



Living Alone Increase

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.

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.

Issued by:
Information Services
Department of Social Protection
Social Welfare Services
College Road
Sligo

For more information:

- Log on to www.welfare.ie.
- LoCall Information Line **1890 66 22 44** or if calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call **+353 71 91 93313**.
- Drop in to your local Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

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.

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.

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.

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 first page.

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**.

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.

Note

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

This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.