

BUILDING A CARING ECONOMY

**RENEWING
A WELFARE STATE ADRIFT**

**METHODOLOGY
NOTE**

**CARE
FULL**

*In our report *Renewing a Welfare State Adrift*, we claim that just two OECD countries offer a benefit that a) helps with the additional costs of living with disability and b) that makes a direct payment to unpaid carers in relation to that labour.*

We have defined these in the following way:

a. cost of disability payments

We have only included non-means-tested and non-social insurance-related benefits in this assessment. We are interested in those benefits that support people regardless of their relationship with paid work, and on the basis of living with a long-term health condition or disability. We have not differentiated between what evidence or assessment is needed to access this payment, and so some countries included might use a social model of disability, some might use a more medical model and others a combination.

b. unpaid care payments

We have only included payments made directly to unpaid carers and not payments made to those receiving care and who can choose to pay those who provide care for their labour. This is because we are interested in the acknowledgement of support for the individual participating in unpaid labour within the economy. We do differentiate between how the care is quantified or assessed.

To understand how many countries provide either of these benefits within their system, we utilised government department websites translated using simple online tools or English versions of the website. We converted payment levels into pound sterling at the time of research (January - March 2026) and averaged out to a single-month equivalent. We include figures from the highest available payment in each country where, for example, people with more severe disabilities receive a higher payment.