



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Research Paper

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# **Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in Northern Ireland: an Analysis of PIP Recipients by Parliamentary Constituency**

**NIAR 120-25**

On 25 March 2025, a Green Paper was published which outlined proposals for significant changes to the eligibility rules for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The changes are due to come into force for new and existing claimants on 26 November 2026. This Paper highlights the locations (spatial areas) in each of the 18 constituencies where the impact of the proposed changes is likely to be the most pronounced.

This information is provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Assembly staff in support of their duties, and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as professional legal advice, or as a substitute for it.



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## Key Points

### Background

- On 18 March 2025, the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain published a Green Paper, “Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working”, which outlined proposals for significant changes to the eligibility rules for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and the health element of Universal Credit. The changes, which will make it more difficult for people with less severe conditions to claim the disability payment, are due to come into force for new and existing claimants in November 2026.
- The Government’s primary rationale for reforming PIP is to reduce spending on disability benefits, target support more effectively to those with the highest needs, while ensuring the system remains sustainable in the longer term. However, the reform proposals have raised particular concerns in Northern Ireland, due to the higher uptake of disability benefits (including PIP) here.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of people aged over 16.
- It is a difficult benefit to obtain, with a lengthy and complex assessment process, involving a detailed, 36-page application form, potential face-to-face assessments, and a high rate of initial rejections. In Northern Ireland, over 40 per cent of applications are initially refused.
- At 30 November 2024, there were 217,660 claimants in receipt of the benefit, 42% of whom were awarded the enhanced rate for both the daily living and mobility components. It is those recipients on a lower, standard award (58%) who are at greatest risk of losing the benefit, under the new criteria of having to satisfy at least 4 points in a Daily Living category (Advice NI).
- The main disabling conditions for PIP in Northern Ireland are psychiatric disorders (45%), musculoskeletal diseases (32%) and neurological illnesses (9%).

- The present Paper highlights those **spatial areas** (Super Data Zones) in each parliamentary constituency where the concentration of PIP claimants is highest, and thus most likely to experience the adverse impacts of the new policy.
- Super Data Zones (SDZs) are a new geography developed by NISRA for Census 2021. They enable a fine-grained analysis at local level. Typically, there are around 45 SDZs in each constituency. They are named after the District Electoral Area within which they are located. For example, Titanic\_A is one of twenty-two SDZs residing in Titanic DEA, Belfast East. Essentially, therefore, an analysis by SDZs involves dividing each constituency into approximately 45 slices.
- The present Paper seeks to answer two questions, namely:
  1. The proportion (%) of the population aged 16 and over in each of the 18 Parliamentary Constituencies who are in receipt of PIP (February 2024) at the Super Data Zone level.
  2. The proportion (%) of the population (all ages) in each of the 18 Parliamentary Constituencies who are in receipt of one of the following three disability benefits: DLA, PIP, or Attendance Allowance (February 2024), at the Super Data Zone level.

## Findings

- There is a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.5 per cent of persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 25.6 per cent in Belfast West. The constituencies of Foyle (22.5%) and Belfast North (20.1%) also have a high proportion of PIP recipients.
- Looking at the SDZs, the proportion of PIP claimants aged 16+ ranges from a low of 1.6 per cent in Botanic\_Q (Belfast South and Mid Down) to a peak of 40.9 per cent in Ballyarnett\_B (Foyle). In total, there are 95 SDZs, with a combined population of 192,545, where at least 25 per cent of those aged 16+ are in receipt of the benefit.
- The Paper also looks at those who are claiming one of the three key disability benefits (DLA, PIP, or AA). It was found that Oldpark\_T has the largest proportion of persons claiming one of the three key disability benefits, accounting for 42.6 per cent of the entire population of the Super Data Zone. Next is The Moor\_C (42.3%),

followed by Court\_S (42.1%). Overall, there are five SDZs where at least 40 per cent of the population (all persons) are in receipt of one of the three key disability benefits.

- In at least one SDZ in fifteen (out of 18) constituencies, a minimum of 25 per cent of the resident population aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP. The exceptions are Lagan Valley, South Antrim and Strangford. This is one indicator of the widespread take-up of this benefit across Northern Ireland.
- In Belfast West, Foyle and Belfast North there are a significant number of SDZ where over 30 per cent of the adult population (aged 16+) are in receipt of PIP. In Belfast North, for example, the Oldpark District Electoral Area (DEA) accounts for nine of the top ten SDZs in respect of PIP awards, ranging between 28 – 37 per cent of the adult population in those zones. In some parts of Oldpark DEA, over 40 per cent of the entire population (including children) of specific SDZs are in receipt of either DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance. Research suggests that conflict-related trauma is one of a number of factors which may be implicated in the high number of persons with disabilities in certain constituencies.
- Other Parliamentary Constituencies where the proportion of PIP recipients is higher than the Northern Ireland average (14.3%) include East Londonderry and West Tyrone.

# 1 Introduction

On 18 March 2025, the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain published a Green Paper, [Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working](#), which outlined proposals for significant changes to the eligibility rules for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and the health element of Universal Credit. The changes, which will make it more difficult for people with less severe conditions to claim the disability payment, are due to come into force for new and existing claimants in November 2026. The reform proposals have raised particular concerns in Northern Ireland, due to the [higher uptake](#) of disability benefits here and, thus, the potential impact on claimants and carers.

The Government's primary rationale for reforming Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is to reduce spending on disability benefits, target support more effectively to those with the highest needs, while ensuring the system remains sustainable in the longer term.

## 1.1 What is PIP?

[Personal Independence Payment](#) (PIP) was introduced in Northern Ireland on 20th June 2016, replacing DLA for Working Age claimants. The benefit provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of people aged over 16 who claim help with those costs.

There are two parts to PIP, namely:

- a **Daily Living component**, if the claimant requires help with everyday tasks; and
- a **Mobility component**, if the claimant needs help with getting around.

[At 30 November 2024](#), there were 217,660 claimants in receipt of the benefit, 42% (91,910) of whom were awarded the enhanced rate for both the daily living and mobility components. This means that 58% of recipients had a lower (standard) award. [According to Advice NI](#) (2025, p. 4), 'it is these claimants who are at greater risk of not achieving eligibility, under the new criteria of having to satisfy at least 4 points in a Daily Living category.'



PIP can be paid to individuals whether they are in or out of work. It is often paid alongside 'income replacement' benefits such as Universal Credit (UC) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). While PIP is, generally speaking, a working-age benefit, a proportion of claimants who were awarded the benefit before retirement age, retain their entitlement after retirement.

The assessment process for PIP can be lengthy (over several months) and complex, involving a detailed, 36-page application form, potential face-to-face assessments, and a high rate of initial rejections. In Northern Ireland, 43 per cent of initial applications during December 2019 – November 2024 were refused, with a significant proportion of those refusals being overturned on appeal (DfC, 2025, Personal Independence Payment Supplementary Tables). It has been estimated that the fraud rate for PIP is [less than one per cent](#).

The benefit is one of a suite of 'extra-costs' disability benefits payable in the UK which also includes Disability Living Allowance (which remains for children under 16) and Attendance Allowance (for people over State Pension age). It is important to note that claimants cannot receive more than one of the above disability three benefits (DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance) concurrently.

Currently, Northern Ireland has the [highest uptake of PIP awards](#) of any UK region, with 11.3 per cent of the population, followed by Wales and the North-East (both 8.7%). Of the 217,660 awards, psychiatric disorders (mental illness) accounts for nearly half (45%) of the [main disabling conditions](#). Specific conditions include anxiety and depressive disorders, mood disorders, psychosis, and stress-related illness. Other disabling conditions include musculoskeletal disease (32%) and neurological disorders (9%).

The proposed changes to PIP have attracted criticism from welfare and disability rights organisations. In GB, the [Child Poverty Action Group](#) (CPAG), for example, noted that the changes would mean some claimants will receive £74 – £110 per week less than they otherwise would have done. [The Resolution Foundation](#) estimated that between 800,000 and 1.2 million people will lose entitlement to PIP, as well as any benefits that they or others received linked to PIP eligibility, such as Carer's Allowance <sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The [RalSe Topical Digest](#) on the 'Pathways to Work' Green Paper contains links to recent publications and media articles that provide analysis and commentary on the potential impact of the reforms

## 1.2 Scope of the Present Paper

The scope of the present Paper is modest, because RalSe does not have direct access to the data necessary to do a full analysis of the potential impact of the reforms. However, it does provide an indicative assessment of the likely impact. Using Super Data Zones (SDZs) as the index geography, the paper utilises maps and tables to highlight those **spatial areas** in each parliamentary constituency where the concentration of PIP claimants is highest, and thus most likely to experience the largest impact when the reforms are implemented for new and existing claimants in November 2026.

It does not examine individual circumstances, nor identify those persons most likely to be affected by the policy, as the data required for this exercise is not available at constituency level. In response to a parliamentary question concerning PIP (AQW 24701/22-27), the Minister for Communities replied on 25 April 2025:

“I do not know the full impact of the welfare changes announced on 18 March. My officials are continuing to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to understand the full implications for Northern Ireland. Calculations on the UK wide impact of the Green Paper were published along with the Chancellor’s Spring Statement on 26 March. It will take time to understand the Northern Ireland impacts thereafter ...”

The Minister has also raised his concerns about PIP with HM Government, and his officials continue to engage with the Department for Work and Pensions (AQW 24250/22-27):

“I have raised my concerns about the UK Government’s proposed welfare changes directly with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Department for Work and Pensions Minister for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms MP. I also raised concerns, particularly with reference to Personal Independence Payment, at the March 2025 meeting of the Four Nations Ministerial Group on Child Poverty which was chaired by the UK’s Minister for School Standards.

### 1.3 Super Data Zones

Super Data Zones (SDZs) are a new geography developed by NISRA for Census 2021. There are 850 SDZs which nest within the 80 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and 11 Local Government Districts (LGDs) in Northern Ireland. They range in size from a low of 1,096 to a peak of 4,077, with an average of 2,240 persons (June 2022). SDZs are named after the District Electoral Area within which they are located. For example, Titanic\_A is one of twenty-two SDZs in Titanic DEA, Belfast East. Typically, there are around 45 SDZs in each constituency. Essentially, therefore, an analysis by super data zone involves dividing each constituency into c.45 slices.

As SDZs are linked to local government boundaries, they are not designed to nest within parliamentary constituencies / Assembly Areas. While most do, in fact, reside neatly within the relevant constituency, a small proportion of SDZs overlap into other adjacent constituency areas.

To mitigate this issue, it was decided that Super Data Zones with more than half of their geographical area within a given constituency boundary would be allocated to that constituency.

### 1.4 The Data

Two data sets have been used for this analysis, namely benefits data from the Department for Communities (DfC), dated February 2024, and mid-year population estimates for small areas (June 2022). At the time of writing (May 2025) these data sets are the most up-to-date available at the Super Data Zone level. More up-to-date sets at this geography will become available later in the year.

### 1.5 The Analysis

The analysis which follows will present findings on the following two indicators:

1. The proportion (%) of the population aged 16 and over in each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies who are in receipt of PIP (February 2024) at the Super Data Zone level.
2. The proportion (%) of the population (all ages) in each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies who are in receipt of one of the following three disability benefits:

DLA, PIP, or Attendance Allowance (February 2024), at the Super Data Zone level.

Taken together, both indicators provide an insight into the important role played by disability benefits in Northern Ireland. While the main focus is on PIP, the second indicator allows us to determine the proportion of the entire population in each constituency who are claiming any of the three key disability benefits. This provides a more comprehensive overview of the population’s reliance on disability payments in general than PIP alone would reveal.

**1.6 Tables**

Tables in Section 2.2 onwards have five columns, as follows:

- Column 1 – Name of Super Data Zone (SDZ)
- Column 2 – No. of claimants in receipt of PIP
- Column 3 – No. of claimants in receipt of DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Column 4 – % of population aged 16+ in receipt of PIP
- Column 5 – % of population (all persons) in receipt of at least one disability benefit (DLA, PIP, or AA).

The Tables are sorted by PIP (high to low). While the key findings are outlined in the text for each parliamentary constituency, for reasons of brevity and clarity, the tables are restricted to the top ten SDZs in each constituency.

**1.7 Maps**

A map has also been created for each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies. They illustrate the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ in each SDZ, with particular emphasis on those zones where the percentage of PIP recipients is higher than 20 per cent (highlighted in orange or red).

Due to file size constraints, only a selected number of maps are presented in the main Paper. However, all maps are available in an **interactive, digital version** which has been developed alongside the static maps. Using filters and search criteria on the home page – a map of Northern Ireland – users can zoom into particular areas of interest in each constituency. The interactive version can be viewed [here](#).

Please note that the Maps in this paper, and the interactive tool, use the current Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (PC) boundaries, 2024. The PC boundaries are, in fact, identical to the new Assembly Area boundaries, which will become operational at the time of the next Assembly elections (scheduled for 2027).

## 2 Analysis of PIP recipients by Parliamentary Constituency

### 2.1 Parliamentary Constituency

Table 1 presents the number and proportion of persons aged 16+ who were in receipt of Personal Independence Payment at 30 November 2024. In Northern Ireland, there were 217,660 recipients, representing 14.3 per cent of all persons aged 16+.

**Table 1: PIP awards by Parliamentary Constituency, November 2024 (pop. aged 16+)**

Parliamentary Constituency	Total PIP recipients	Pop. 16+	% of 16+ pop.
Belfast West	20,600	80,323	25.6
Foyle	17,280	76,743	22.5
Belfast North	17,120	85,181	20.1
West Tyrone	13,370	78,362	17.1
East Londonderry	11,980	83,005	14.4
Newry and Armagh	12,400	86,454	14.3
Upper Bann	13,390	96,222	13.9
Belfast East	11,120	83,247	13.4
South Down	10,910	82,131	13.3
North Antrim	10,970	83,233	13.2
Mid Ulster	10,730	81,584	13.2
Strangford	10,050	80,314	12.5
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	10,660	87,592	12.2
South Antrim	10,340	85,043	12.2
East Antrim	9,610	79,844	12.0
North Down	8,500	80,399	10.6
Lagan Valley	9,380	89,497	10.5
Belfast South and Mid Down	8,680	101,934	8.5
Unclassified	580		
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>217,660</b>	<b>1,521,108</b>	<b>14.3</b>

Source: Department for Communities, [PIP Statistics – November 2024](#) (Table 8)

The table reveals a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.5 per cent of persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 25.6 per cent in Belfast West. With over 17,100 recipients, Foyle (22.5%) and Belfast North (20.1%) also have a large proportion of PIP recipients.

Before proceeding to analyse the SDZ data at constituency level, it may be helpful to begin with a brief overview of the key findings at the individual SDZ level.

2.2 Super Data Zones: a brief summary of findings

There are 850 super data zones in Northern Ireland, and the proportion of PIP claimants aged 16+ ranges from a low of 1.6 per cent in Botanic\_Q (Belfast South and Mid Down) to a peak of 40.9 per cent in Ballyarnett\_B (Foyle). In total, there are 95 SDZs, with a combined population of 192,545, where at least 25 per cent of those aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP.

Table 2 lists the top ten SDZs in terms of the proportion of PIP claimants. Four of the top ten are in Foyle, four in Belfast West, and the remaining two are located in Belfast North. Ballyarnett\_B has the largest proportion of PIP claimants of any SDZ in Northern Ireland (40.9%), followed by The Moor\_D (39%) and Court\_S (38.2%).

Table 2: PIP awards by SDZ – Top 10 (February 2024)

SDZ	Parliamentary Constituency	Total PIP recipients	% PIP recipients (aged 16+)
Ballyarnett_B	Foyle	610	40.9
The_Moor_D	Foyle	780	39.0
Court_S	Belfast West	620	38.2
Court_G	Belfast West	360	38.0
The_Moor_F	Foyle	650	37.1
Oldpark_S	Belfast North	450	36.7
Oldpark_T	Belfast North	470	36.5
Black_Mountain_A	Belfast West	860	36.5
Black_Mountain_B	Belfast West	600	36.3
The_Moor_C	Foyle	380	36.1

Table 3 lists the top ten SDZs, in terms of the proportion of residents (all persons including children) in receipt of one of the following key disability benefits: Disability

Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment, or Attendance Allowance (AA). Four of the top ten are in Belfast West, three in Belfast North, two in Foyle and the remaining one is located in Upper Bann.

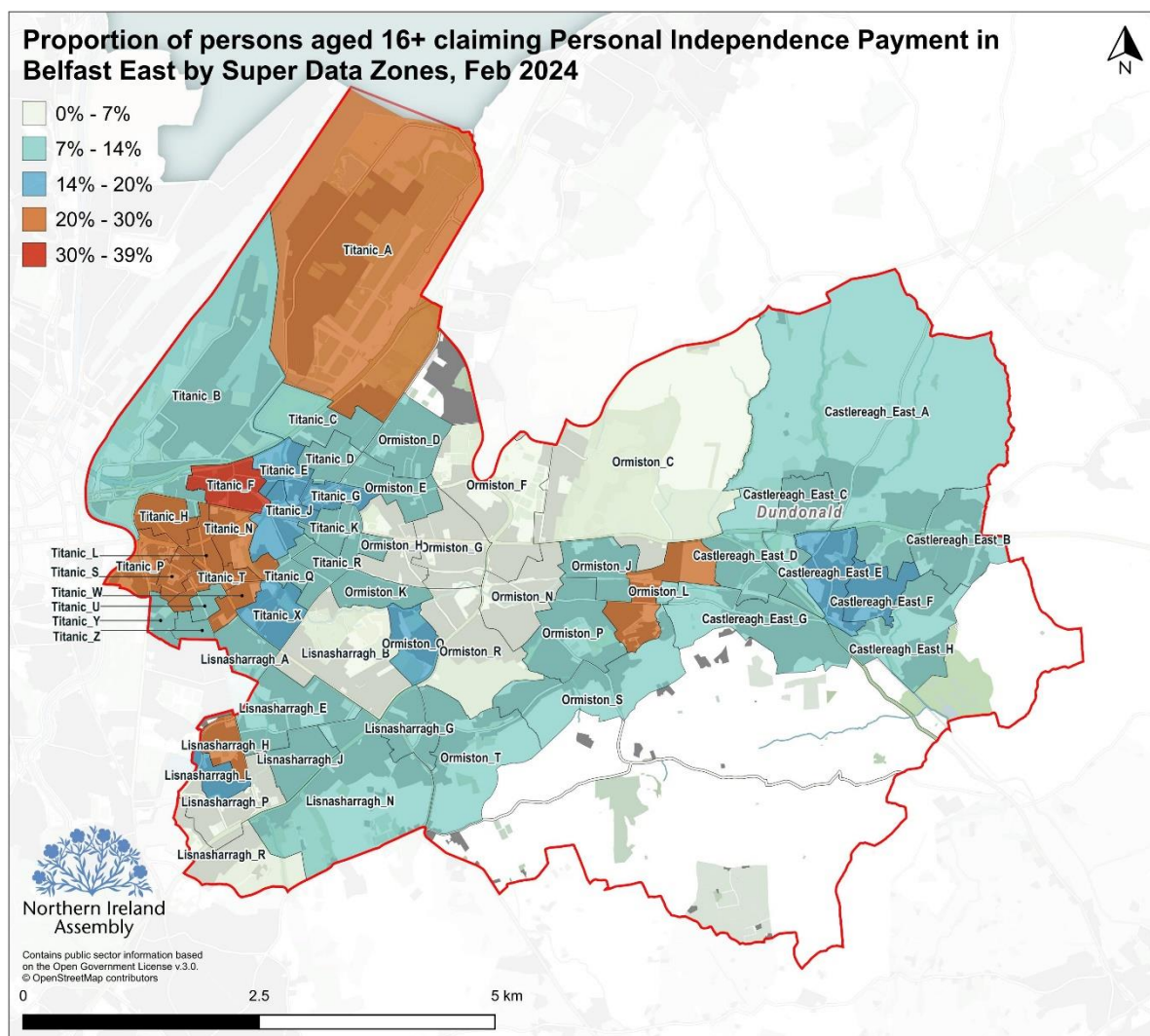
Oldpark\_T has the largest proportion of persons claiming one of the three key disability benefit (DLA, PIP or AA), accounting for 42.6 per cent of the entire population of the super data zone. Next is The Moor\_C (42.3%), followed by Court\_S (42.1%). Overall, there are five SDZs where at least 40 per cent of the entire population (including children) are in receipt of one of the three key disability benefits.

**Table 3: Persons claiming at least one Disability Benefit by SDZ – Top 10  
(February 2024)**

SDZ	Parliamentary Constituency	Persons claiming at least one Disability Benefit (All Persons)	% Persons claiming at least one Disability Benefit (All Persons)
Oldpark_T	Belfast North	680	42.6
The_Moor_C	Foyle	500	42.3
Court_S	Belfast West	920	42.1
Oldpark_P	Belfast North	510	40.9
Court_G	Belfast West	520	40.0
The_Moor_F	Foyle	850	39.4
Oldpark_S	Belfast North	570	39.3
Lurgan_L	Upper Bann	560	39.3
Black_Mountain_B	Belfast West	830	38.5
Court_K	Belfast West	620	38.0

## 2.3 Belfast East

Belfast East contains 55 SDZs, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 2.9 per cent in Ormiston\_R to a peak of 33.2 per cent in Titanic\_F (Table 4). In terms of PIP awards, eight of the top 10 super data zones are in the Titanic District Electoral Area (DEA), ranging from 20.4 per cent (Titanic\_S) to 33.2 per cent (Titanic\_F).



In Titanic\_F, a total of 750 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 37.8 per cent of the total population (including children). Next are Titanic\_N (30.5%), Titanic\_H (29.9%), and Titanic\_P (27.2%).

**Table 4: BELFAST EAST**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP recipients	No. of DLA + PIP + AA recipients	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Titanic_F	510	750	33.2	37.8
Titanic_H	500	710	28.5	29.9
Titanic_N	360	510	27.3	30.5
Titanic_P	330	460	24.9	27.2
Titanic_T	380	500	24.8	25.9
Titanic_W	280	390	23.9	26.4
Ormiston_L	350	520	20.8	24.6



SDZ Name	No. of PIP recipients	No. of DLA + PIP + AA recipients	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Lisnasharragh_H	210	300	20.8	23.8
Titanic_L	280	370	20.8	21.6
Titanic_S	250	350	20.4	23.5

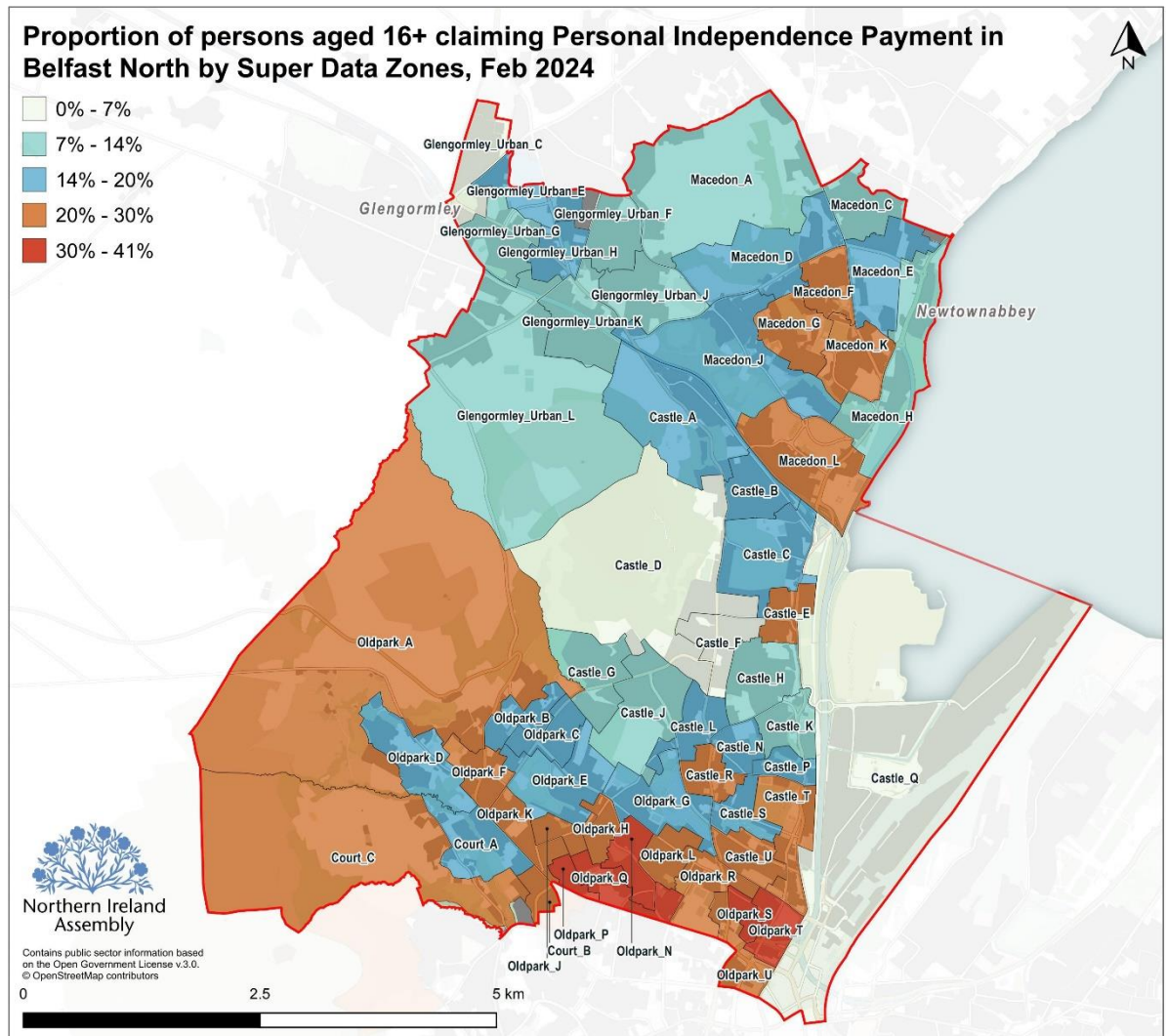
## 2.4 Belfast North

The high prevalence of disability in specific locations in Belfast North quickly becomes apparent when reviewing Table 5. There are 57 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.0 per cent in Castle\_D to a peak of 36.7 per cent in Oldpark\_S. In terms of PIP awards, nine of the top 10 super data zones in the constituency are located in the Oldpark District Electoral Area, ranging from 28.1 per cent (Oldpark\_R) to 36.7 per cent (Oldpark\_S).

In Oldpark\_T, a total of 680 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 42.6 per cent of the total population of the super data zone (including children). Next is Oldpark\_P (40.9%), followed by Oldpark \_S (39.3%) and Oldpark \_Q (36.4%).

**Table 5: BELFAST NORTH**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP recipients	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Oldpark_S	450	570	36.7	39.3
Oldpark_T	470	680	36.5	42.6
Oldpark_P	340	510	35.3	40.9
Oldpark_Q	520	750	34.7	36.4
Oldpark_N	540	770	32.2	32.9
Oldpark_U	430	590	29.8	32.3
Oldpark_H	330	480	29.2	31.2
Oldpark_L	510	720	29.2	31.4
Castle_T	460	670	28.8	33.2
Oldpark_R	510	710	28.1	29.7

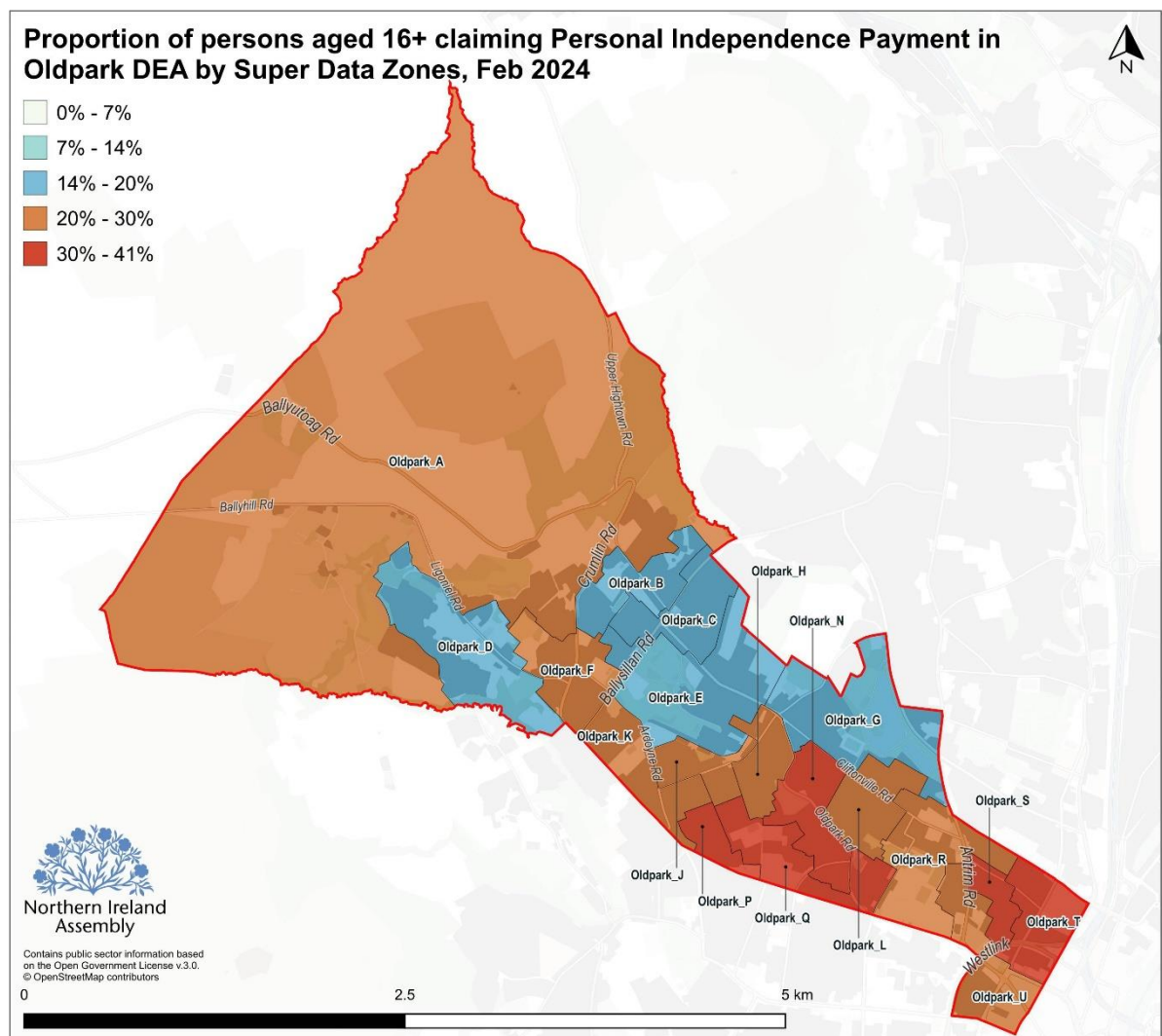


### 2.4.1 Oldpark District Electoral Area

Oldpark DEA is one example of a number of District Electoral Areas in Northern Ireland which are particularly vulnerable to changes in PIP eligibility criteria. Located in the north of the city, the DEA contains the wards of Ardoyne, Ballysillan, Cliftonville, Legoniel, New Lodge and Water Works.

As noted above, nine of the top ten SDZs for PIP recipients in Belfast North are situated in Oldpark DEA (see Table 5 above). In all nine, the proportion of PIP claimants aged 16+ is 25 per cent or higher, ranging from a low of 28.1 per cent

(Oldpark\_R) to 36.7 per cent (Oldpark\_S) <sup>2</sup>. When combined together, the Oldpark super data zones yield a total of 6,470 recipients of PIP.



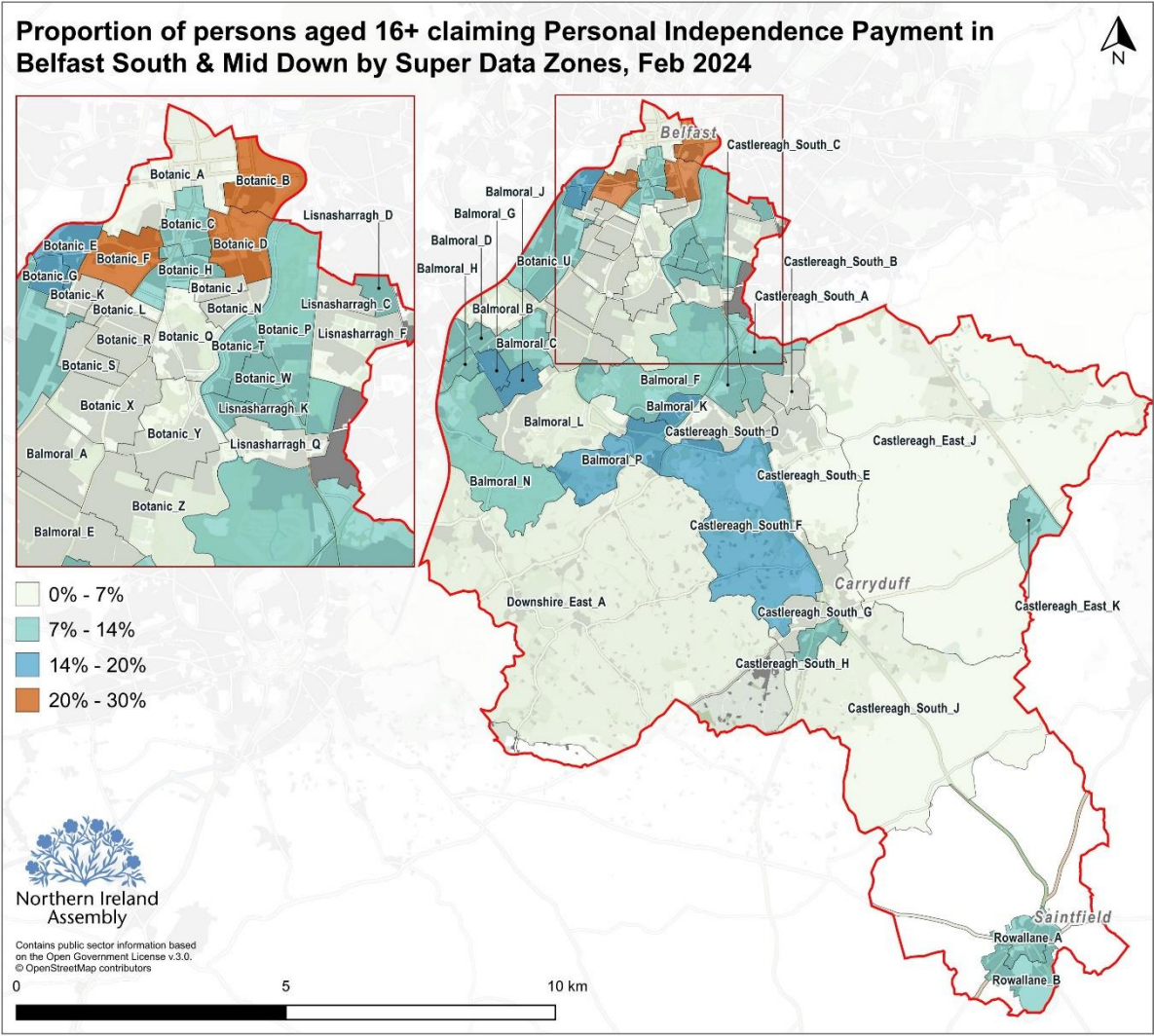
## 2.5 Belfast South

While Belfast South has the smallest proportion of PIP recipients across the 18 parliamentary constituencies (8.5%), there are nonetheless high levels of disability in specific locations (Table 6). There are 54 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 1.6 per cent in Botanic\_Q to a peak of 29.1 per cent in Botanic\_B. In terms of PIP awards, five of the top 10 Super Data

<sup>2</sup> Other District Electoral Areas which contain high concentrations of PIP claimants include Titanic (Belfast East), Botanic (Belfast South and Mid Down); Court, Blackmountain, and Colin (Belfast West); plus Ballyarnett and The Moor (Foyle).

Zones in the constituency are located in the Botanic DEA, ranging from 29.1 per cent (Botanic\_B) to 17.3 per cent (Botanic\_E).

In Botanic\_B, a total of 550 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 34.5 per cent of the total population of the super data zone (including children). Next are Botanic\_D (27.5%), and Botanic \_F (24.7%).



**Table 6: BELFAST SOUTH AND MID DOWN**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Botanic_B	380	550	29.1	34.5
Botanic_D	370	510	26.2	27.5
Botanic_F	320	470	20.4	24.7



SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Botanic_G	240	330	19.5	21.1
Balmoral_K	210	340	17.3	22.7
Botanic_E	260	380	17.3	20.5
Balmoral_P	240	380	15.9	20.4
Balmoral_J	260	410	14.8	18.8
Castlereagh_South_F	180	270	14.4	17.6
Balmoral_G	210	360	14.4	19.5

## 2.6 Belfast West

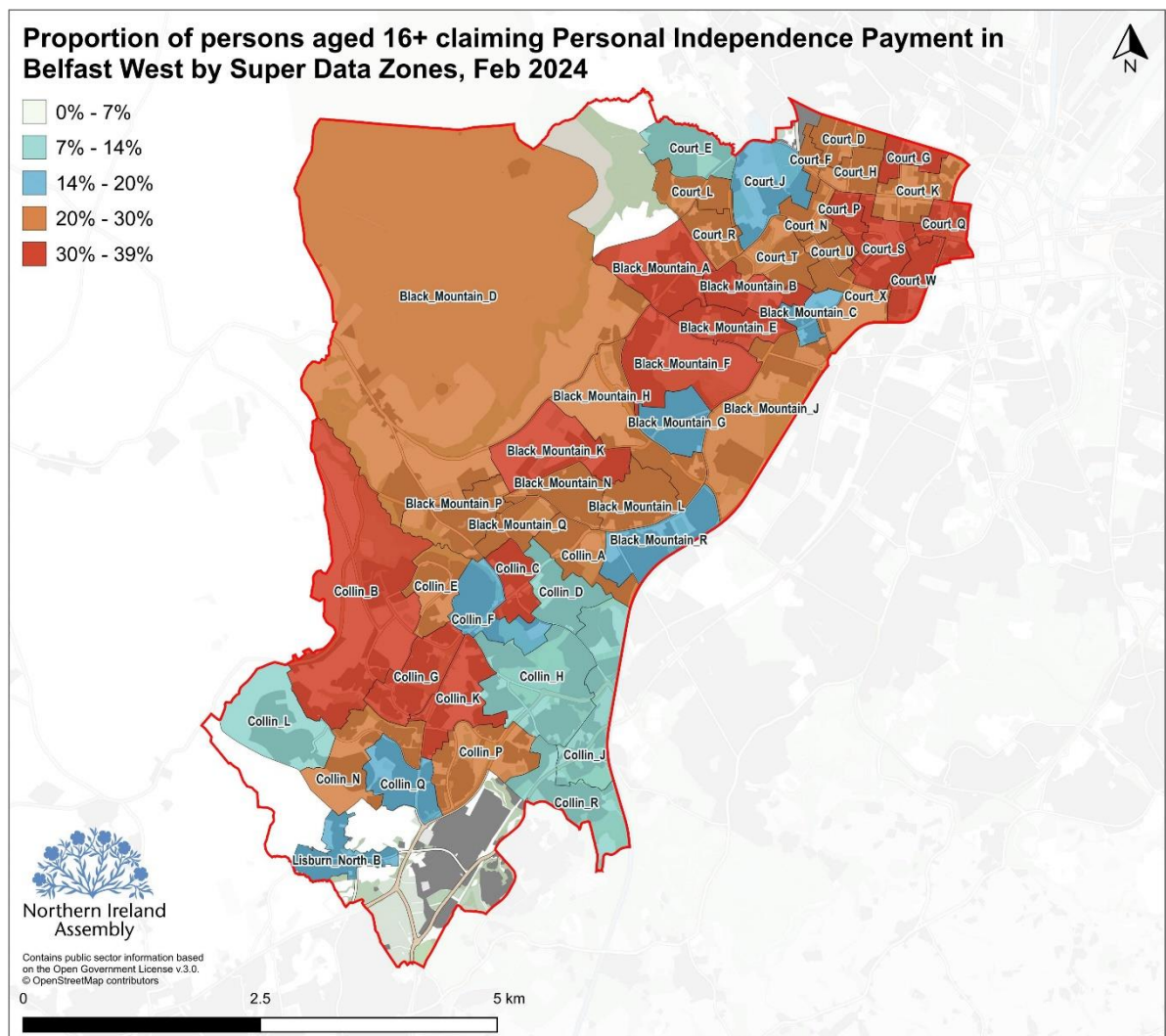
The Belfast West parliamentary constituency has the largest proportion of PIP recipients across the 18 constituencies, with over a quarter (25.6%) of the population aged 16+ receiving the benefit (Table 1). There are 48 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 10.6 per cent in Colin\_R to a peak of 38.2 per cent in Court\_S (see Table 7). In terms of PIP awards, four of the top 10 super data zones in the constituency are located in Blackmountain DEA, three in Court DEA and the remaining three in Colin DEA. Overall, in 27 of the 48 SDZs, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher, i.e. at least one in four of the 16+ population.

In Court\_S, a total of 920 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 42.1 per cent of the total population (including children) of the super data zone. Next are Court\_G (40%), and Black Mountain\_A (37.6%).

**Table 7: BELFAST WEST**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Court_S	620	920	38.2	42.1
Court_G	360	520	38.0	40.0
Black_Mountain_A	860	1180	36.5	37.6
Black_Mountain_B	600	830	36.3	38.5
Collin_B	690	960	35.9	32.9
Black_Mountain_E	600	840	34.4	36.3

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Court_W	510	730	34.0	35.1
Black_Mountain_F	610	850	33.0	35.4
Collin_K	520	750	32.9	35.6
Collin_G	590	830	31.5	30.7



## 2.7 East Antrim

East Antrim has the fourth lowest proportion (12%) of PIP recipients across the 18 constituencies (Table 1). There are 48 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 3.9 per cent in Three Mile Water\_E to a

peak of 25.6 per cent in Coast Road\_H (Table 8). Overall, in only one of the 48 SDZs (Coast Road\_H) is the proportion of PIP recipients 25 per cent or higher.

In Coast Road\_H, a total of 640 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 31 per cent of the total population (including children) of the Super Data Zone. Next are Knockagh\_D (27.1%), and Knockagh\_E (24.3%).

**Table 8: EAST ANTRIM**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Coast_Road_H	410	640	25.6	31.0
Knockagh_D	250	390	22.7	27.1
Knockagh_E	250	370	21.6	24.3
Carrick_Castle_G	340	580	21.3	32.6
Three_Mile_Water_J	230	350	20.3	23.8
Carrick_Castle_H	210	290	19.7	22.2
Larne_Lough_B	330	540	18.3	26.1
Coast_Road_E	300	520	17.8	26.1
Coast_Road_A	200	310	16.9	21.4
Knockagh_H	270	410	16.7	20.5

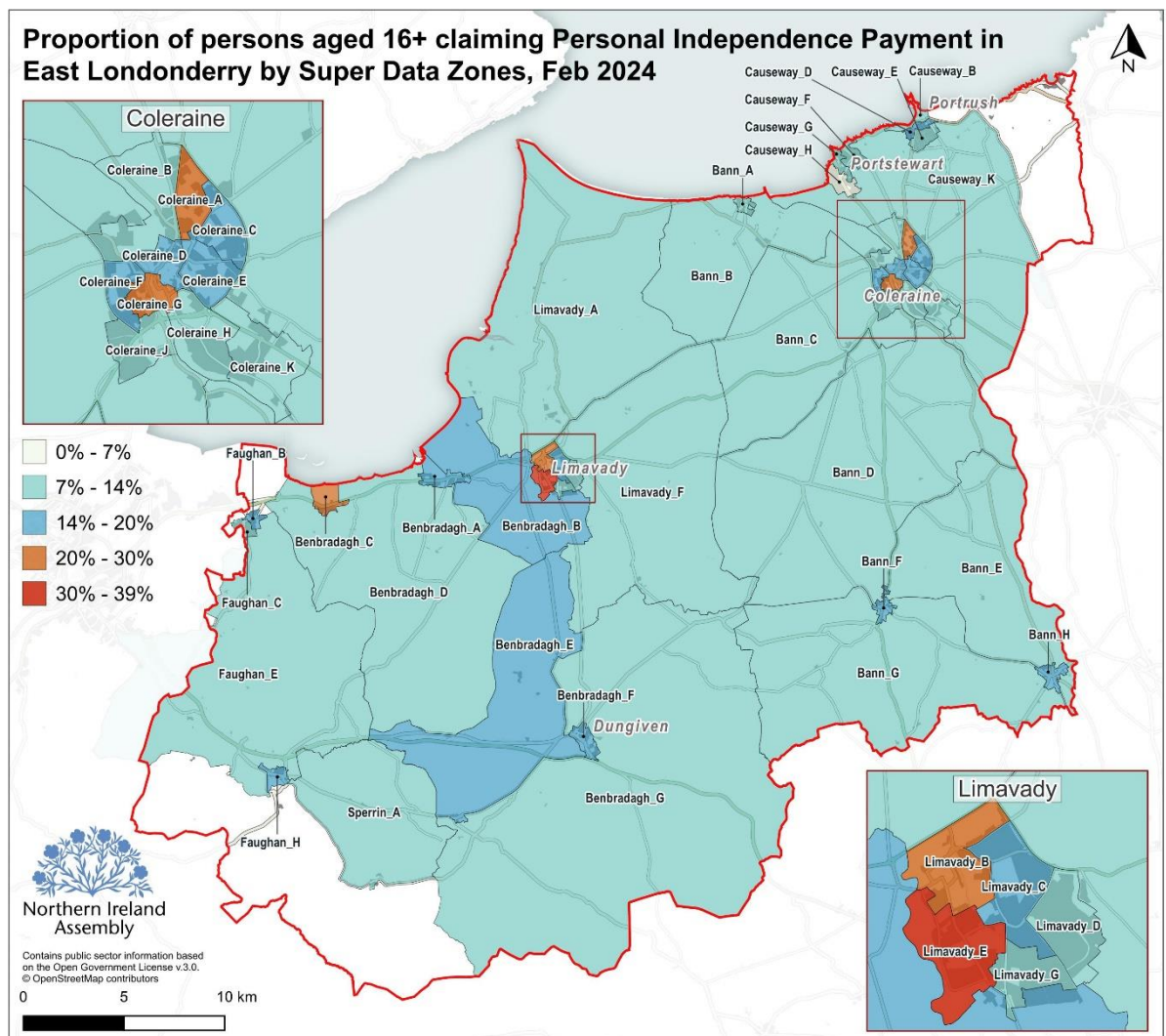
## 2.8 East Londonderry

East Londonderry has the fifth highest proportion (14.4%) of PIP recipients across the 18 parliamentary constituencies (Table 1). There are 44 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.4 per cent in Causeway\_H to a peak of 30.7 per cent in Limavady\_E (Table 9). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in four of the 44 SDZs.

In Limavady\_E, a total of 910 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing a third (33.4%) of the total population of the super data zone. Next are Coleraine\_A (28.5%), and Coleraine\_G (28.3%).

**Table 9: EAST LONDONDERRY**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Limavady_E	660	910	30.7	33.4
Coleraine_A	530	800	25.3	28.5
Coleraine_G	430	620	24.6	28.3
Limavady_B	260	390	24.6	31.3
Benbradagh_C	240	330	21.0	22.6
Coleraine_C	390	580	19.0	21.8
Benbradagh_F	460	720	18.5	21.9
Coleraine_E	270	480	17.6	25.9
Benbradagh_A	400	570	17.5	18.9
Faughan_B	150	240	16.1	21.1



## 2.9 Fermanagh and South Tyrone



Fermanagh and South Tyrone has the sixth lowest proportion (12.2%) of PIP recipients across the 18 constituencies (Table 1). There are 46 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.8 per cent in Erne East\_A to a peak of 21.8 per cent in Enniskillen\_B (Table 10). Overall, there are no SDZs in the constituency where the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher.

In Enniskillen\_B, a total of 750 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 27.8 per cent of the total population of the super data zone. Next are Erne North\_D (23.2%), and Erne East\_D (22.6%).

**Table 10: FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Enniskillen_B	480	750	21.8	27.8
Erne_North_D	340	540	18.8	23.2
Erne_East_D	410	680	17.6	22.6
Enniskillen_E	240	410	17.5	25.6
Erne_North_A	290	490	15.7	21.4
Erne_East_C	230	380	15.1	19.6
Dungannon_A	380	580	15.0	17.3
Erne_West_B	180	310	14.2	19.9
Dungannon_F	400	670	13.9	18.0
Enniskillen_D	270	400	13.7	16.1

## 2.10 Foyle

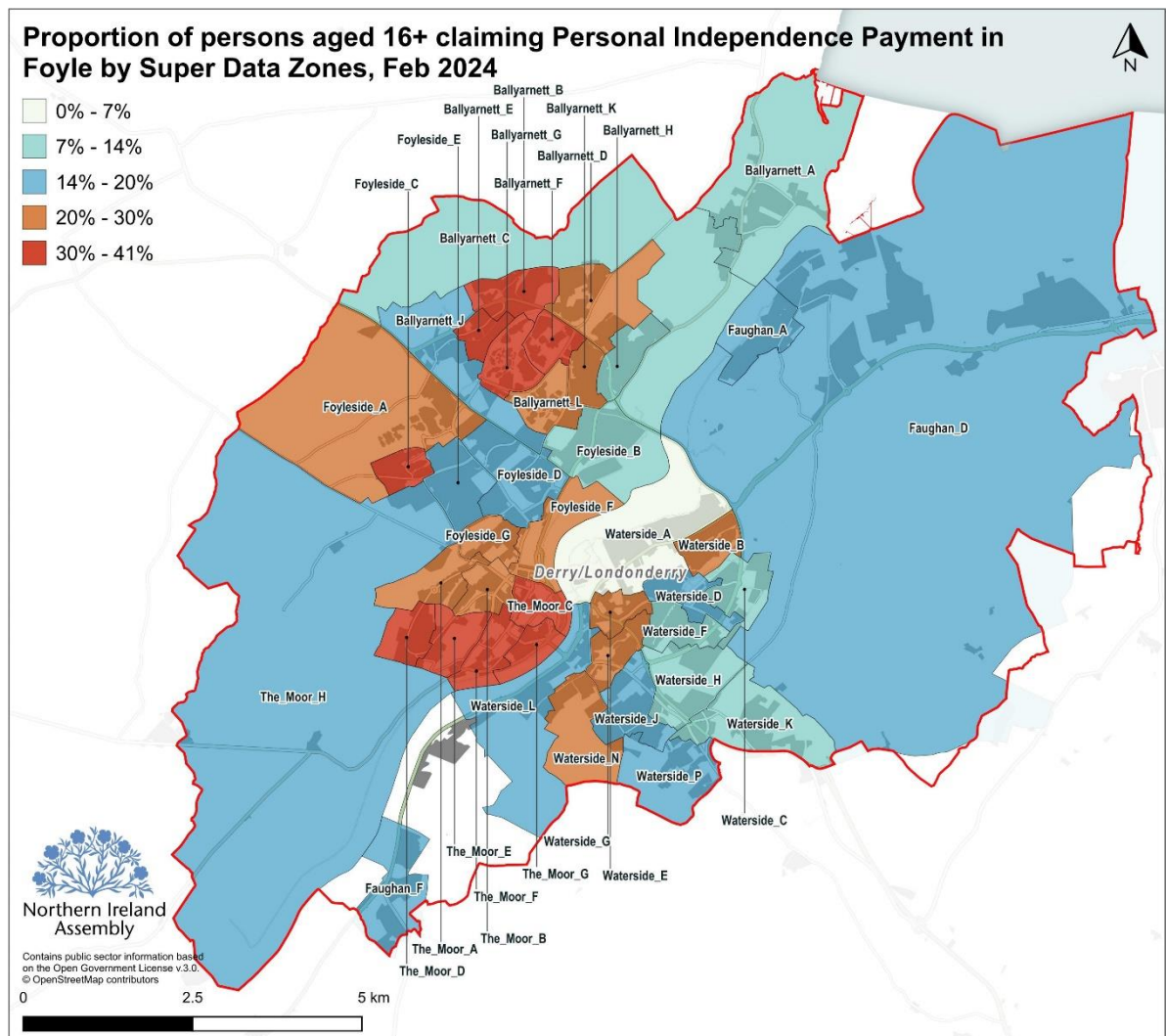
Foyle has the second highest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with nearly one in four (22.5%) of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 42 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.1 per cent in Waterside\_A to a peak of 40.9 per cent in Ballyarnett\_B (Table 11). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in 17 of the 46 SDZs.

In The Moor\_C, a total of 500 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 42.3 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by The Moor\_F (39.4%), and The Moor\_D (34.1%).



**Table 11: FOYLE**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Ballyarnett_B	610	800	40.9	31.9
The_Moor_D	780	980	39.0	34.1
The_Moor_F	650	850	37.1	39.4
The_Moor_C	380	500	36.1	42.3
Foyleside_C	610	770	34.9	32.7
Ballyarnett_F	540	730	34.5	35.5
Ballyarnett_E	470	610	34.2	27.5
Ballyarnett_G	720	930	33.8	33.3
The_Moor_E	410	560	33.8	37.0
The_Moor_G	460	590	30.6	34.2



## 2.11 Lagan Valley

Lagan Valley has the second lowest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 10.5 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 48 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 4.4 per cent in Downshire East\_E to a peak of 24.2 per cent in Lisburn South\_B (Table 12). Overall, there is no SDZ where the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher.

In Lisburn North\_A, a total of 400 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 29.7 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Lisburn South\_D (26.3%), and Lisburn South\_B (25.6%).

**Table 12: LAGAN VALLEY**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Lisburn_South_B	440	630	24.2	25.6
Lisburn_South_K	410	620	21.5	23.7
Downshire_East_B	270	420	21.3	24.9
Lisburn_North_A	240	400	19.5	29.7
Lisburn_South_D	310	530	18.6	26.3
Lisburn_North_K	340	540	18.2	24.0
Lisburn_North_J	280	430	15.9	19.5
Lisburn_South_H	330	590	15.6	22.8
Lisburn_South_J	300	520	15.2	22.1
Lisburn_North_C	330	550	14.4	18.3

## 2.12 Mid Ulster

Mid Ulster is similar to the Northern Ireland average (14.3%) constituencies, with 13.2 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 39 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 7.7 per cent in Magherafelt\_C to a peak of 26.6 per cent in Torrent\_H (Table 13). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in one of the 39 SDZs.

In Torrent\_H, a total of 830 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.2 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Cookstown\_C (26.1%), and Magherafelt\_B (23.5%).

**Table 13: MID ULSTER**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Torrent_H	570	830	26.6	30.2
Cookstown_C	440	670	21.5	26.1
Magherafelt_B	450	660	20.3	23.5
Cookstown_F	330	510	18.7	23.0
Carntogher_F	280	480	18.3	25.8
Torrent_A	390	650	17.7	22.3
Torrent_C	290	500	16.3	21.3
Moyola_F	270	460	15.3	19.5
Torrent_F	420	640	14.8	17.0
Cookstown_E	260	460	14.7	18.9

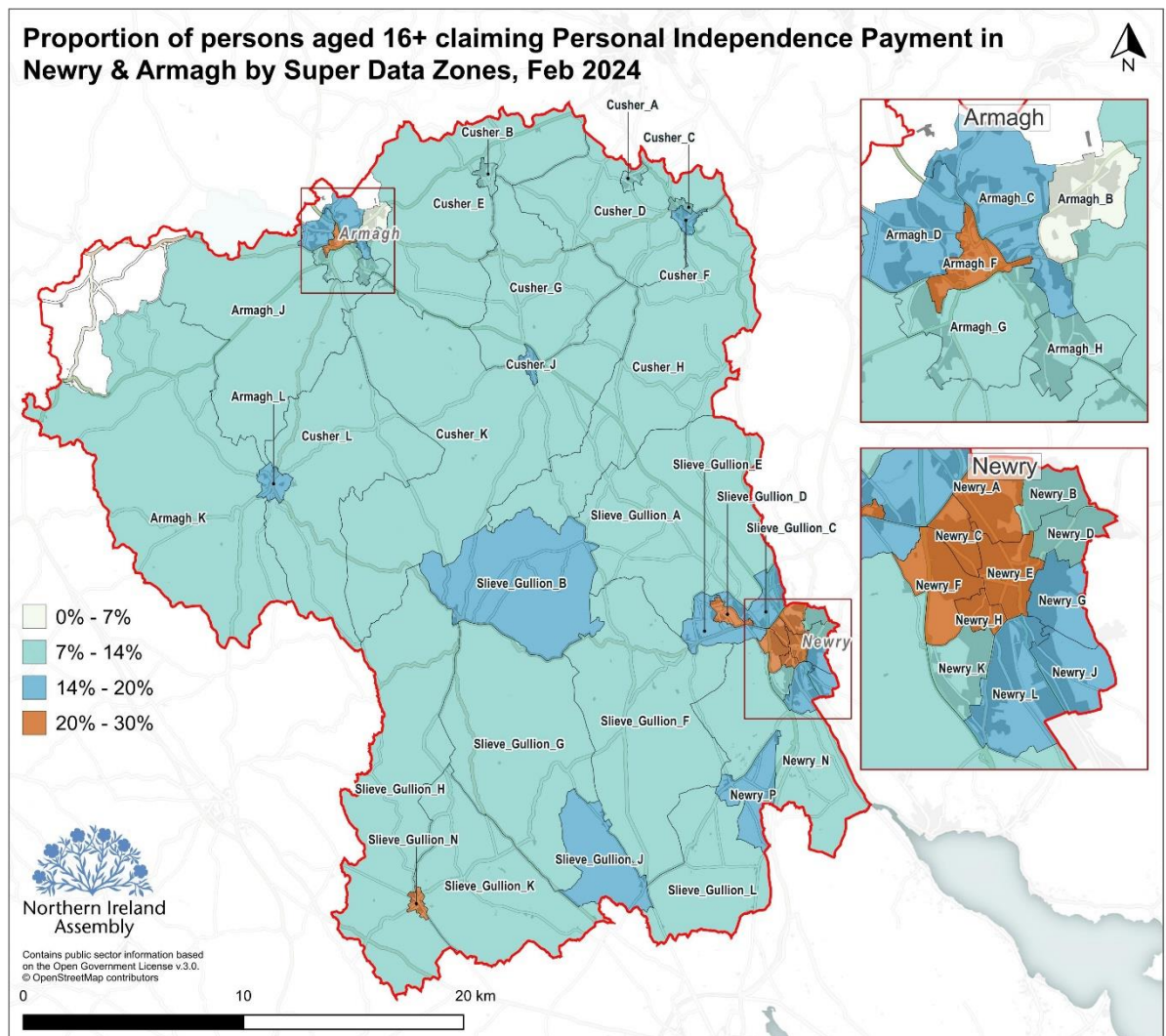
## 2.13 Newry and Armagh

In terms of PIP claimants, Newry and Armagh matches the Northern Ireland average, with 14.3 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 45 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.8 per cent in Armagh\_B to a peak of 27.6 per cent in Newry\_F (Table 14). In terms of PIP awards, the top 10 Super Data Zones in the constituency are spread across three of the four DEAs in the constituency. Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in two of the 45 SDZs.

In Newry\_C, a total of 490 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 31.3 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Newry\_H (30.6%), and Armagh\_F (27.8%).

**Table 14: NEWRY AND ARMAGH**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Newry_F	440	610	27.1	27.6
Newry_C	330	490	25.8	31.3
Newry_H	310	490	23.5	30.6
Armagh_F	450	640	23.4	27.8
Newry_E	380	550	22.5	26.3
Slieve_Gullion_D	400	590	22.2	24.8
Slieve_Gullion_N	250	380	21.4	24.3
Newry_A	450	700	20.1	24.9
Armagh_D	490	750	17.9	20.8
Newry_G	300	490	17.9	24.5



## 2.14 North Antrim

With 13.2 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit, the proportion of PIP claimants in North Antrim is close to the Northern Ireland figure of 14.3 per cent (Table 1). There are 46 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.4 per cent in Ballymena\_F to a peak of 26.4 per cent in Ballymena\_A (Table 15). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in three of the 46 SDZs.

In Ballymoney\_D, a total of 600 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.8 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Braid\_G (28.1%), and Ballymena\_A (27.5%).

**Table 15: NORTH ANTRIM**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Ballymena_A	370	520	26.4	27.5
Braid_G	460	650	25.5	28.1
Ballymoney_D	390	600	24.7	30.8
Ballymena_H	390	570	22.1	25.4
Ballymena_J	200	280	20.7	24.0
Causeway_C	190	300	18.8	24.5
The_Glens_B	400	660	18.7	25.7
Ballymena_G	370	530	18.0	20.5
Causeway_L	380	570	16.8	19.9
Ballymoney_E	300	490	16.7	22.5

## 2.15 North Down

North Down has the third smallest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 10.6 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 47 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 2.8 per cent in Holywood and Clondeboy\_K to a peak of 29.2 per cent in Bangor Central\_N (Table 16). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in two of the 45 SDZs.



In Bangor Central\_N, a total of 490 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.2 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Bangor West\_H (27.4%), and Bangor Central\_K (26.4%).

**Table 16: NORTH DOWN**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Bangor_Central_N	370	490	29.2	30.2
Bangor_West_H	490	730	24.6	27.4
Bangor_Central_K	380	530	24.4	26.4
Bangor_Central_L	320	480	19.9	23.0
Bangor_East_and_Donaghadee_J	370	630	18.0	25.6
Ards_Peninsula_A	350	580	17.6	22.6
Bangor_Central_H	190	330	16.0	23.7
Holywood_and_Clandeboyne_L	320	510	15.6	19.5
Ormiston_A	220	370	14.0	19.1
Bangor_West_F	220	350	12.6	16.7

## 2.16 South Antrim

South Antrim has the fifth smallest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 12.2 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 45 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.1 per cent in Airport\_C to a peak of 24.3 per cent in Antrim\_K (Table 17). Overall, in none of the SDZs is the proportion of PIP recipients 25 per cent or higher.

In Antrim\_K, a total of 610 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 28.7 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Ballyclare\_C (26.9%), and Antrim\_F (26.0%).



**Table 17: SOUTH ANTRIM**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Antrim_K	400	610	24.3	28.7
Antrim_E	290	430	22.3	25.7
Ballyclare_C	420	650	21.9	26.9
Antrim_F	360	570	20.8	26.0
Antrim_H	220	320	20.7	23.7
Three_Mile_Water_F	290	470	20.4	25.2
Glengormley_Urban_A	240	370	20.2	24.4
Airport_H	400	590	18.3	20.7
Three_Mile_Water_A	310	520	17.1	22.7
Dunsilly_D	410	630	16.6	20.9

## 2.17 South Down

With 13.3 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit, the proportion of PIP claimants in South Down is close to the Northern Ireland figure of 14.3 per cent (Table 1). There are 44 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.4 per cent in Crotlieve\_F to a peak of 30.6 per cent in The Mourne\_B (Table 18). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in three of the 44 SDZs.

In The Mourne\_B, a total of 660 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing just over a third (34.2%) of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Downpatrick\_E (31.7%), and Downpatrick\_G (29.4%).

**Table 18: SOUTH DOWN**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
The_Mourne_B	440	660	30.6	34.2
Downpatrick_G	490	700	28.4	29.4
Downpatrick_E	450	730	24.9	31.7
The_Mourne_N	330	520	20.6	24.4
Downpatrick_J	260	410	19.5	23.8

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Slieve_Croob_J	340	530	17.5	20.7
Crotlieve_K	390	630	16.9	22.5
Downpatrick_K	210	340	16.5	21.0
The_Mournes_D	310	600	15.6	24.9
The_Mournes_H	250	410	15.5	19.8

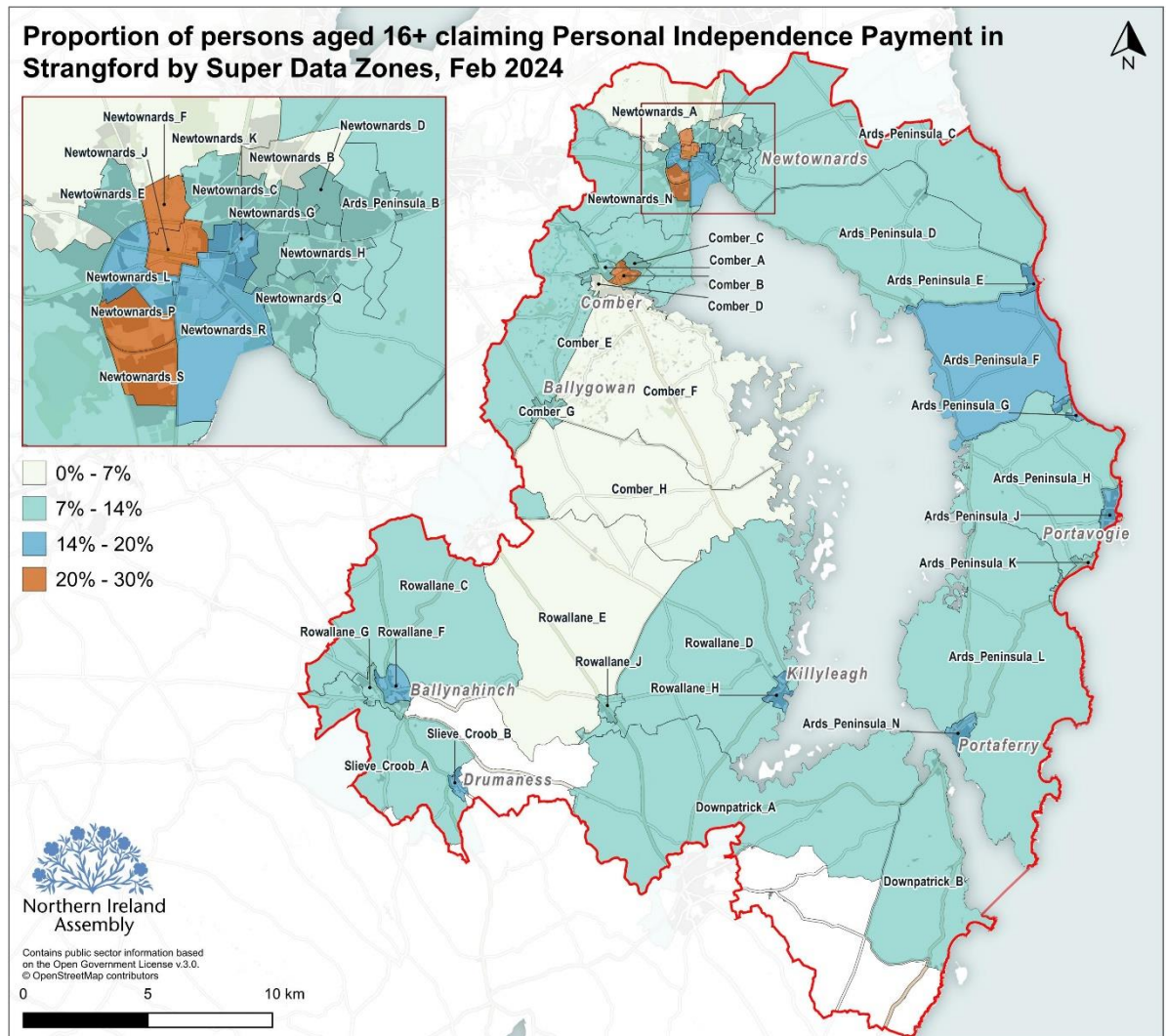
## 2.18 Strangford

With 12.5 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit, the proportion of PIP claimants in Strangford is less than the Northern Ireland figure of 14.3 per cent (Table 1). There are 46 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.8 per cent in Comber\_F to a peak of 22.6 per cent in Newtownards\_S (Table 19). In terms of PIP awards, six of the top 10 super data zones in the constituency are located in the Newtownards DEA. Overall, in none of the 46 SDZs is the proportion of PIP recipients 25 per cent or higher.

In Newtownards\_J, a total of 540 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 32.4 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Newtownards\_P (28.7%), and Newtownards\_S (27.9%).

**Table 19: STRANGFORD**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Newtownards_S	400	640	22.6	27.9
Newtownards_J	320	540	22.4	32.4
Newtownards_P	280	460	22.0	28.7
Comber_B	370	640	20.1	28.0
Newtownards_F	260	400	20.0	22.2
Newtownards_R	220	360	20.0	27.4
Ards_Peninsula_N	360	570	18.3	24.1
Slieve_Croob_B	170	270	16.9	20.4
Newtownards_K	180	300	16.4	22.6
Ards_Peninsula_E	270	470	16.2	23.2



## 2.19 Upper Bann

With 13.9 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit, the proportion of PIP claimants in Upper Bann is similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 14.3 per cent (Table 1). There are 54 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.1 per cent in Craigavon N to a peak of 29.9 per cent in Craigavon\_E (Table 20). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in five of the 54 SDZs.

In Lurgan\_L, a total of 560 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 39.3 per cent of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Banbridge\_G (33.9%), and Craigavon\_E (32.5%).

**Table 20: UPPER BANN**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Craigavon_E	570	840	29.9	32.5
Lurgan_L	360	560	29.8	39.3
Banbridge_G	360	530	28.1	33.9
Portadown_D	460	640	25.5	26.8
Lurgan_E	570	820	25.2	28.7
Lurgan_R	460	700	22.8	27.9
Banbridge_D	530	760	22.5	26.0
Lurgan_G	270	420	20.8	27.1
Portadown_G	330	500	20.3	24.7
Craigavon_D	240	360	19.6	21.6

## 2.20 West Tyrone

West Tyrone has the fourth largest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 17.1 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit (Table 1). There are 42 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 9.4 per cent in Sperrin\_F to a peak of 35.6 per cent in Omagh\_B (Table 21). Overall, there are six SDZs where the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher.

In Sperrin\_H, a total of 940 persons are in receipt of at least one key disability benefit, representing a third (33.3%) of the total population of the super data zone, followed by Sperrin\_G (32.8%) and Omagh\_B (32.4%).

**Table 21: WEST TYRONE**

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Omagh_B	310	390	35.6	32.4
Sperrin_G	600	880	28.8	32.8
West_Tyrone_D	260	360	26.3	29.0
Derg_E	280	440	25.2	31.5
Sperrin_H	580	940	25.2	33.3
Sperrin_E	290	420	25.0	30.7

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Derg_F	540	890	22.5	29.8
Derg_B	350	560	22.1	28.2
Omagh_D	320	530	21.3	31.5
Omagh_H	490	710	20.4	23.6

## 2.21 Conflict-related Trauma: a Causal Factor?

It is beyond the scope of this Paper to attempt to explain the reasons underlying the high levels of disability evident in DEAs such as Oldpark, or to attribute causality to any single factor. But the dark legacy from conflict-related violence may be one of a number of implicating factors.

A recent review of the [Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme](#) (2024) by the Northern Ireland Office acknowledged the long-term impact of conflict-related trauma:

“But the legacy of the Troubles still casts a long shadow over many aspects of people’s lives. Approximately 3,500 people were killed and an estimated 40,000 people were injured during that awful period in our history. It is clear that the hurt and suffering caused by decades of terrible violence has had, and continues to have, a profound and deep-rooted impact, not just on individuals but on generations of families in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and beyond.” (NIO, 29 August 2024, p. 3).

In a [major study by researchers from Queen’s University Belfast](#) (Walsh and Bunting *et al*, 2025) it was found that 17.6 per cent of the adult population (aged 18+) report having four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)<sup>3</sup>, which carry an elevated risk of physical and mental health conditions. Further, 30 per cent reported conflict-specific factors, including witnessing violence (47.5%), receiving paramilitary threats (12.2%), and conflict-related bereavement (8.7%). In a key finding, it was discovered

<sup>3</sup> According to the authors, “**Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACEs) encompass various forms of abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction occurring before the age of 18. They can also involve exposure to violence, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Globally, ACEs are recognised as significant determinants of health, educational, and social outcomes across the life-course, with higher exposure to adversity during childhood correlating to poorer outcomes across physical and mental health, substance use, and behavioural trajectories.” (p. 7). See Walsh, Colm & Bunting, Lisa & Davidson, Professor & Doherty, Dr & McCartan, Dr & Mulholland, Dr & Shevlin, Professor. (2025). *The Prevalence and Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Northern Ireland*. Queen’s University Belfast.

that ACEs and Troubles/conflict-related factors “were disproportionately concentrated in deprived communities” (p. 9).

It may be no co-incidence, therefore, that the constituencies which experienced the most intense levels of violence during the Troubles (Belfast North, Belfast West, and Foyle) are also the ones with the highest concentration of persons with a disability.

### 3 Summary and Conclusion

In March 2025, the Department for Work and Pensions (GB) announced proposals for significant changes to the eligibility rules governing PIP and the health element of Universal Credit. Essentially, the rule changes will make it more difficult for people to claim the benefit.

The aim of the present paper was to identify those areas in each of the 18 constituencies which have the highest concentration of PIP claimants and are, thus, most vulnerable to being adversely affected by the proposals. A subsidiary objective was, in addition to PIP, to explore take-up of the other two key disability benefits, namely DLA and Attendance Allowance. This provides a more comprehensive overview of the population’s reliance on disability payments in general than PIP alone would reveal.

It was found there is a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.5 per cent of persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 25.6 per cent in Belfast West. The constituencies of Foyle (22.5%) and Belfast North (20.1%) also have a large proportion of PIP recipients. Other parliamentary constituencies where the proportion of PIP recipients is higher than the Northern Ireland average (14.3%) include East Londonderry and West Tyrone

Examining the Super Data Zones (small areas within each constituency), there are fifteen (out of 18) parliamentary constituencies where a minimum of 25 per cent of the resident population aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP in at least one SDZ. In Belfast West, Foyle and Belfast North there are a significant number of SDZs where over 30 per cent of the adult population are in receipt of PIP. In some parts of Oldpark DEA, over 40 per cent of the entire population (including children) of specific SDZs are in receipt of either DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance. Overall, there are a substantial number of

SDZs where at least 25 per cent of the entire population (including children) are claiming one of those three benefits.

Conflict-related trauma may be one of a number of implicating factors in the high take-up of disability benefits, including PIP, in Northern Ireland. This is particularly the case in constituencies which experienced intense levels of violence during the “Troubles”. A recent study by researchers at Queen’s University Belfast (2025) found that Adverse Children Experiences (ACEs) and conflict-related adversities were disproportionately concentrated in deprived communities here.

In summary, given the large uptake of disability benefits in general here, as outlined in this paper, Northern Ireland is extremely vulnerable to any changes to the eligibility criteria for PIP.