This booklet is intended as a guide only, and is not a legal interpretation.

1. What is a Living Alone Increase?

A Living Alone Increase is a payment for people who live

- completely alone, or
- mainly alone in certain circumstances.

In addition, you must be getting one of the payments listed below from the Department of Social Protection. If you qualify, you get the increase with your social welfare payment each week.

2. How do I qualify?

You will qualify for the increase if you are getting one of the following social welfare payments:

a) if you are under age 66

- Invalidity Pension
- Disability Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Incapacity Supplement

b) or if you are aged 66 or over

- State Pension (Contributory)
- State Pension (Non-Contributory)
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Pension under the Occupational Injuries Benefit Scheme
- Incapacity Supplement

and

- you live completely alone in a self-contained house, apartment, flat or mobile home, or
- you live mainly alone.

We regard you as living mainly alone if:

- you live alone but a relative with a permanent address elsewhere comes to stay with you at weekends to assist you, or
- you live alone but **occasionally** take in a paying guest, for example during a local festival, or
- you live alone by day but, for security reasons, either you sleep in a neighbour's or friend's home or they sleep in your home. You will qualify for the increase in this way only if you and your neighbour or friend have separate permanent addresses and do not stay in each other's home each day or eat main meals together regularly.

Note

If you run a bed and breakfast business, even for only part of the year, you will not qualify for the increase.

You must tell us immediately if your circumstances change and you no longer live completely alone or mainly alone after being awarded the Living Alone Increase.

3. Can I qualify for the increase if I live in separate accommodation within a private dwelling?

Yes, if you live in a 'granny flat' or in separate accommodation within a private dwelling, you may qualify for the increase. However, there must be separate sleeping and living areas and you must have everything you need to cook, eat and wash up within your living area.

You may still have social contact with others in the same dwelling and, if relevant, you may share any bathroom and toilet facilities or external entrance with them.

In order to satisfy the living alone condition, it would generally be expected that you would have locks on the doors to your living area, unless the other residents of the dwelling are members of your family.

4. Can I qualify for the increase if I live in a sheltered hostel or home?

You may qualify for the increase if you live in a single room within a sheltered hostel or home and do so independently of the other residents. However, you will not qualify if you share a dormitory with others or you have round-the-clock nursing care or supervision.

5. Can I qualify for the increase if I live in a nursing home?

No, you cannot qualify because you cannot be regarded as living completely alone or mainly alone.

6. How do I apply?

If you live completely alone or mainly alone, you may be able to apply for the Living Alone Increase as part of your application for any of the payments listed on page 3.

If you are already getting one of these payments but are not getting the Living Alone Increase, you may apply for it by completing the application form **LA1**.

7. What extra benefits can I get?

You may qualify for extra benefits, subject to certain conditions. For more information, log on to **www.welfare.ie**.

8. Where can I get more information?

For information booklets, application forms and more information on social welfare services:

- Log on to **www.welfare.ie**.
- Text to **51909** (see details on Page 19).
- LoCall Information Line at **1890 66 22 44** (from the Republic of Ireland only) or **+353 71 91 93313** (from Northern Ireland or overseas).
- Drop in to your local Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

Note

The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

Other useful booklets

Free Travel	SW 40
Fuel Allowance	SW 17
Household Benefits Package	SW 107
Smokeless Fuel Allowance	SW 17a

To request forms, text the form code followed by your name and address to 51909 (from the Republic of Ireland only). Standard text rates apply.

For example, if you wanted to request the Bereavement Grant form, text FORM BG MARY MURPHY 1 NEW STREET, OLD TOWN, CO. DONEGAL.

Social welfare payment or scheme	Form code
Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	FORM BTSCFA
Bereavement Grant	FORM BG
Carer's Allowance	FORM CARA
Carer's Benefit	FORM CARB
Child Benefit (Form CB1)	FORM CHILD
Disability Allowance	FORM DA
Domiciliary Care Allowance	FORM DCA
Family Income Supplement	FORM FIS
Free Travel	FORM TRAVEL
Fuel Allowance	FORM FUEL
Household Benefits	FORM HHB
Invalidity Pension	FORM INV
Living Alone Increase	FORM LAA
Maternity Benefit	FORM MAT
One Parent Family Payment	FORM OPFP
Respite Care Grant	FORM RCG
State Pension (Non-Contributory)	FORM SPNC
State Pension (Transition/Contributory)	FORM SPC
Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension	FORM WCP
Widow(er)'s/Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension	FORM WNCP

