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Free institutional reference
DWP · Form BD8 · Edition 2026
England & Wales

BD8 — Notifying DWP: Your Three Options

A short, printable reference for the family telling the DWP about a death — keep it to hand while you sort it out.

ESTATE STANDARD 2026 · ES-2026

The BD8 is the DWP death notification — a certificate the registrar prints when you register the death. Notifying the DWP stops the deceased's State Pension, Universal Credit, PIP, ESA, Pension Credit and other benefits. **In most cases now you do not post the form at all:**

Tell Us Once or one phone call does the same thing faster. This reference shows which of the three routes applies, what the postal form asks, and the few facts families most often need.

> **The one thing to take from this page.**
> Most families never post the BD8. If the registrar completed Tell Us Once with you, or you call the DWP Bereavement Service on **0800 151 2012**, the DWP is notified and the form can simply stay in your records. The reverse side only needs posting if neither faster route was used.

WHAT IT IS

A DWP death notification — the registrar's certificate of registration of death.

WHO TELLS THE DWP

Next of kin, executor or solicitor — or Tell Us Once / one free call.

COST & TIME

Free to file. About 5 minutes once the NI number is to hand.

Which route applies? 1

THREE WAYS TO TELL THE DWP — MOST FAMILIES NEVER POST THE FORM

The reverse side of the BD8 only needs posting if neither of the faster routes was used. If the registrar completed Tell Us Once with you, or you call the Bereavement Service, the DWP is notified and the form can stay in your records. Find the route that matches what happened at the register office.

ROUTE 1 · RECOMMENDED

Tell Us Once

Done at the register office, or online within **28 days**.

If the registrar offered Tell Us Once and you used it, the DWP has already been notified. You do not need to complete or post the BD8 reverse side — keep it with your records. Tell Us Once must be used within **28 days** of receiving the unique reference number from the registrar.

FOR

+ No form to post. Notifies the DWP plus HMRC, DVLA, the Passport Office and the council in one step.

WATCH FOR

– 28-day window from the reference number. Not available in Northern Ireland. Does not notify banks, insurers or private pensions.

ROUTE 2 · ONE CALL

DWP Bereavement Service

One free call to 0800 151 2012 notifies every benefit stream.

Calling the Bereavement Service notifies State Pension, Universal Credit, PIP, ESA, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance in one call. If you make this call you do not need to post the BD8. Have the deceased's NI number, dates and bank details ready — the agent can take a survivor's claim at the same time.

FOR

+ No form to post. Stops the overpayment clock immediately. The agent can take a survivor's claim on the same call.

WATCH FOR

– Have the NI number, dates of birth and death, and bank details ready before you call. Lines: Mon–Fri, 8am–6pm.

ROUTE 3 · FALLBACK

Post the reverse side

Only if Tell Us Once wasn't offered and you haven't phoned.

If Tell Us Once wasn't available and you have not phoned the Bereavement Service, completing and posting the BD8 reverse side is the correct fallback. It comes with a reply-paid envelope addressed to the right DWP office; you can also hand it in at any Jobcentre Plus.

FOR

+ Reply-paid envelope included. No phone call needed. Can be handed in at any Jobcentre Plus.

WATCH FOR

– Slower than the call. The NI number is mandatory — a missing or wrong one can add **4–8 weeks**.

Whichever route you take, do it promptly.

Benefits legally stop on the date of death; every week of delay is another week of potential overpayment accruing against the estate — and the DWP is entitled to recover it. The phone route stops the clock immediately.

If you post the form 2

THE REVERSE SIDE — THE PART THE FAMILY COMPLETES (ROUTE 3 ONLY)

The registrar completes the front of the BD8 at registration; you cannot change those details. The reverse is short — around seven fields — but the National Insurance number is mandatory for the DWP to trace the benefit records. If you cannot find it, try the sources below before posting, to avoid a follow-up letter.

AB 12 34 56 C

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER · MANDATORY · TWO LETTERS, SIX DIGITS, ONE LETTER

If it wasn't recorded while the deceased was alive, look in: a P60 or P45 from the last employer; any letter from the DWP, HMRC or the Pension Service; the deceased's tax return; a payslip; or the NI card. A missing or wrong number is the commonest cause of a DWP query — and can add four to eight weeks.

- [ ] **Deceased's full name, date of birth, and last address**

  Must match the **death certificate**. "Last address" is where the deceased was living immediately before death — not a former address. If they were in a care home or hospital, use their last home address unless they had formally moved to the care home as their permanent residence.

- [ ] **Deceased's National Insurance number** MANDATORY

  Format: two letters, six digits, one letter (e.g. AB 12 34 56 C). If genuinely unavailable, write "not known" and add as much identifying detail as possible — the DWP can sometimes trace records by name and date of birth, but this slows processing significantly.

- [ ] **Deceased's occupation (last known)**

  The occupation at retirement or last employment. "Retired" is acceptable if they had not worked for many years. This helps the DWP contextualise the record, particularly for older cases.

- [ ] **Marital status at time of death**
  Married, widowed, single, divorced or surviving civil partner. This affects whether a surviving spouse may claim a survivor's pension uplift or Bereavement Support Payment. If the deceased was widowed, the DWP may need the date of the first spouse's death to calculate any inherited State Pension.

- [ ] **Name and address of the person completing the form**
  Your own full name, your relationship to the deceased (son, executor, solicitor acting for the estate), and a contact address. The DWP writes here if there is a query or an overpayment to discuss.

- [ ] **Pension books and benefit payment books — return with the form**
  If the deceased held a physical pension-order or benefit payment book, send it with the BD8 in the same envelope — these are the DWP's instrument of payment and must be cancelled. Most payments are now by bank transfer and no book exists, but older claimants may still have one.

> **Before you post — a 30-second check.**
> Confirm the NI number against at least one source document; confirm names, dates and the last address match the **death certificate**; and enclose any paper pension or payment book. These three checks prevent almost every DWP follow-up letter. The form comes with a reply-paid envelope; you can also hand it in at any Jobcentre Plus.

Key facts 3

THE FIGURES AND CONTACTS FAMILIES MOST OFTEN NEED

NI NUMBER FORMAT

Two letters, six digits, one letter — **AB 12 34 56 C**. Mandatory on the postal form. Sources if not known: P60 / P45, DWP / HMRC / Pension Service letters, tax return, payslip, NI card.

DWP BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

0800 151 2012 — free, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. One call notifies every DWP benefit stream, can take a survivor's claim, and means the form need not be posted.

WHEN BENEFITS STOP

On the **date of death** — State Pension, Universal Credit, PIP, ESA, Pension Credit and others. A payment landing after death is usually a processing lag, not fraud; the DWP reconciles it.

OVERPAYMENT WINDOW

Any benefit paid after the date of death is technically an overpayment, recoverable from the **estate** (not beneficiaries personally) under the Social Security Administration Act 1992 s.71. State Pension overpayments can run to hundreds of pounds a month. Notifying promptly may avoid recovery entirely.

TELL US ONCE WINDOW

Use within **28 days** of receiving the unique reference number from the registrar. Available in England, Scotland and Wales — not Northern Ireland.

DWP PROCESSING TIME

Expect a confirmation letter within **2–6 weeks** after any route. If nothing is heard by **8 weeks**, call the Bereavement Service to confirm the notification was received.

BSP1 DEADLINE

Bereavement Support Payment is a separate claim for a surviving spouse or civil partner. Claim within **3 months** of death for the full back-payment: **£3,500** lump sum + **£350**/month for **18 months** (with children), or **£2,500** + **£100**/month (without). Later claims receive reduced back-payment. Apply at gov.uk or via the Bereavement Service.

SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND

BD8 is the England-and-Wales form. In Scotland the equivalent is **334/SI**; in Northern Ireland it is **36/BD8**. Tell Us Once operates in England, Scotland and Wales only.

THE MISTAKES THAT CAUSE MOST DWP QUERIES

Assuming Tell Us Once covered everything. It notifies core DWP streams, HMRC, DVLA, the Passport Office and the council — but not private pensions, banks, insurers or workplace schemes, and it does not automatically make a survivor's claim. Those are handled separately.

A missing or wrong NI number on the postal form — the commonest cause of a follow-up letter and **4–8 weeks** of delay. **Not returning a paper pension book. Delay in notifying at all** — every week risks more overpayment against the estate.

POWERED BY VALOREN

BD8 — Notifying DWP: Your Three Options — a practical guide to reporting a death to the Department for Work and Pensions. Free reference from the Valoren estate administration series. Accurate for England & Wales as of June 2026. Not legal or financial advice. © Standard Index Group.