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# Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee on petition PE2254: Provide funding for under 3s as part of the Accessible Vehicle Scheme, lodged by Elaine Davis on behalf of Kindred Advocacy

## Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

The petitioner highlights the closure of a charitable fund that provided access to Motability vehicles for certain families of disabled children aged under three years.

It is unclear whether the petitioner wants to extend eligibility for the mobility component of Child Disability Payment to children under 3, or whether the aim is to secure funding to re-instate the Family Fund grant scheme.

## Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment has a mobility component and a care component.

The higher rate of the mobility component is available from age 3 and the lower rate is available from age 5. There are no age restrictions on the care component.

The higher rate of mobility (currently £80 per week) is available to children, aged 3 or older and either:

- unable to walk
- unable to walk outdoors
- whose health would get worse from walking
- has no legs or feet
- has a severe visual disability
- is blind and deaf
- has a severe mental disability with severe behavioural difficulties
- has a terminal illness

Those with the higher rate mobility component can use it to access the Accessible Vehicles and Equipment scheme provided through Motability.

The same rule applies to child Disability Living Allowance in the rest of the UK.

## Background to the age limit

The age limit of 3 was set in 2001 for child Disability Living Allowance (it had previously been 5). The reasoning for setting the age limit was based on the age at which children usually begin to walk a reasonable distance. Further background is available in this House of Commons Library briefing.

In 2019, the Scottish Government consulted on the eligibility criteria for Social Security Scotland's disability benefits, including Child Disability Payment. The policy proposal included keeping the same lower age limit as child Disability Living Allowance.

The consultation asked a general question about agreement with the eligibility criteria as a whole. At the time the benefit was called Disability Assistance for Children and Young People (DACYP). Nine out of 137 respondents disagreed with some aspect of eligibility. Of these, one example of a comment noting disagreement was:

"Criteria for the higher rate of the DACYP mobility component needing to be altered for under 3's who require bulky medical equipment."

A third sector organisation suggested that when a child is born with an impairment that will affect their mobility and / or support needs, they should be immediately eligible to apply rather than having to wait three months for the care component or three to five years for the mobility component (Scottish Government analysis of DACYP 2019 consultation).

The Scottish Parliament legislated for Child Disability Payment in 2021, keeping the age limit of 3 years for the higher rate of mobility component and 5 years for the lower rate.

## Family Fund Mobility Support

Between 2018 and 2026, Motability and the Family Fund delivered a scheme to "support families with their mobility needs" in recognition of the fact that some families with severely disabled children under the age of 3 may face particular difficulties getting around. Criteria included being on a low income and either:

- unable to travel without bulky medical equipment, or
- unable to travel on public transport as it would compromise child's immunity or experience high, or
- experience high levels of pain or a physical condition making mobility difficult, or
- has to attend a significant number of medical appointments at multiple treatment centres, or
- has an unstable condition and may have needed unexpected emergency inpatient treatment.

The scheme helped more than 1,800 families across the UK. Motability Foundation's annual report 2025-26 noted that the foundation had awarded

"£15m in 2021/22 (over three years to 2024/25) to Family Fund to support the mobility of families with children under three years old."

As this funding was for a UK-wide scheme, reinstating the scheme in Scotland would be a proportion of this.

## Key Organisations and relevant links

- Motability Foundation
- Family Fund
- Together for Short Lives
- Contact Scotland
- Inclusion Scotland

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14 October 2026

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

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