

About the ILF

What is the Independent Living Funds (ILF)?

The ILF is what is known as a non-departmental public body. It is sponsored by funding from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Minister for Disabled People has ministerial responsibility.

The ILF exist to provide money to disabled people who need financial assistance to pay for personal and domestic care support.

How does it work?

The ILF receives applications from disabled people who meet its criteria. If eligible to apply, a person is assessed at a visit with their Local Authority Social Worker. The purpose of the visit is to find out what level of care a person needs and to try and work out the cost of funding that care. A report from the visit is used by staff at the ILF to work out how much it can pay towards the cost of personal assistance.

If an offer is made, a person can choose whether or not to accept it. If they do, payment is made every four weeks in arrears directly into their account.

Why are there TWO different Funds?

The Independent Living Funds began in 1988 - originally intended as a short term measure to help people who might have been affected by changes to benefits that were taking place at that time. Lots of people were able to receive help from the ILF during the first 5 years of its existence.

It was supposed to close in 1993, but instead a new fund was set up with slightly different rules and eligibility criteria. The main difference was that the new fund was designed to work in partnership with Local Authority Social Services departments.

The original fund was renamed the Extension Fund and was closed to new applicants. The new fund was called the 1993 Fund and took on all new applications.

For a time there were two separate funds - Extension and 1993 - dealing with two separate caseloads, but the funds have always been administered by the same central office. Staff at the ILF now deal with both Extension and 1993 Fund users.

What are the maximum awards that can be paid?

The maximum weekly award payable by the 1993 Fund is currently £455 per week. The maximum weekly amount payable by the Extension Fund is now £785 per week. (The Extension Fund is closed to new applicants).