

**Independent
Living Funds**

User Profile Analysis

31 March 2003



Reg. Charity No. 1019080



Background Information

The Independent Living Funds were originally established in 1988 as a UK wide resource, dedicated to the financial support of disabled people, to enable them to choose to live in the community rather than in residential care.

The Funds are constituted as publicly financed discretionary trusts. For both Funds, awards are in the form of regular four-weekly payments to individuals, which are used to buy personal care. Recipients may use care agencies, or employ personal assistants, but may not employ relatives who live in the same house.

In the case of the Extension Fund, the aim has been to continue paying awards to people who were clients of the original ILF, which was closed to new applicants at the end of March 1993. The 1993 Fund was set up at that time to accept new applications from people who needed more help than their local authority was able to provide.

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Introduction to the end of year report

This report provides a profile analysis of the Independent Living Funds' Users at the year ending 31 March 2003.

A summary of statistics has been provided for each of the two Funds detailing the main facts and figures, and developments during the year.

Following the summaries, a series of tables provide further statistical information. Every effort has been made to provide as thorough a picture as possible. However, due to the limitations of technology when the original Fund was established, some data for the Extension Fund is unfortunately incomplete.

In order to provide a context for the figures, you may like to know that, on 31 March 2003 a combined administration operated for the two Funds, with 138 staff in Nottingham, and 82 self-employed Visiting Social Workers (VSW) who carry out assessments throughout the UK.

During the past year the Funds' staff received: over 91,000 items of incoming post and over 178,000 incoming telephone calls. In the same period a total of 193,188 individual client payments were made.

After reading the report, if you would like further information concerning the Funds' work, please contact our Customer Services team on 0845 6018815 or Email them at: funds@ilf.org.uk. Alternatively our website can be accessed at www.ilf.org.uk, or you can write to us at the address below:

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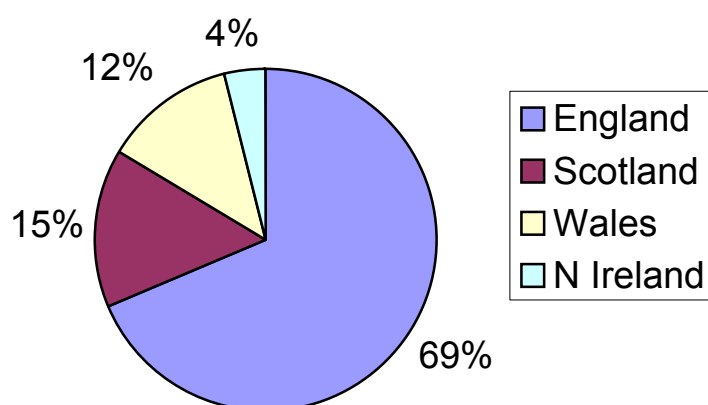
1 1993 FUND SUMMARY

- 1.1** By 31 March 2003, there were 9,006 disabled people receiving payment (or with suspended payments) from the 1993 Fund, an increase of 946 users or 11% since 31 March 2002. 850 additional offers of funding had been made and were awaiting the users acceptance. 1,145 applications were awaiting decision. **(Table 1)**
- 1.2** 3,203 applications had been received since 1 April 2002, of which 926 were in payment or suspension, and 678 had outstanding offers. 963 applications were awaiting decision. **(Table 2)**
- 1.3** 40.1% of all award cancellations since 1 April 2002 had been because of death. Another 19.5% were because of admission to residential care or hospital. **(Table 3)**
- 1.4** Of applications since 1 April 2002, rejected before a VSW assessment visit (ie 'disallowed'), 68.9% did not receive higher level DLA **(Table 4)**. This figure has fallen by 10.1% since 31 March 2002. The Fund is hopeful that improved communication with Local Authorities, to enable an increased understanding of application criteria, will further reduce the level of unsuccessful applications. Only 12% of applications were rejected or withdrawn following a VSW visit. **(Table 5)**
- 1.5** The average award in payment was £242.30 per week. This had increased by £15.30 or 6.7% since 31 March 2002 and by £3.30 or 1.4% since 31 December 2002.
- 1.6** At 31 March 2003 ILF users were:
- Evenly divided across gender;
 - 42.2% were under 36 years of age;
 - 41.1% were living with parents, and 27.3% were living alone;
 - 82.1% were in receipt of Income Support, and 29.1% had carers who received Carers Allowance;
 - 25.8% had a severe learning disability, 15.5% had multiple sclerosis, and 14.9% had cerebral palsy.

Compared with 31 March 2002 there had been little variation in these figures with the exception of the percentage of users with a severe learning disability which had fallen due to users with Downs Syndrome being categorised separately. **(Tables 6.1-6.6)**

1.7 Analysis of users by region:

| Region | Number of users | Number per 100,000 pop | Ave award £ per week |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| England | 6187 | 12.5 | 245.23 |
| Scotland | 1350 | 27.1 | 248.9 |
| Wales | 1119 | 38.9 | 243.7 |
| N Ireland | 350 | 22.3 | 160.41 |
| UK | 9006 | 15.3 | 242.3 |



The age profile of 1993 Fund users was generally similar across the regions. There were however, a slightly higher proportion of older clients in Northern Ireland, with 20.3% over the age of 55 compared with 16.7% in Great Britain. There was also a higher proportion of users in Scotland under the age of 25, 25.4% compared with 19.2% across the whole UK. **(Table 7.1)**

Wales had a higher proportion of users with severe learning disabilities at 36.8% compared with 30.8% across the whole UK.

Wales also had a higher proportion of users with epilepsy at 4.7% compared with 2.9% across the UK. The number of users in Wales with multiple sclerosis was lower than average at 7.7% compared with 18.5% for the UK. **(Table 7.2)**

Over the whole UK, 1993 Fund users represented 2.4% of Higher Rate DLA recipients. This figure had increased by 0.5% since March 2002 **(Table 8.1)**. The rate was almost twice as high in Wales as in England, at 4.1% compared with 2.2% and lowest in Northern Ireland, at 1.3%, where the level of receipt of HRDLA is much higher than elsewhere. **(Table 8.2)**

The number of 1993 Fund users as a proportion of HRDLA recipients decreased with age from 4.9% in the 16-25 age group to 0.9% in the 56-65 age group. There was the same pattern in Northern Ireland but at lower rates.

1.8 Current users by local authority: **(Table 9)**

All local authorities had 1993 Fund users. The maximum density in any single authority was 74.2 users per 100,000 of the population. The average was 15.3 users per 100,000 of the population, an increase of 1.3 since 31 March 2002.

The 20 local authorities with the highest densities of users are detailed below. 11 of the 20 are in Wales, 7 in Scotland and 2 in England:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|
| 1 | Wrexham | 74.2 | 11 | Carmarthanshire | 46.1 |
| 2 | Torfaen | 71.9 | 12 | Denbighshire | 45.9 |
| 3 | Merthyr Tydfil | 65.7 | 13 | Neath & Port Talbot | 44.4 |
| 4 | Liverpool | 54.7 | 14 | North Lanarkshire | 43.8 |
| 5 | Pembokeshire | 53.8 | 15 | Coventry | 43.3 |
| 6 | East Renfrewshire | 53.4 | 16 | Glasgow | 42.9 |
| 7 | South Lanarkshire | 49.1 | 17 | Cardiff | 42.0 |
| 8 | Orkney Islands | 48.6 | 18 | Flintshire | 39.1 |
| 9 | Conwy | 48.6 | 19 | East Lothian | 38.5 |
| 10 | Clackmannanshire | 46.8 | 20 | Gwynedd | 38.3 |

2 EXTENSION FUND SUMMARY

2.1 By 31 March 2003, there were 6,877 disabled people receiving payments (or with suspended payments) from the Extension Fund a decrease of 921 since 31 March 2002. **(Table 1)**

2.2 The average award in payment was £204.31 per week. This had increased by £25.31 or 14.1% since 31 March 2002 and by £6.31 or 3.2% since 31 December 2002.

2.3 39.1% of all award cancellations since 1 April 2002 had been because of death. Another 22% were due to the discovery that care had not been employed. **(Table 3)**

2.4 At 31 March 2003:

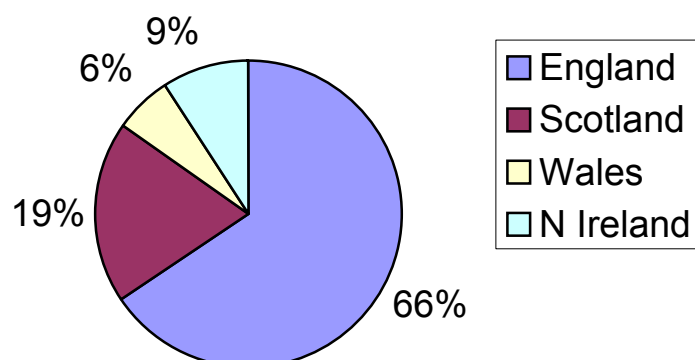
- 56% of users were female;
- 27.5% were under 36 years of age and 17.2% were over 65;
- 35.8% were living with parents and 27.4% were living alone;
- 89.9% were in receipt of Income Support, and 30.3% had carers who received Carers Allowance.
- 16.8% had a severe learning disability, 14.1% had cerebral palsy and 12% had multiple sclerosis;

There has been little variation in these figures since 30 March 2002. **(Tables 6.1-6.6)**

2.5 89.9% were in receipt of Income Support.

2.6 Analysis of users by region

| Region | Number of users | Number per 100,000 | Ave award £ per week |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| England | 4507 | 9.1 | 223.97 |
| Scotland | 1324 | 26.6 | 182.64 |
| Wales | 412 | 14.3 | 227.5 |
| N Ireland | 634 | 40.4 | 94.75 |
| UK | 6877 | 11.7 | 204.31 |



Northern Ireland had a higher proportion of older users at 26.5% above 65 years of age compared with 16.4% in Great Britain, and a slightly higher proportion of younger ones at 8% under 25 compared with 4.1% in Great Britain. **(Table 7.1)**

2.7 Distribution of current users by local authority: **(Table 9)**

The maximum density of Extension Fund users in any single authority was 74.9 users per 100,000 of the population, and the average was 11.7. The 20 Local authorities with the highest densities of users are detailed below. All 4 Northern Ireland Boards, 9 Scottish, 6 English and 1 Welsh authority make up the 20.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|------|-----------|---------------------|------|
| 1 | Western Board N I | 74.9 | 11 | Northern Board N I | 34.4 |
| 2 | North Lanarkshire | 70.9 | 12 | East Ayrshire | 33.8 |
| 3 | Glasgow | 57.2 | 13 | Knowsley | 29.2 |
| 4 | Southern Board N I | 53.8 | 14 | Wolverhampton | 27.8 |
| 5 | South Lanarkshire | 51.6 | 15 | West Dumbartonshire | 27.7 |
| 6 | Telford and Wrekin | 43.0 | 16 | Renfrewshire | 24.6 |
| 7 | Midlothian | 40.0 | 17 | West Lothian | 24.5 |
| 8 | Western Isles | 39.9 | 18 | Islington | 24.3 |
| 9 | Wrexham | 37.5 | 19 | Liverpool | 23.8 |
| 10 | North Lincolnshire | 34.9 | 20 | Eastern Board N I | 23.8 |