



Maternity pay and the £500 grant

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Maternity Allowance or Statutory Maternity Pay

If your employer pays Statutory Maternity Pay, you do not also claim Maternity Allowance. Maternity Allowance is for people who worked recently, paid National Insurance or were self-employed, and are not getting Statutory Maternity Pay.

You need a MAT B1 from the midwife or doctor. This check does not know how many weeks you worked, so it cannot confirm the rate.

The Sure Start grant is separate

The Sure Start Maternity Grant is £500, once, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. You usually only get it if there is no other child under 16 in the family, and a qualifying benefit is already in payment.

Scotland uses the Best Start Grant instead. That one can be paid for more than one child.

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[Home](#)

[Maternity Allowance or Statutory Maternity Pay?](#)

[The Sure Start grant](#)

[Run the check](#)

The check is free. A written pack is £29. Nothing in this PDF is sent to a department.