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Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and other Disability Benefits in Northern Ireland: an Analysis by Parliamentary Constituency

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This paper, which updates NIAR 120-25, provides an annual review of the spatial distribution of disability claimants across the 18 parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland. Particular emphasis is placed upon Personal Independence Payments (PIP), because this has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as the main working age benefit for persons with a disability. The paper is published in advance of the ongoing Timms Review of PIP which is due to report in late 2026.

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

- This is the second paper in an annual series on the spatial distribution of disability benefit claimants across the 18 parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland. It is published in advance of the current fundamental review of the key disability benefit – Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – by Sir Stephen Timms, which is due to report in late 2026.
- The Government's primary rationale for reforming PIP is to reduce spending on disability benefits and 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.
- At 28 February 2026, there were 229,620 claimants in receipt of the benefit in Northern Ireland, 42% (96,900) of whom were awarded the enhanced rate for both the daily living and mobility components.
- The main disabling conditions for PIP in Northern Ireland are psychiatric disorders (46%), musculoskeletal diseases (31%) and neurological illnesses (9%).
- PIP uptake is substantially higher in Northern Ireland than in other parts of the UK. In February 2026, 14.9 per cent of the population aged 16 and over here are recipients of PIP, compared with 7.9 per cent in England and Wales (April 2026).
- 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 greatest impact of any new policy which arises from the Timms Review.

- 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 (DEA) 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 2025) 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: Disability Living Allowance (DLA), PIP, or Attendance Allowance (AA) in February 2025, at the Super Data Zone level.

Findings

- There is a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.8 per cent of persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 26.8 per cent in Belfast West. The constituencies of Foyle (23.1%) and Belfast North (20.8%) also have a high proportion of PIP recipients. Other Parliamentary Constituencies where the proportion of PIP recipients is higher than the Northern Ireland average (14.9%) include West Tyrone and East Londonderry.
- There are 850 Super Data Zones in Northern Ireland, and the proportion of PIP claimants aged 16+ ranges from a low of 1.9 per cent in Botanic_Q (Belfast South and Mid Down) to a peak of 40.8 per cent in Court_S (Belfast West). In total, there are 109 SDZs, with a combined population of 222,753, where at least 25 per cent of those aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP.
- The Paper also looks at those persons who are claiming one of the three key disability benefits (DLA, PIP, or AA). Generally speaking, children aged under 16 are eligible for DLA; working age adults receive PIP; and older adults (aged 65+) can claim AA. It was found that Oldpark_T has the largest proportion of persons claiming one of the three disability benefits, accounting for 45.8 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 nine SDZs where at least 40 per cent of the entire population (including children) are in receipt of one of the three key disability benefits.

- In at least one SDZ in sixteen (out of 18) constituencies, a minimum of 25 per cent of the resident population aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP. The exceptions are Fermanagh and South Tyrone 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 SDZs 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 eight of the top ten SDZs in respect of PIP awards, ranging between 29 – 40 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) in 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 factors may include genetic inheritance, age-related deterioration and accidents.
- With a substantial number of adults in Northern Ireland receiving a proportion of their income from PIP, particularly in certain constituencies, any changes to the eligibility criteria arising from the Timms Review could have important consequences.

Note

The Paper links to an interactive map, which shows the distribution of PIP recipients at constituency and Super Data Zone level across Northern Ireland. The map can be viewed [here](#).

1 Introduction

This is the second paper in an annual series which reviews the spatial distribution of disability benefits across the 18 parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland. 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 Government's primary rationale for reforming Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is to reduce spending on disability benefits and to target support more effectively to those with the highest needs, while ensuring the system remains sustainable in the longer term. Over the past five years, the number of working-age people receiving disability benefits [has risen substantially](#), from 2.1 million in 2019–20 to 3.4 million in January 2026, adding additional costs to the welfare budget.

The proposed changes, which would have made it more difficult for people with less severe conditions to claim the disability payment, were due to come into force for new and existing claimants in November 2026. Henceforth, under the new assessment criteria, claimants would have to achieve at least four points in a 'Daily Living' category. The reform proposals raised particular concerns in Northern Ireland, by organisations such as the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) (JRF), due to the [higher uptake](#) of disability benefits here and, thus, the potential impact on claimants and carers.

On 30 June 2025, at the Second Reading of the Universal Credit Bill in the House of Commons, the Government announced it would introduce amendments so that the [controversial 4-point rule would only apply to new PIP claimants](#) and not existing claimants.

On 1 July 2025, the Government went further. It recognised that planned changes to PIP eligibility [did not have the support of Parliament](#), and instead announced a fundamental review of PIP, to be conducted by Sir Stephen Timms. The Government will only make changes to PIP eligibility rules following the Timms Review, which is due to report to Parliament in late 2026. [Emerging recommendations](#) lean toward reducing unnecessary reviews for lifelong conditions, improving PIP forms, and retaining non-means-tested cash awards.

1.1 What is PIP?

The [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.

There are two rates of payment, **standard** and **enhanced**. The difference is based upon the severity of the person's disabilities, determined by the points scored during the assessment process. Standard rates are awarded for moderate difficulties, while enhanced rates provide higher financial support for more severe or significant challenges. For the 2026/27 year, the maximum award (the enhanced rate for both components) is £194.60 per week.

At [28 February 2026](#), there were 229,620 claimants in receipt of the benefit in Northern Ireland, 42% (96,900) of whom were awarded the enhanced rate for both the daily living and mobility components.

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 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 three disability benefits (DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance) concurrently.

Currently, Northern Ireland has a considerably higher uptake of PIP awards than England and Wales (Scotland has its own benefit system which is not directly comparable). In February 2026, 14.9 per cent of the population aged 16 and over were recipients of PIP, compared with [7.9 per cent in England and Wales](#) (April 2026). Of the 229,620 awards in February 2026, psychiatric disorders (mental illness) accounts for nearly half (46%) 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 (31%) and neurological disorders (9%).

1.2 Scope of the Present Paper

This Paper adopts the same methodology as the previous Paper (NIAR 120-25). 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,

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 persons to a peak of 4,077, with an average of 2,240 (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, NISRA have created a Lookup table which allocates SDZs to Parliamentary Constituencies. In brief, those Super Data Zones with more than half of

their geographical area within a given constituency boundary are allocated to that constituency.

1.4 The Data

Three data sets have been used for this analysis, namely annual benefits data for SDZs (February 2025) from the Department for Communities (DfC); PIP statistics for Northern Ireland (February 2026); and mid-year population estimates for small areas (June 2024). At the time of writing (September 2026) these data sets are the most up-to-date available at the Super Data Zone level.

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 2025) 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: PIP, DLA, or Attendance Allowance (February 2025), 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 zoom function enables users to focus right down to street level in each Super Data Zone. 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, 2023. 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 28 February 2026. In Northern Ireland, there were 229,620 recipients, representing 14.9 per cent of all persons aged 16+.

The table reveals a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.8 per cent of all persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 26.8 per cent in Belfast West. With over 18,100 recipients each, Foyle (23.8%) and Belfast North (20.8%) also have a large proportion of PIP recipients.

Table 1: PIP claims in payment by Parliamentary Constituency, February 2026
(pop. aged 16+)

Parliamentary Constituency	Total PIP recipients	Pop. 16+	% of 16+ pop.
Belfast West	21,650	80,635	26.8
Foyle	18,120	78,469	23.1
Belfast North	18,100	86,855	20.8
West Tyrone	13,900	79,183	17.6
Newry and Armagh	13,160	86,966	15.1
East Londonderry	12,670	83,947	15.1
Upper Bann	14,130	98,489	14.3
Belfast East	11,730	84,374	13.9
North Antrim	11,590	84,194	13.8
South Down	11,440	83,129	13.8
Mid Ulster	11,310	82,765	13.7
Strangford	10,710	81,243	13.2
East Antrim	10,190	80,376	12.7
South Antrim	10,950	86,880	12.6
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	11,040	88,483	12.5
Lagan Valley	10,120	90,554	11.2
North Down	8,970	81,452	11.0
Belfast South and Mid Down	9,240	105,179	8.8
Not Listed	600		
Northern Ireland	229,620	1,543,173	14.9

Source: Department for Communities, [PIP Statistics – February 2026](#) (Table 8)

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

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 1.9 per cent in Botanic_Q (Belfast South and Mid Down) to a peak of 40.8 per cent in Court_S (Belfast West). In total, there are 109 SDZs, with a combined population of 222,753, 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 Belfast West, three in Foyle, and three are located in Belfast North. Court_S has the largest proportion of PIP claimants of any SDZ in Northern Ireland (40.8%), followed by Oldpark_T (39.5%) and Court_G (39.4%).

Table 2: PIP awards by SDZ – Top 10 (February 2025)

SDZ	Parliamentary Constituency	Total PIP recipients	% PIP recipients (aged 16+)
Court_S	Belfast West	660	40.8
Oldpark_T	Belfast North	510	39.5
Court_G	Belfast West	380	39.4
Black_Mountain_A	Belfast West	910	39.1
Oldpark_S	Belfast North	470	38.7
The_Moor_D	Foyle	820	38.1
Oldpark_P	Belfast North	380	38.0
Black_Mountain_B	Belfast West	610	37.8
The_Moor_C	Foyle	430	37.2
The_Moor_F	Foyle	680	37.2

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

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, and three in Foyle.

Oldpark_T has the largest proportion of persons claiming one of the three key disability benefit (DLA, PIP or AA), accounting for 45.8 per cent of the entire population of the Super Data Zone. Next is Court_S (45.4%), followed by The Moor_C (42.4%). Overall, there are nine 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 2025)**

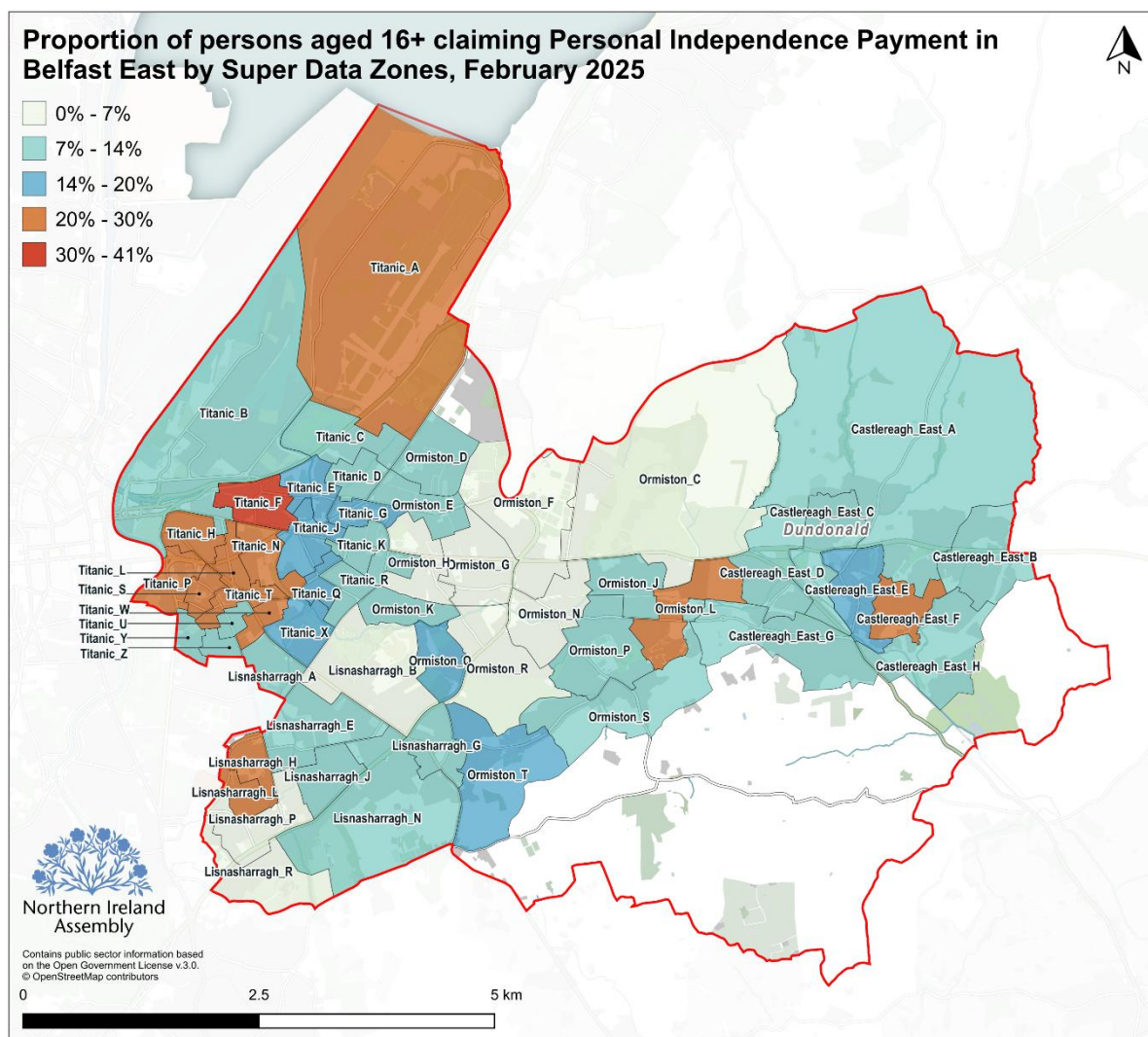
SDZ	Parliamentary Constituency	Persons claiming at least one Disability Benefit (All Persons)	% Persons claiming at least one Disability Benefit (All Persons)
Oldpark_T	Belfast North	720	45.8
Court_S	Belfast West	970	45.4
The_Moor_C	Foyle	550	42.4
Oldpark_P	Belfast North	550	42.0
Court_G	Belfast West	550	41.0
Oldpark_S	Belfast North	590	40.9
Black_Mountain_A	Belfast West	1,240	40.3
Black_Mountain_B	Belfast West	840	40.2
The_Moor_F	Foyle	890	39.6
The_Moor_D	Foyle	1,030	33.9

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.3 Belfast East

Belfast East contains 55 SDZs, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 3.4 per cent in Ormiston_C to a peak of 34.5 per cent in Titanic_F (Table 4). In terms of PIP awards, seven of the top 10 Super Data Zones are in the Titanic District Electoral Area (DEA), ranging from 22.6 per cent (Titanic_L) to 34.5 per cent (Titanic_F).

In Titanic_F, a total of 800 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 39.2 per cent of the total population (including children). Next are Titanic_N (32%), Titanic_H (30.6%), and Titanic_P (28.4%).

**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	550	800	34.5	39.2
Titanic_N	370	520	28.8	32.0
Titanic_H	510	730	28.7	30.6
Titanic_P	350	480	26.0	28.4
Titanic_T	380	510	24.9	26.8
Titanic_W	300	410	24.9	26.7
Ormiston_L	370	550	22.9	26.9
Titanic_L	310	410	22.6	23.6
Lisnasharragh_H	220	320	22.4	26.5
Castlereagh_East_F	380	610	21.4	27.3

2.4 Belfast North

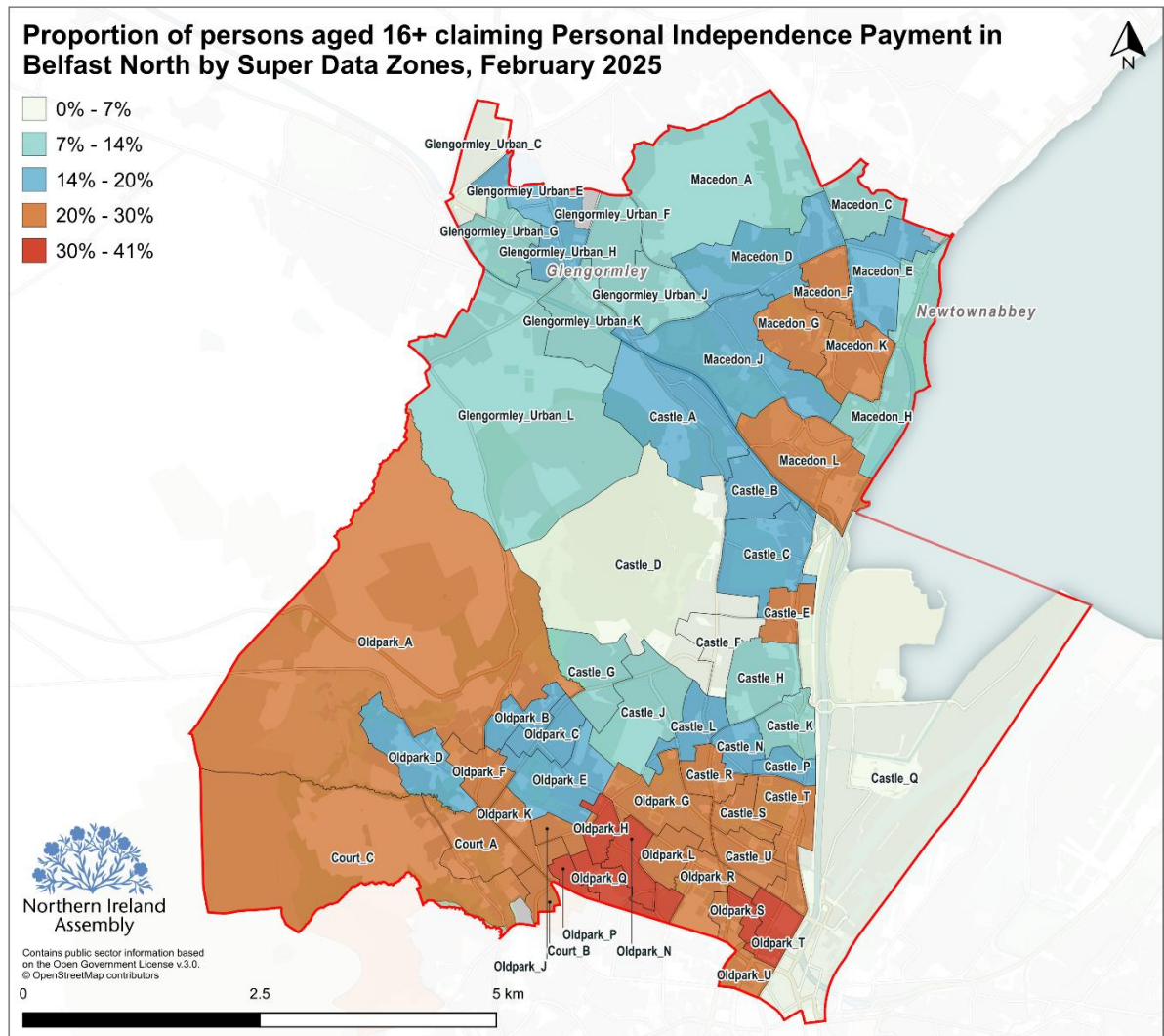
The high prevalence of disability in specific locations in Belfast North quickly becomes apparent when reviewing Table 5. There are 57 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.0 per cent in Castle_D to a peak of 39.5 per cent in Oldpark_T. In terms of PIP awards, eight of the top 10 Super Data Zones in the constituency are located in the Oldpark District Electoral Area, ranging from 28.8 per cent (Oldpark_L) to 39.5 per cent (Oldpark_T).

In Oldpark_T, a total of 720 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 45.8 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone (including children). Next is Oldpark_P (42%), followed by Oldpark_S (40.9%) and Oldpark_Q (37.5%).

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_T	510	720	39.5	45.8
Oldpark_S	470	590	38.7	40.9
Oldpark_P	380	550	38.0	42.0
Oldpark_N	620	850	36.6	36.1
Oldpark_Q	560	790	35.9	37.5
Oldpark_H	360	530	31.4	34.5
Oldpark_U	470	620	29.5	31.8
Castle_T	500	690	29.2	31.8
Macedon_G	450	600	28.9	31.7
Oldpark_L	510	720	28.8	31.1

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

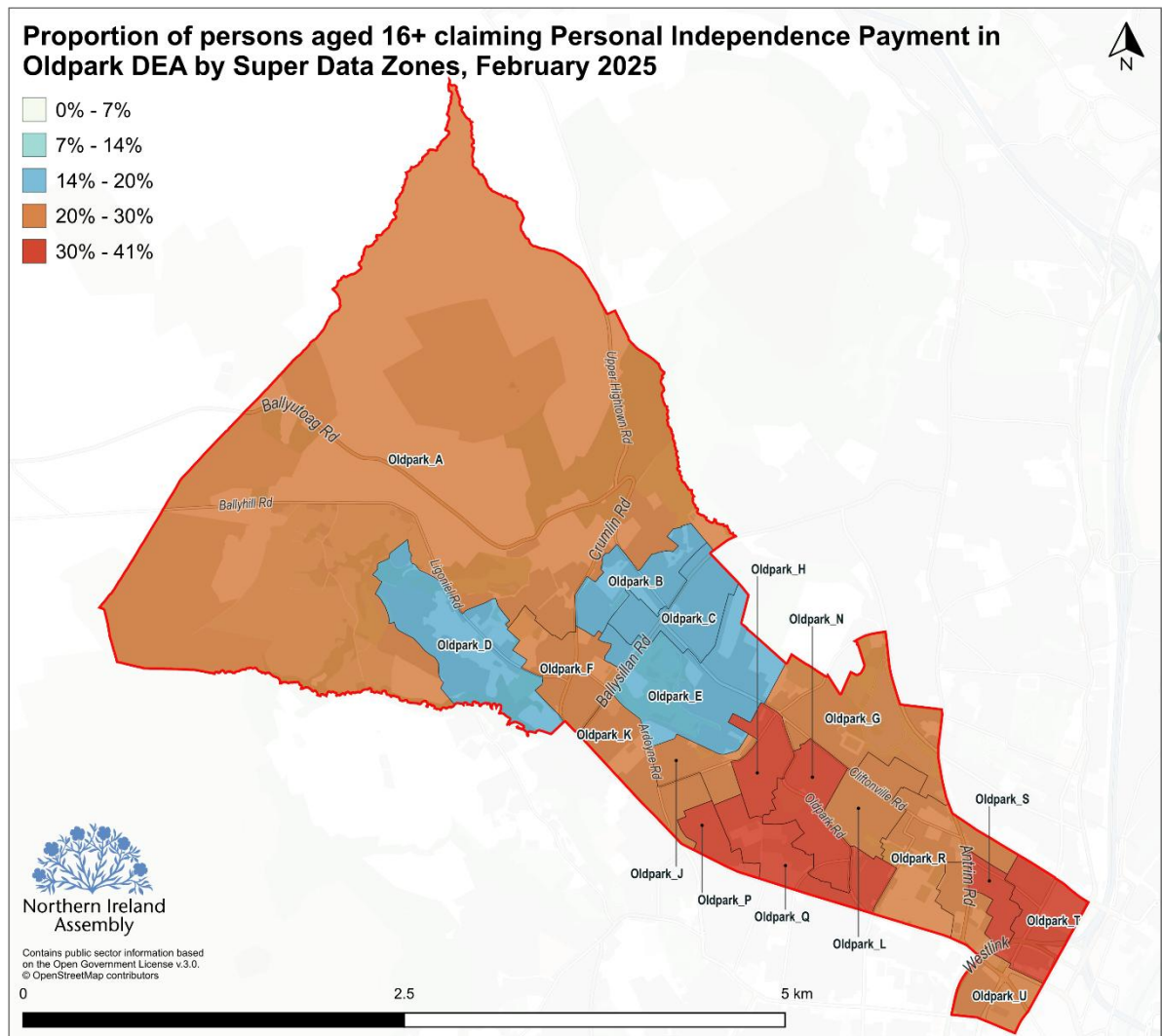


2.4.1 Oldpark District Electoral Area

Oldpark DEA is one example of a number of District Electoral Areas in Northern Ireland which are likely to be affected by any changes to 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, eight of the top ten SDZs for PIP recipients in Belfast North are situated in Oldpark DEA (see Table 5 above). In all eight, the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ is over 28 per cent, ranging from a low of 28.8 per cent

Oldpark_L) to 39.5 per cent (Oldpark_T)¹. When combined together, the Oldpark Super Data Zones yielded a total of 7,400 recipients of PIP at February 2025.



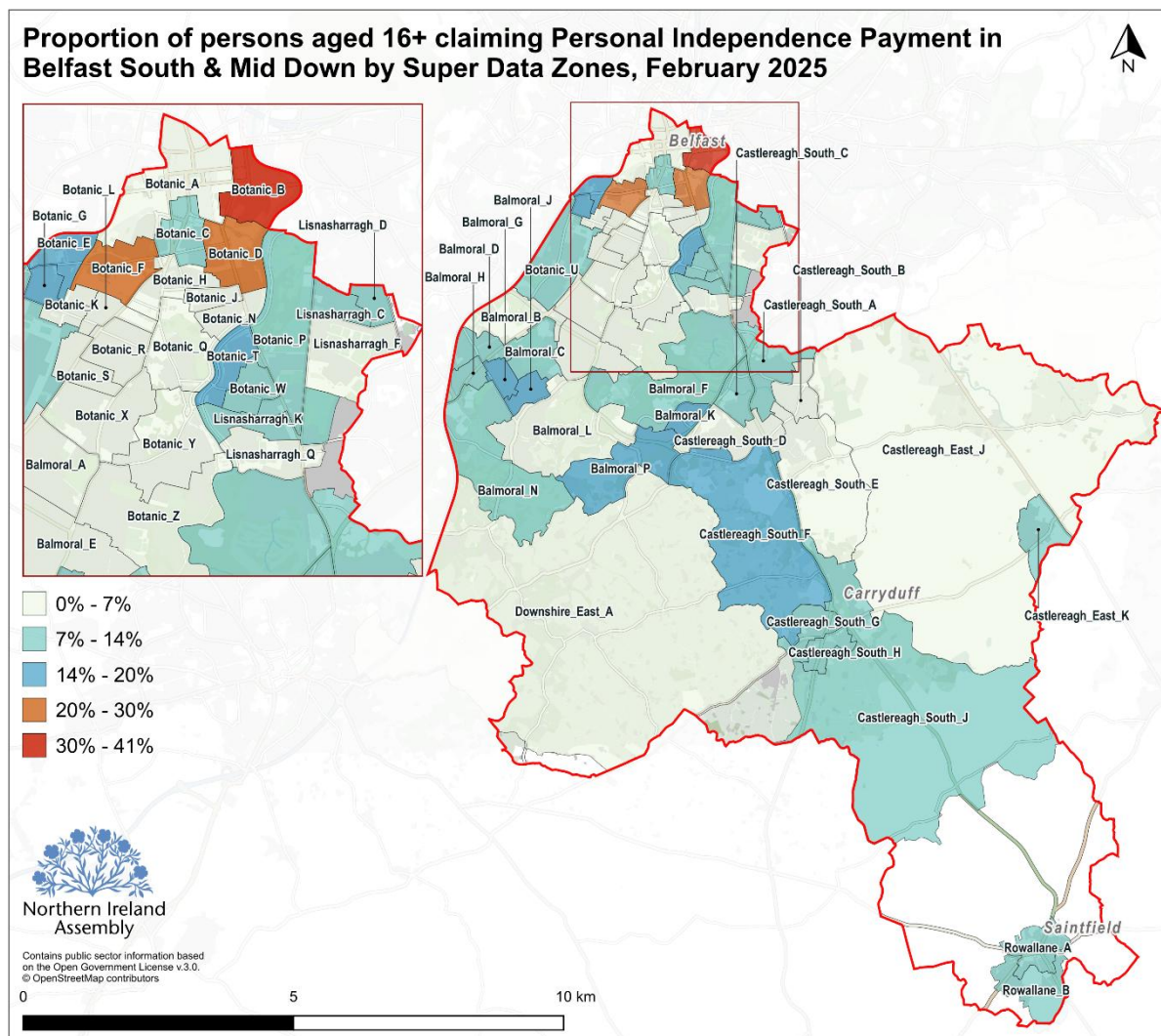
2.5 Belfast South

While Belfast South has the smallest proportion of PIP recipients across the 18 parliamentary constituencies (8.8%), 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 30.8 per cent in Botanic_B. In terms of PIP awards, six of the top 10 Super Data

¹ 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 30.8 per cent (Botanic_B) to 14.2 per cent (Botanic_T).

In Botanic_B, a total of 560 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 34.9 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone (including children). Next are Botanic_D (30.6%), and Botanic_F (23.5%).



N.B. The online interactive map of Belfast South is more detailed, providing a greater level of granularity.

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	400	560	30.8	34.9

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Botanic_D	410	570	28.1	30.6
Botanic_F	330	470	20.5	23.5
Botanic_G	250	350	19.0	20.9
Balmoral_K	210	320	17.9	22.2
Botanic_E	280	400	17.1	19.8
Balmoral_P	260	400	17.0	21.2
Balmoral_G	230	380	14.9	19.8
Balmoral_J	260	420	14.8	19.4
Botanic_T	210	290	14.2	16.3

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

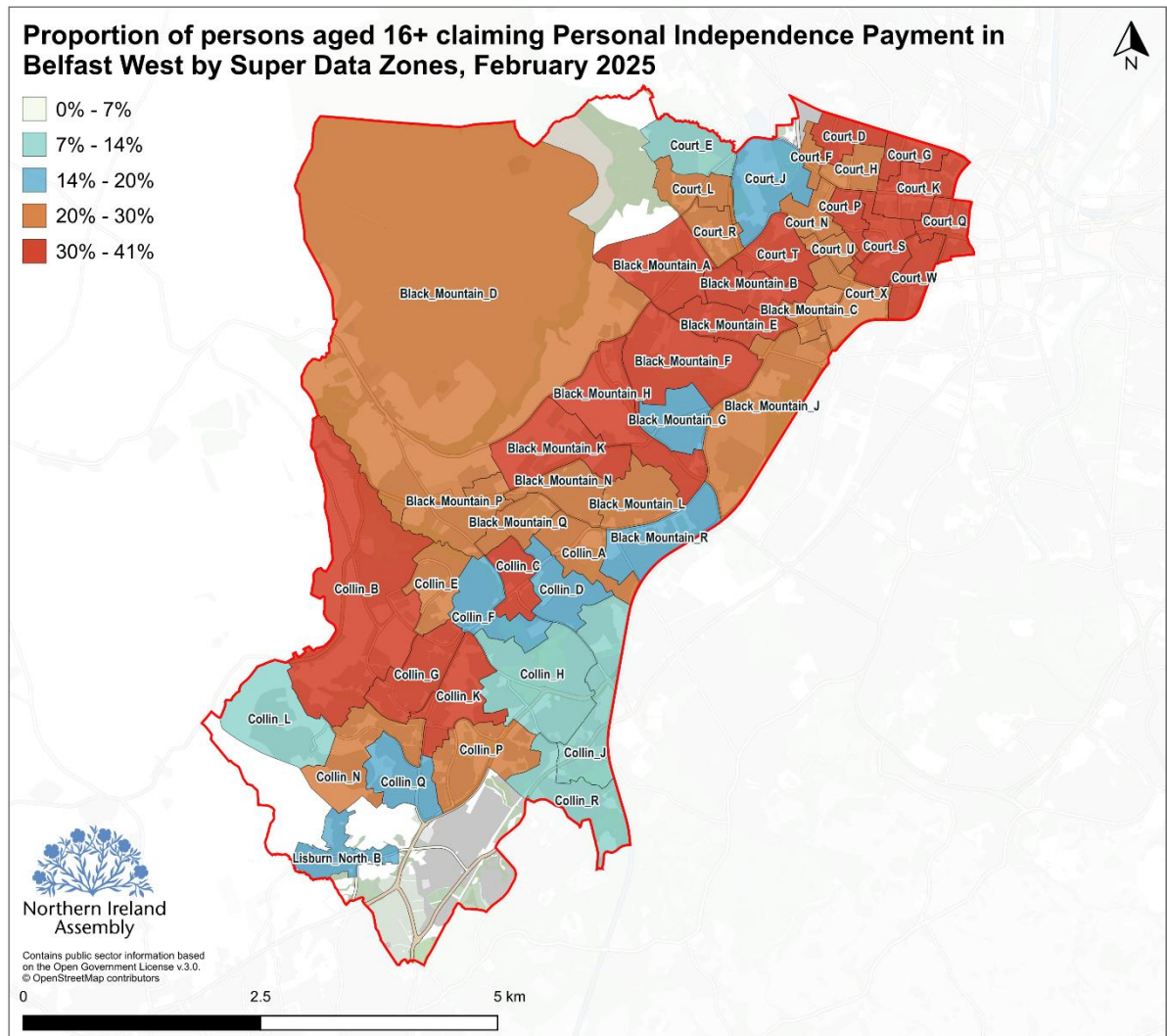
2.6 Belfast West

The Belfast West parliamentary constituency has the largest proportion of PIP recipients across the 18 constituencies, with over a quarter (26.8%) 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 11.8 per cent in Colin_L to a peak of 40.8 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, four in Court DEA and the remaining two in Colin DEA. Overall, in 31 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.

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	660	970	40.8	45.4
Court_G	380	550	39.4	41.0
Black_Mountain_A	910	1,240	39.1	40.3
Black_Mountain_B	610	840	37.8	40.2
Collin_B	740	1,030	36.6	34.4
Black_Mountain_F	650	890	36.3	38.2
Black_Mountain_E	630	890	35.7	38.5
Court_W	530	760	35.2	36.7
Court_Q	370	470	34.5	36.7
Collin_G	630	890	34.0	33.3

In Court_S, a total of 970 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 45.4 per cent of the total population (including children) of the Super Data Zone. Next are Court_G (41%), and Black Mountain_A (40.3%).



2.7 East Antrim

East Antrim has the sixth lowest proportion (12.7%) 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 4.4 per cent in Three Mile Water_E to a peak of 26.7 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 Carrick Castle_G a total of 620 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing a third (33.6%) of the total population (including children) of the Super Data Zone. Next are Coast Road_H (31.1%) and Knockagh_D (28%).

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	440	670	26.7	31.1
Carrick_Castle_G	380	620	23.1	33.6
Knockagh_D	250	400	22.9	28.0
Three_Mile_Water_J	250	380	21.8	25.8
Carrick_Castle_H	220	310	21.3	24.6
Knockagh_E	250	380	21.0	24.2
Coast_Road_E	330	550	20.0	27.7
Coast_Road_A	210	330	18.5	23.7
Larne_Lough_B	330	540	17.7	25.0
Knockagh_H	280	430	17.6	21.7

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.8 East Londonderry

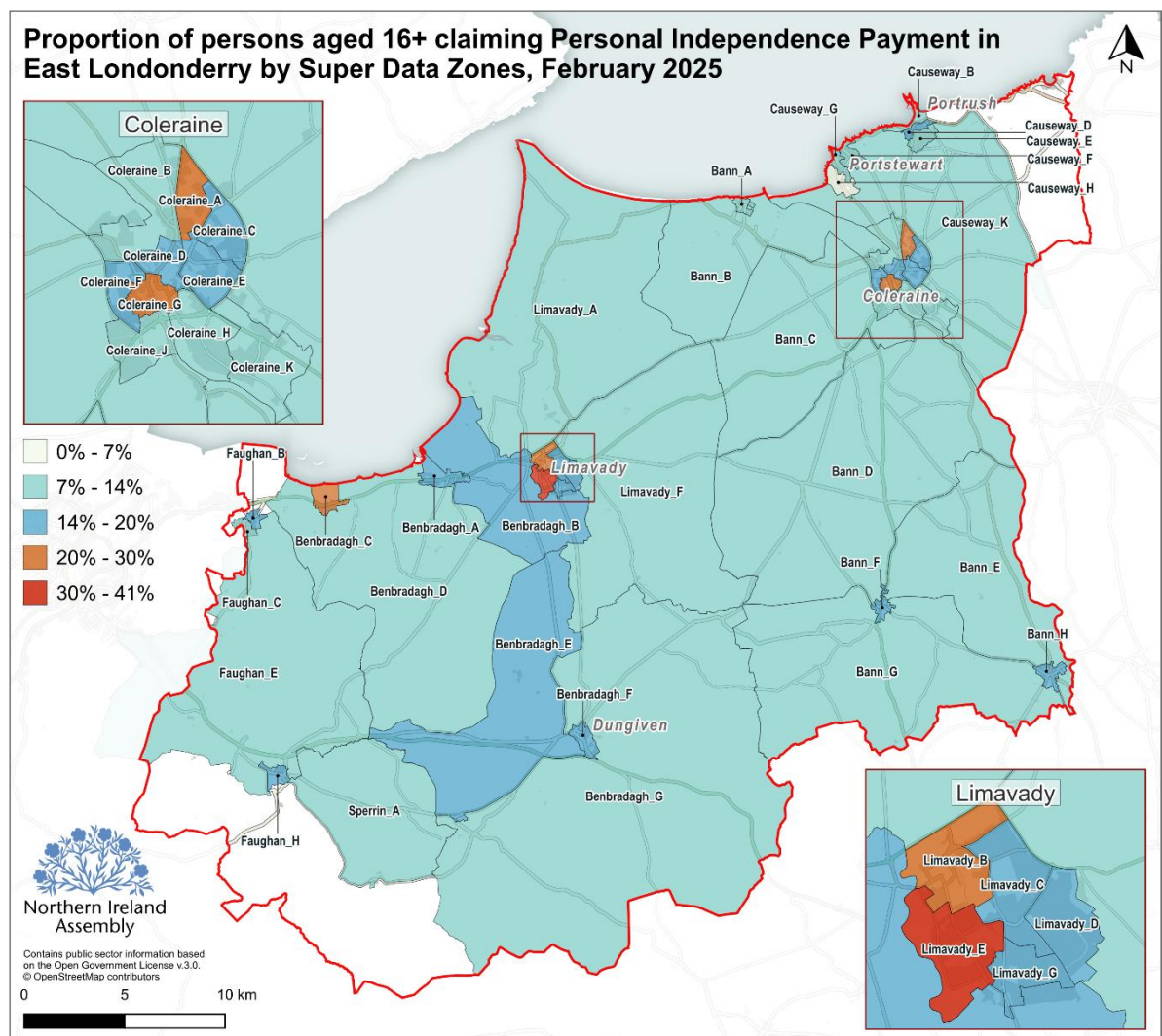
East Londonderry has the sixth highest proportion (15.1%) of PIP recipients across the 18 parliamentary constituencies (Table 1). There are 44 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5 per cent in Causeway_H to a peak of 31.5 per cent in Limavady_E (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 940 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing over a third (34.5%) of the total population of the Super Data Zone. Next are Limavady_B (31.6%), and Coleraine_A (30.9%).

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	680	940	31.5	34.5
Coleraine_A	570	860	27.3	30.9
Limavady_B	280	410	25.3	31.6
Coleraine_G	440	640	24.5	28.6

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Benbradagh_C	260	350	22.5	24.1
Coleraine_C	420	620	19.4	22.4
Coleraine_E	300	520	19.3	27.5
Benbradagh_F	480	760	18.9	22.7
Coleraine_D	210	370	18.8	28.5
Benbradagh_A	410	590	17.7	19.6



2.9 Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Fermanagh and South Tyrone has the fourth lowest proportion (12.5%) 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 7.7 per cent in Erne East_A to a peak of 22.8 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 770 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 28.4 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone. Next are Enniskillen_E (24.7%), and Erne East_D (23.6%).

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	510	770	22.8	28.4
Erne_East_D	440	710	18.9	23.6
Erne_North_D	350	550	18.6	22.8
Enniskillen_E	250	410	17.8	24.7
Erne_North_A	320	520	17.3	22.5
Erne_East_C	260	430	17.2	22.3
Dungannon_A	400	600	15.3	17.6
Erne_North_E	170	270	15.1	19.7
Erne_West_B	190	320	14.9	20.3
Enniskillen_D	280	440	14.4	17.7

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

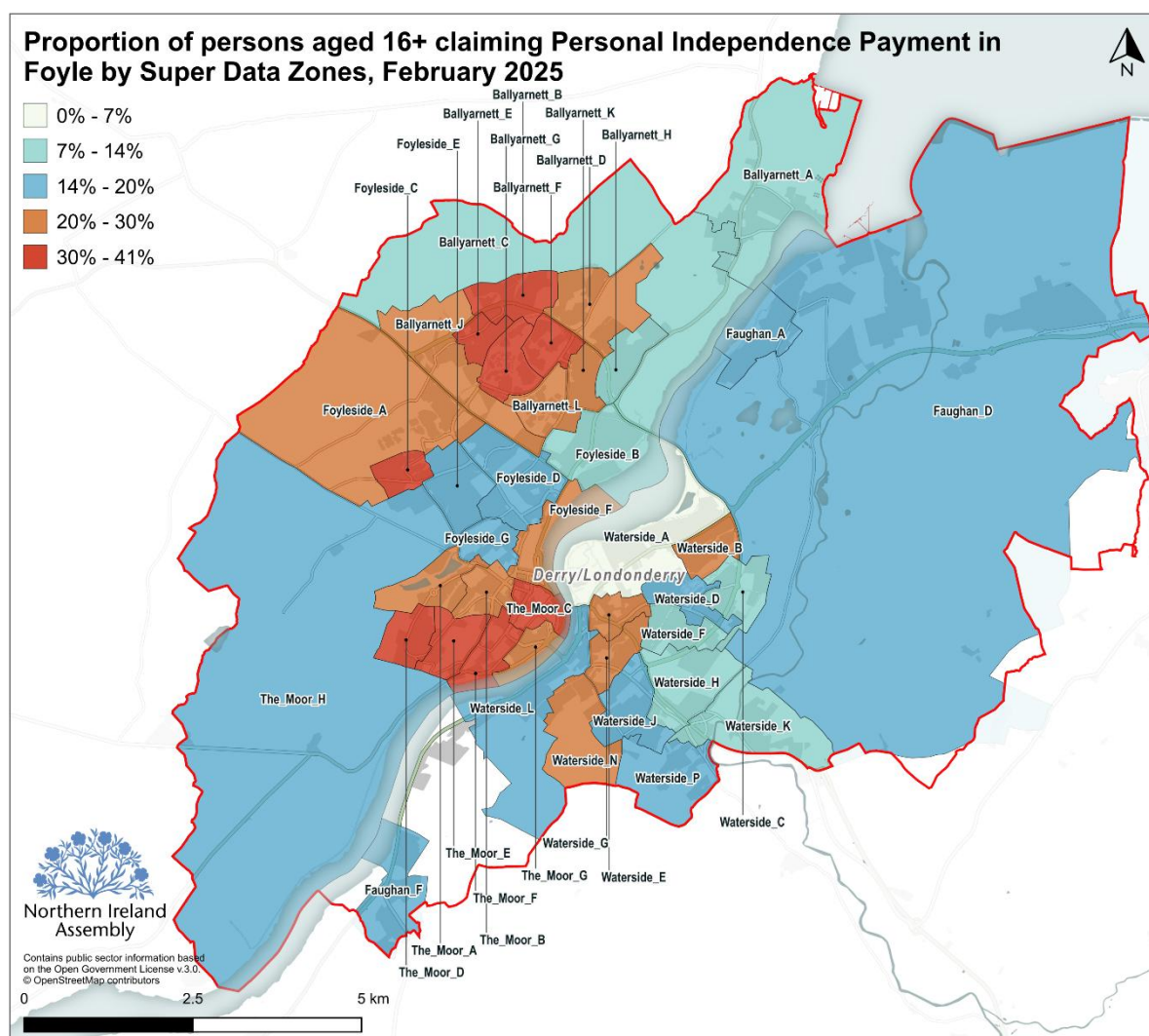
2.10 Foyle

Foyle has the second highest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with nearly one in four (23.1%) 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 6.2 per cent in Waterside_A to a peak of 38.1 per cent in The Moor_D (Table 11). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in 19 of the 42 SDZs.

In The Moor_C, a total of 550 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 42.4 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by The Moor_F (39.6%), and Ballyarnett_F (38.4%).

Table 11: FOYLE

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
The_Moor_D	820	1,030	38.1	33.9
The_Moor_C	430	550	37.2	42.4
The_Moor_F	680	890	37.2	39.6
Ballyarnett_E	540	700	36.8	30.4
Ballyarnett_B	600	790	36.8	29.7
Ballyarnett_F	550	760	36.3	38.4
Foyleside_C	640	810	35.6	33.5
Ballyarnett_G	760	980	34.8	35.2
The_Moor_E	410	560	34.6	37.8
The_Moor_A	600	850	29.8	34.1

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.11 Lagan Valley

Lagan Valley has the third lowest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 11.2 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 5 per cent in Downshire East_E to a peak of 26.3 per cent in Lisburn South_B (Table 12). Overall, there is only one SDZ (Lisburn South_B) where the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher.

In Lisburn North_A, a total of 410 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.3 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Lisburn South_D (28.2%) and Lisburn South_B (27.7%).

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	470	670	26.3	27.7
Lisburn_South_K	450	670	23.6	26.0
Downshire_East_B	280	430	22.6	26.1
Lisburn_North_A	260	410	21.2	30.3
Lisburn_South_D	340	550	20.6	28.2
Lisburn_North_K	360	560	18.8	24.4
Lisburn_North_J	320	480	17.8	21.6
Lisburn_South_H	350	620	16.9	24.7
Lisburn_North_C	360	570	15.5	18.7
Lisburn_South_J	300	510	15.2	21.7

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.12 Mid Ulster

Mid Ulster is slightly below the Northern Ireland average (14.9%) in terms of constituencies, with 13.7 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of PIP (Table 1). There are 39 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 7.9 per cent in Magherafelt_C to a peak of 27.1 per cent in Torrent_H (Table 13). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in only one of the 39 SDZs.

In Torrent_H, a total of 850 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.7 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Carntogher_F (26.6%) and Cookstown_C (26.5%) .

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	590	850	27.1	30.7
Cookstown_C	460	690	22.2	26.5
Magherafelt_B	480	680	21.6	24.2
Cookstown_F	350	530	19.9	23.6
Carntogher_F	300	500	19.7	26.6
Torrent_A	400	670	17.7	22.3
Torrent_C	300	500	17.1	21.8
Moyola_F	300	490	17.0	20.8
Cookstown_E	290	500	16.0	20.2
Cookstown_H	240	370	15.2	17.9

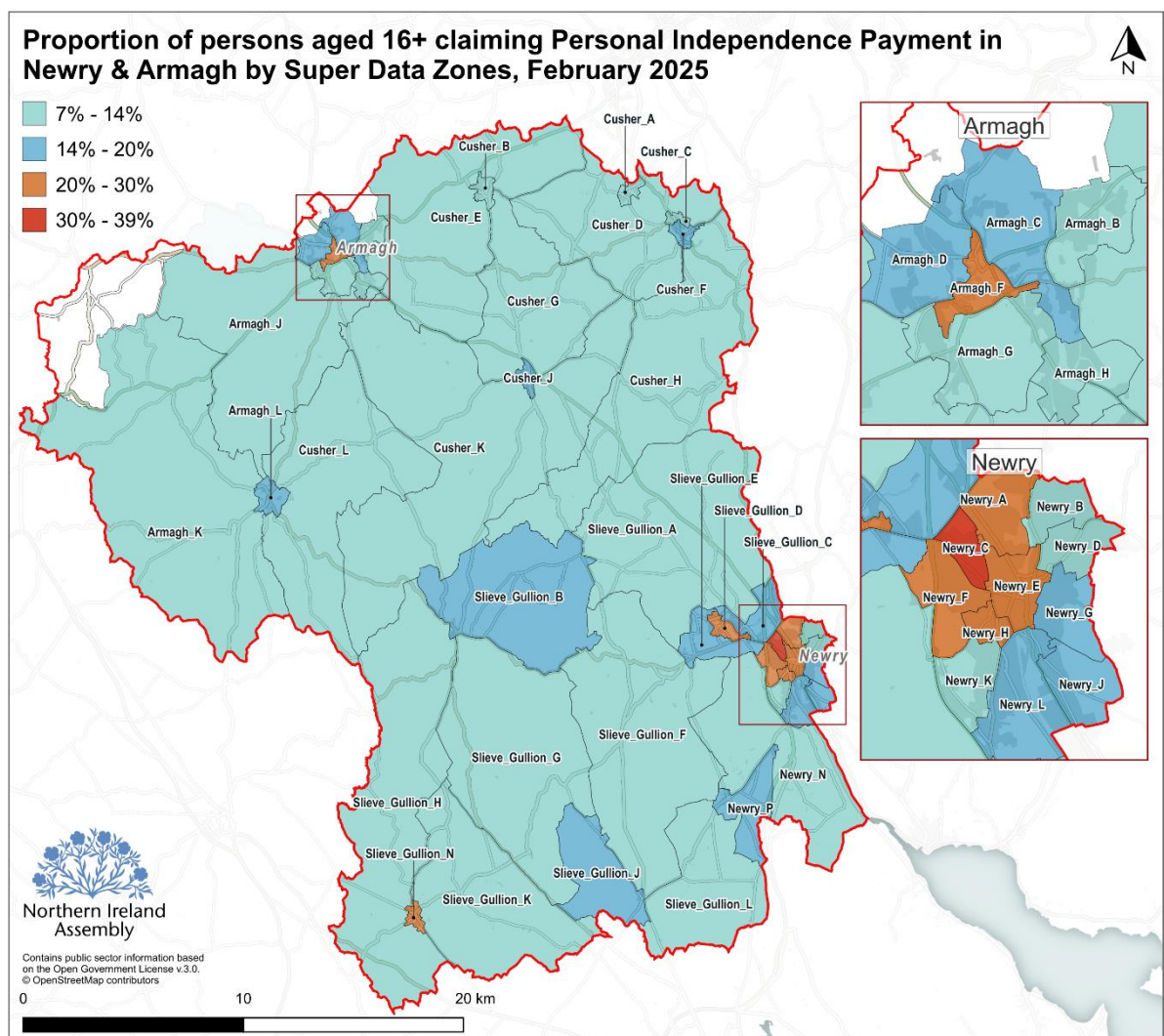
2.13 Newry and Armagh

In terms of PIP claimants, Newry and Armagh matches the Northern Ireland average (14.9%), with 15.1 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 7.3 per cent in Armagh_B to a peak of 31.6 per cent in Newry_C (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, namely Newry, Armagh and Slieve Gullion . Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in four of the 45 SDZs.

In Newry_C, a total of 590 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 35.4 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Newry_H (32.1%), and Newry_F (29.4%).

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_C	430	590	31.6	35.4
Newry_F	470	640	29.2	29.4
Armagh_F	510	680	25.1	27.6
Newry_H	330	520	25.1	32.1
Slieve_Gullion_D	420	620	23.4	26.3
Newry_E	400	560	23.3	26.1
Newry_A	470	740	21.1	26.1
Slieve_Gullion_N	240	370	21.0	24.0
Armagh_D	510	780	18.8	22.2
Newry_G	300	500	18.4	25.7

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.14 North Antrim

With 13.8 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 14.9 per cent (Table 1). There are 46 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 6.8 per cent in Ballymena_F to a peak of 27.7 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 620 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 30.6 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Braid_G (29.3%), and Ballymena_A (28.6%).

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	390	550	27.7	28.6
Braid_G	490	710	25.8	29.3
Ballymoney_D	420	620	25.5	30.6
Ballymena_H	400	570	22.1	24.5
Ballymena_J	210	300	21.6	25.4
Causeway_C	210	310	21.4	25.8
The_Glens_B	420	670	18.7	25.1
Ballymoney_E	330	530	18.7	24.5
Ballymena_G	370	540	17.6	20.5
Causeway_L	400	590	17.2	20.2

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.15 North Down

North Down has the second smallest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 11 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 30.3 per cent in Bangor Central_N (Table 16). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in three of the 45 SDZs.

In Bangor Central_N, a total of 510 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 31.2 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Bangor West_H (27.6%), and Bangor Central_K (27.5%).

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	390	510	30.3	31.2
Bangor_Central_K	410	570	25.0	27.5
Bangor_West_H	500	740	24.5	27.6
Bangor_Central_L	350	510	21.3	24.4
Ards_Peninsula_A	360	610	18.1	24.2
Bangor_East_and_Donaghadee_J	390	650	17.7	24.9
Bangor_Central_H	210	360	17.7	26.2
Holywood_and_Clandeboyne_L	350	540	17.1	20.9
Ormiston_A	230	390	14.9	20.5
Bangor_West_F	230	360	13.0	17.0

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.16 South Antrim

South Antrim has the fifth smallest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 12.6 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 6.2 per cent in Airport_C to a peak of 25.2 per cent in Antrim_K (Table 17). Overall, Antrim_K is the only SDZ where the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher.

In Antrim_K, a total of 650 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 29.5 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Ballyclare_C (28.3%), and Antrim_E (27.8%).

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	430	650	25.2	29.5
Antrim_E	320	460	24.1	27.8
Ballyclare_C	450	690	23.6	28.3
Three_Mile_Water_F	310	500	21.9	27.1
Antrim_F	370	580	21.3	26.0
Glengormley_Urban_A	250	390	20.8	25.7
Antrim_H	220	330	20.7	24.3
Airport_H	420	610	18.4	20.9
Antrim_N	240	380	17.8	24.0
Dunsilly_D	440	660	17.4	21.4

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.17 South Down

With 13.8 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 14.9 per cent (Table 1). There are 44 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 7.1 per cent in Crotlieve_J to a peak of 31.6 per cent in The Mournes_B (Table 18). Overall, the proportion of PIP recipients is 25 per cent or higher in two of the 44 SDZs.

In The Mournes_B, a total of 700 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing just over a third (35.6%) of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Downpatrick_G (31.9%), and Downpatrick_E (30.7%).

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_Mournes_B	470	700	31.6	35.6
Downpatrick_G	550	790	30.3	31.9
Downpatrick_E	450	720	24.3	30.7
The_Mournes_N	340	540	21.4	25.9
Downpatrick_J	270	440	20.0	25.6

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Slieve_Croob_J	370	560	18.3	21.0
The_Mournes_H	270	440	16.5	20.9
Crotlieve_K	390	650	16.5	23.0
Downpatrick_K	220	350	16.4	21.0
Slieve_Croob_H	200	330	16.4	21.7

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

2.18 Strangford

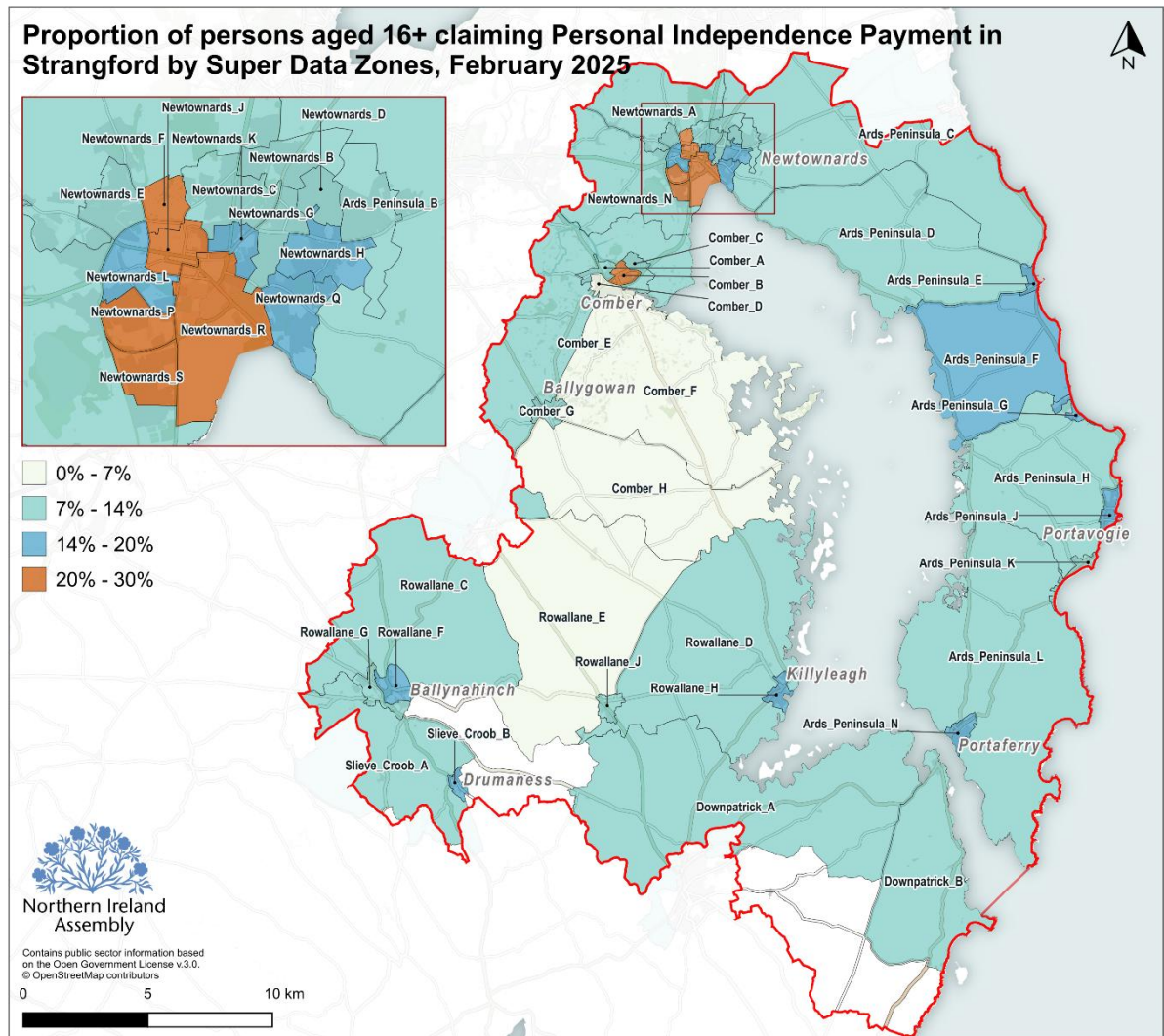
With 13.2 per cent of the population aged 16+ in receipt of the benefit, the proportion of PIP claimants in Strangford is less than the Northern Ireland figure of 14.9 per cent (Table 1). There are 46 SDZs in the constituency, and the proportion of PIP recipients aged 16+ ranges from a low of 5.8 per cent in Comber_F to a peak of 24.3 per cent in Newtownards_J (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 570 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 33.5 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Newtownards_P (29.3%), and Newtownards_S (28.9%).

Table 19: STRANGFORD

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Newtownards_J	350	570	24.3	33.5
Newtownards_S	430	670	24.1	28.9
Newtownards_P	310	490	23.3	29.3
Newtownards_F	280	430	21.5	24.4
Comber_B	400	670	20.9	28.2
Newtownards_R	240	400	20.9	29.1
Slieve_Croob_B	200	300	19.9	22.5
Ards_Peninsula_N	380	580	19.4	24.8
Newtownards_K	200	320	18.1	23.7
Ards_Peninsula_E	290	500	17.6	25.4

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)



2.19 Upper Bann

With 14.3 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 14.9 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 per cent in Craigavon_F to a peak of 31.7 per cent in Lurgan_L (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 590 persons are in receipt of at least one disability benefit, representing 40.2 per cent of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Banbridge_G (35.7%), and Craigavon_E (31.3%).

Table 20: UPPER BANN

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Lurgan_L	390	590	31.7	40.2
Banbridge_G	390	560	29.9	35.7
Craigavon_E	590	850	28.8	31.3
Lurgan_E	610	870	26.9	30.3
Portadown_D	490	670	26.7	27.9
Lurgan_R	480	710	23.3	28.1
Banbridge_D	560	810	22.3	26.0
Lurgan_G	280	420	21.5	26.8
Craigavon_D	260	390	20.6	22.7
Banbridge_B	310	450	20.1	23.2

2.20 West Tyrone

West Tyrone has the fourth largest proportion of PIP claimants across the 18 constituencies, with 17.6 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 10.8 per cent in West Tyrone_F to a peak of 35.2 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 1,010 persons are in receipt of at least one key disability benefit, representing more than a third (36.7%) of the total population of the Super Data Zone, followed by Sperrin_G (33.8%) and Omagh_B (31.5%).

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	320	400	35.2	31.5
Sperrin_G	620	900	29.8	33.8
Sperrin_H	640	1,010	28.3	36.7
West_Tyrone_D	270	370	26.8	29.2
Derg_E	290	440	25.9	31.3
Sperrin_E	280	400	25.1	30.6

SDZ Name	No. of PIP awards	No. of DLA + PIP + AA awards	% PIP (aged 16+)	% PIP+AA+DLA (all ages)
Derg_B	380	580	24.3	29.9
Derg_F	560	910	23.0	29.7
Omagh_E	430	610	20.9	24.0
Omagh_F	290	490	20.7	29.1

Source: NISRA (2026) [Data Portal](#)

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 (In Northern Ireland as a whole 14.9 per cent of the population aged 16 and over were recipients of PIP in February 2026, compared with 7.9 per cent in England and Wales). But the legacy of conflict-related violence may be one of a number of implicating factors. Other factors may include [age-related deterioration](#), [poverty](#), genetic transmission, wear and tear and accidents.

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](#), involving a survey of 1,200 adults, it was found that 17.6 per cent of the adult population (aged 18+) report having four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) ², which carry an elevated

² 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 &

risk of physical and mental health conditions. Further, 30 per cent of respondents reported conflict-specific factors. Of those respondents, 47.5% witnessed violence, 12.2% received paramilitary threats, and 8.7% experienced conflict-related bereavement.

Compared with respondents with zero ACE exposure as a child, those adults in the survey who reported four or more ACEs were five times more likely to report chronic health issues, 14.8 times more likely to experience PTSD, and 9.6 times more likely to have a diagnosed mental health condition. Elevated exposure to ACEs was also associated with excessive alcohol consumption and illicit drug use. In a key finding, it was discovered 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. It is also worth noting there is a strong [relationship between disability and poverty in Northern Ireland](#), another factor which may be implicated in the findings ³.

3 Summary and Conclusion

The present Paper, which will be an annual event, contains an analysis of the spatial location of disability benefit recipients at the Super Data Zone level across the 18 parliamentary constituencies. Special attention was focused on Personal Independence Payment (PIP), as this is the most commonly claimed disability benefit in Northern Ireland.

The aim of the present paper was to identify those spatial areas in each of the 18 constituencies which have the highest concentration of PIP claimants, following on from the [RalSe paper](#) on this topic dated June 2025. A subsidiary objective was, in addition to PIP, to explore take-up of the other two key disability benefits, namely DLA

Shevlin, Professor. (2025). *The Prevalence and Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Northern Ireland*. Queen's University Belfast.

³ According to a recent report by [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) (JRF, May 2026), there is significant relationship between disability and poverty in Northern Ireland, with disabled people almost twice as likely to be in poverty as people without disabilities. This is primarily due to three factors, namely: the additional costs of disability, barriers to employment, and a shortfall in social security payments. The extra costs of disability include energy, transport, and additional care needs.

and Attendance Allowance. This provides a more comprehensive overview of the population's reliance on disability payments in general than PIP alone.

It was found there is a wide variation in PIP awards across the constituencies, from a low of 8.8 per cent of all persons aged 16+ in Belfast South and Mid Down, to a peak of 26.8 per cent in Belfast West. With over 18,100 recipients each, Foyle (23.8%) and Belfast North (20.8%) also have a large proportion of PIP recipients. Other parliamentary constituencies where the proportion of PIP recipients is higher than the Northern Ireland average (14.9%) include East Londonderry and West Tyrone

Examining the Super Data Zones (small areas within each constituency), there are sixteen (out of 18) parliamentary constituencies with at least one SDZ where a minimum of 25 per cent of the resident population aged 16+ are in receipt of PIP. 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, particularly in constituencies which experienced intense levels of violence during the "Troubles". A recent study by researchers at Queen's University Belfast (2025) found that individuals exposed to high levels of Adverse Children Experiences (ACEs), and conflict-related adversities, were considerably more likely than those with zero ACEs to experience chronic health conditions, PTSD and mental illness. It was also found that respondents with significant ACEs were disproportionately concentrated in deprived communities in Northern Ireland.