Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance?

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is a payment made once a year to assist with the cost of uniforms and footwear for school children.

2. What are the qualifying conditions for the Allowance?

To qualify for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, you or your spouse;

- must be in receipt of a qualifying payment (see question 17 for a list of qualifying payments) **and** your payment must include an increase(s) in respect of your child/children, **and**
- must satisfy a means test.

3. If I qualify for this Allowance, how much will I get?

The rates of payment are €150.00 for children between the age of 4 and 11 years and €250.00 for children between 12 and 22 years.

4. Do I need to apply for this Allowance?

The scheme is now closed for 2012 and no further applications will be accepted.

5. When will the automatic payments issue?

Automatic payments will be available with your weekly payment between 18th July and 26th July 2012.

6. I am in receipt of Maternity Benefit or Adoptive Benefit but I am not getting an increase in respect of my child. Will I qualify for this Allowance?

You may qualify if you satisfy the means test. When application forms are made available you should apply.

7. I am in receipt of a Jobseekers payment but I am not getting an increase in respect of my child because of my spouse's/partner's earnings. Will I qualify for this Allowance?

It's possible that you may qualify. When application forms are made available you should apply.

8. I need an application form. Where can I get one?

The scheme is now closed for 2012 and no further applications will be accepted.

9. How does the means test work?

Your weekly income limit for this means test depends on the number of children you have and on whether or not you are a lone parent. We calculate your weekly income as being total pay (minus PRSI), plus your main social welfare payment (if any) and any income from home help work (minus PRSI), minus a travel allowance of €20.00.

10. Which weekly income limit applies to me?

This table shows the weekly income limit for the means test for both lone parents and couples with up to 6 children.

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Income Limits (2012)

Couple	Income Limit	Lone Parent	Income Limit
1 Child	€563.60	1 Child	€410.10
2 Children	€593.40	2 Children	€439.90
3 Children	€623.20	3 Children	€469.70
4 Children	€653.00	4 Children	€499.50
5 Children	€682.80	5 Children	€529.30
6 Children	€712.60	6 Children	€559.10

(Limit increases by € 29.80 for each additional child.)

11. Where will I be able to collect my payment?

Automatic payments will be available by the same method of payment as your weekly payment. If you complete an application form, you can choose between being paid at your Post Office or into your bank account.

12. Where do I send the completed application form?

Note: The scheme is now closed for 2012 and no further applications will be accepted.

Send your completed application form, along with any supporting documentation, to:

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance
Department of Social Protection
PO Box 131
Donegal

For more information, see www.welfare.ie

13. I am not happy with the decision made by the Department on my application. What can I do next?

You can request a review by the Deciding Officer by writing in to us and telling us why you think the decision we made was incorrect. The address you should write to is:

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance
Department of Social Protection
PO Box 131
Donegal

14. If I qualify for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, will I have to pay tax on it?

No. Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is not regarded as income for income tax purposes

15. Where can I get more information?

For more information on Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance:

- See www.welfare.ie – we will update the website regularly with information on processing times, etc.
- Contact your local Citizens Information Centre or Social Welfare Local Office
- LoCall 1890 66 22 44

16. What are the "qualifying payments" mentioned at Question 2?

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance – Qualifying Payments

Adoptive Benefit	Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)	Prisoner's Wife's Allowance
Blind Person's Pension	Health and Safety Benefit	State Pension (Contributory)
Carer's Allowance	Illness Benefit	State Pension (Transition)
Carer's Benefit	Incapacity Supplement	State Pension (Non-Contributory)
Deserted Wife's Allowance	Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance	Supplementary Welfare Allowance
Deserted Wife's Benefit	Invalidity Pension	Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension
Disability Allowance	Jobseeker's Allowance	Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension
Disabled Person's Rehabilitative Allowance	Jobseeker's Benefit	Pensions paid by the Department of Work and Pensions (UK)
Disablement Benefit	One-Parent Family Payment	See here for more details
Family Income Supplement	Maternity Benefit	
Farm Assist	Occupational Injuries Benefit	
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)	Pre-Retirement Allowance	