

Section 16 - Benefits Abroad

Benefits Abroad

Reciprocal Agreements

BENEFITS ABROAD

The following shows whether and, if so, how benefits are affected if persons in receipt of those benefits goes abroad either temporarily or permanently.

CHILD BENEFIT (CHB)

If the absence from the Isle of Man is temporary, CHB can be paid for the first 8 weeks. Special rules apply for longer absence - see leaflet CH 6.

If the person receiving CHB or the child for whom CHB is payable leaves the IOM permanently, payment stops from the date of departure.

DISABILITY WORKING ALLOWANCE (DWA)

If DWA is already in payment, entitlement continues for the rest of the fixed period of award.

GUARDIAN'S ALLOWANCE (GA)

GA is payable whilst abroad if the absence of the guardian or child is only temporary and Child Benefit is still payable for the child.

If the guardian or child is going abroad for more than eight weeks, or permanently, payment stops from the date of departure.

INCAPACITY BENEFIT (IB) - (short-term lower rate)

If the absence is temporary, the same conditions apply as for short-term higher and long-term rates (see below).

If the absence is to be permanent, IB ceases unless the sickness has lasted for over 28 weeks.

INCAPACITY BENEFIT (IB) - (short-term higher and long-term rate)

Short-term higher and long-term IB remains in payment for the first 26 weeks of temporary absence from the Island if

- the customer has gone abroad to get specific treatment for incapacity which began before they left the Island;
- they have been sick for over 6 months and remain so for the temporary absence abroad; or
- they are going (for any length of time) to a country with which the IOM has a reciprocal agreement.

Special provisions exist which allow payment to continue beyond 26 weeks if the customer is a family member of a member of the Armed Forces -

- who is abroad and with whom they are living; and
- where the absence is specifically for treatment of an incapacity which began before leaving the IOM; or
- they have been incapable of work for the past six months and remains so during the absence.

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT (IIDB)

If the customer is getting IIDB and goes abroad they can continue getting benefit as follows:

- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Industrial Death Benefit can be paid anywhere abroad at the full current amount, but the customer cannot get Industrial Death Benefit for a child unless the child's and/or the customer's absence abroad is only temporary.
- Constant Attendance Allowance and Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance can be paid to a customer for the first 6 months of a temporary absence abroad (longer in certain cases).

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- Reduced Earnings Allowance can normally be paid for the first three months of temporary absence. If the allowance started before the customer left and they have not gone abroad to work. It can sometimes be paid for longer than this.
- Unemployability Supplement may be paid for up to 26 weeks if the absence abroad is temporary and the same conditions as for Incapacity Benefit are met.

CARER'S ALLOWANCE (CA)

If a customer goes abroad for a temporary absence (less than 4 weeks), CA usually remains in payment.

If the carer goes abroad for the specific purpose of caring for the disabled person then CA can remain in payment, provided all the qualifying conditions remain satisfied i.e. Attendance Allowance/Constant Attendance Allowance/Highest or Middle Rate Care Component of Disability Living Allowance remains in payment to the disabled person.

Customers should contact the Disability Benefits Unit, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas before going abroad.

JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE (JSA)

A jobseeker cannot normally get JSA whilst abroad, although in specified circumstances a jobseeker who is temporarily absent from the Island may continue to be entitled to JSA for a specified period. Customers must contact the Employment Group, Ground Floor, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas before leaving the Island.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCE (MA)

Same as for Incapacity Benefit (short-term higher and long-term rates) overleaf.

RETIREMENT PENSION (RP), BEREAVEMENT BENEFITS (BB) AND WIDOWS PENSION (WP)

RP, BB and WP remain in payment.

The rates of RP, BB and WP are frozen when living in certain countries. This means that annual increases will not be paid and the benefit will stay at the same rate as was payable when the customer left the Island.

Payment of the Isle of Man Pension Supplement stops as soon as a customer ceases to be ordinarily resident on the Island.

If the customer is going to be absent for more than six months, they must notify the Pensions Group, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas.

WAR PENSIONS

War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions can usually be paid anywhere in the world. If a customer is in receipt of a War Pension and intends to live permanently abroad they should inform the War Pensioners Welfare Office, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

In all cases it is advisable that Head Office, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas is contacted before a customer leaves the Isle of Man.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

Since the introduction of the modern welfare state, the UK Government has been negotiating agreements providing for reciprocity in matters of social security with other nations around the world.

These agreements have been reached in order to protect the interest of workers abroad so they are able, subject to the conditions set out in the individual agreements, to:

- (a) avoid paying social insurance contributions in both countries at the same time;
- (b) aggregate contributions paid in different countries in order to secure entitlement to social security benefits, in particular old age pension; and
- (c) qualify for certain short-term social security benefits, such as sickness and maternity benefits, based on contributions paid in another country.

Not all agreements provide for each of the above. Some exist solely to avoid the duplicate payment of contributions whilst others (typically those between the UK and European countries) make more comprehensive provision.

The Isle of Man, for whose international affairs the UK is responsible, has, for the purposes of such agreements, been included in the definition of the territory of the United Kingdom.

Reciprocal social security agreements currently exist with the following countries -

<i>Austria*</i>	<i>Ireland*</i>	<i>Norway*</i>
Barbados	Israel~	Philippines~
<i>Belgium*</i>	<i>Italy*</i>	<i>Portugal*</i>
Bermuda~	Jamaica~	<i>Spain*</i>
Canada~	Japan#	<i>Sweden*</i>
Cyprus*	Jersey	Switzerland~
<i>Denmark*</i>	Korea#	Turkey
<i>Finland*</i>	<i>Luxembourg*</i>	United States of America~
<i>France*</i>	Malta*	Yugoslavia (Bosnia, Hercegovina,
<i>Germany*</i>	Mauritius~	Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav
Guernsey	<i>Netherlands*</i>	Republic of Macedonia)
<i>Iceland*</i>	New Zealand	

* Indicates those countries which are members of the European Union, or the European Economic Area.

Indicates those countries where the agreement is for contributions only.

~ Indicates those countries where the agreement contains only limited benefit provisions.

Australia - The agreement with Australia terminated with effect from 1st March 2001. However, any person with periods of residence in Australia before 6th April 2001 will continue to have those periods used in the eventual calculation of their Retirement Pension or Bereavement Benefits entitlement, in the event of claiming whilst resident in the Isle of Man or the UK.

EUROPEAN UNION

The United Kingdom, and its European counterparts, no longer rely on the agreements mentioned above. Provisions for “migratory workers” moving between member States is contained within European Community legislation.

However, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are not Member States of the European Union and workers moving between the Islands and Member States must continue to rely on the provisions contained in the relevant agreements originally negotiated by the UK Government, mainly in the 1950s and 1960s.

The United Kingdom continues to represent the Islands where it is necessary to review any of the existing agreements.

In **all** cases it is advisable that information about health care provisions and social security matters be obtained from the Department before a worker who is considering working abroad leaves the IOM.

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