**Scottish Child Payment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**When can I apply for Scottish Child Payment for a child aged 6-15**?

On November 14 or as soon as possible after this date. However, you shouldn’t apply before November 14 as your children aged 6-15 are not eligible before this date. We strongly encourage people to apply on the day to ensure they get all the money they are entitled to.

**On November 14, how should I apply for Scottish Child Payment?**

We strongly encourage people to apply online, but we can also take applications by post or over the phone on 0800 182 2222.

If you need help applying, if you need a large print paper form or you do not want to apply in English then please call the number above. If you're a British Sign Language (BSL) user, you can use the [contactSCOTLAND app](https://contactscotland-bsl.org/reg/) to contact Social Security Scotland by video relay.

**I receive Scottish Child Payment for my child aged under 6. But I also have a child aged 6 or over. What should I do?**

You can add older children to your existing claim through the online Scottish Child Payment form. There’s no need to make a completely new application.

**I already receive Scottish Child Payment and my children are all under 6. Do I need to make a new application?**

No, you don’t need to do anything. You will receive Scottish Child Payment at the new rate of £25 per child per week automatically from November 14.

**I have been receiving Scottish Child Payment but my child turns 6 before November 14. Do I need to re-apply?**

Yes. You should make a new application on November 14.

**Should I apply before November 14 to get my award as soon as possible?**

No. If we process an application before November 14, your claim will be refused. We strongly encourage people to apply on the day itself or as soon after that as possible. Your award will be backdated to the date we receive your application.

**I am working. Does that mean I won’t qualify?**

A significant proportion of people who receive qualifying benefits such as Universal Credit or Tax Credits are in work. You can still be eligible for Scottish Child Payment so long as you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, such as Universal Credit or Tax Credits. Many people in work receive support through social security, a full list of qualifying benefits can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/who-should-apply>

**I am a kinship carer, can I qualify for Scottish Child Payment?**

People who care for children in their family but who aren’t their parents – known as kinship carers – can qualify for Scottish Child Payment if they meet the eligibility criteria.

**I am going to be applying for Scottish Child Payment for the first time on November 14. Will I automatically qualify for some other benefits?**

From the 28 November, we will start awarding Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment automatically to eligible families in receipt of Scottish Child Payment, without the need to apply.

People can learn more about Best Start Grants including their ability to opt out of having them paid automatically on our website.

**Is there a limit on the number of children for whom I can claim Scottish Child Payment?**

No, there’s no limit. You can apply for any number of eligible children.

**I get Bridging Payments. Will I need to apply for Scottish Child Payment?**

Yes. Bridging Payments are administered completely separately to Scottish Child Payment. So, if you are eligible for Scottish Child Payment, you should apply for it in the normal way regardless of whether you get Bridging Payments. You will still get your final Bridging Payment (of £260) in December if you remain eligible at that time.

**If I receive Scottish Child Payment, will it affect my tax payments or other benefits?**

No. If you receive Scottish Child Payment, it will not affect any of these things.

**My child has turned 16 and their Scottish Child Payment has stopped - is any other support available from the Scottish Government?**

Your child may qualify for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), a weekly payment of £30 for eligible 16 to 19 year olds who want to continue learning. You can find out more about EMA at [Apply for or renew an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) - mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot/ema/applying-for-or-renewing-ema).

More information is also available via the Citizens Advice Scotland’s Money Talk Team who can be contacted on 0800 085 7145. Or you can find out more at [Money Talk Team - Citizens Advice Scotland](https://www.moneytalkteam.org.uk/).

**How long will it take for the money to reach my bank account?**

It may take some time for us to process your payment but please be assured we will do so as quickly as we can. The money you receive will usually be backdated to the date we received your application. There's no need to check on progress by phone once the application is made.

**I received Bridging Payments for my 16/17/18 year old. Why can’t I get Scottish Child Payment for them?**

Scottish Child Payment is being extended to under 16 year olds. Unfortunately not everyone who gets Bridging Payments will be eligible for Scottish Child Payment, although overall many more people will be eligible.

Parents with children aged 16-18 should make sure they are receiving all the support they are entitled to such as EMA and speak to the Citizens Advice Scotland’s Money Talk Team who can be contacted on 0800 085 7145. Or you can find out more at [Money Talk Team - Citizens Advice Scotland](https://www.moneytalkteam.org.uk/).