Income Protection from Zurich supports you through all life's ups and downs

We are all aware of how much we rely on our income. But what happens to your income in those scenarios where you get sick or injured? Have you made plans to protect yourself and your dependents if you are unable to work due to illness or injury? If you are unable to work and not in receipt of any income, this could have far-reaching consequences for your financial needs.

That's why an Income Protection plan is so important. It pays you an income if you are unable to work and not in receipt of an income. Think of it as an insurance policy for your finances which can help protect your financial future.

A safety net for your income

While you're healthy, you pay a premium every month, or each year if you prefer. If you are unfortunate enough to fall ill or become injured and are unable to work during the term of your plan, you may be eligible to make a claim and receive a monthly income until you are well enough to work again.

Who can take out Income Protection and how much cover can you get?

We offer two Income Protection products. If you are self-employed, you can take out a Personal Income Protection Plan. If you are an employee of a company, your company can take out an Executive Income Protection Plan for you.

You can take out Income Protection cover of up to 75% of your earnings. If you are an employee and eligible for the State Illness Benefit[1] of €13,208 per annum (€254 per week in 2026) you need to take this into account. If you are self-employed you may not be eligible for the State Illness Benefit so you may choose to insure the full 75% of your annual income.

The below table shows the maximum monthly amounts you could apply for:

Gross Annual Salary	€25,000	€35,000	€50,000	€75,000	€100,000	€200,000
Maximum Annual Benefit	€5,542	€13,042	€24,292	€43,042	€61,792	€136,792
Maximum Monthly Benefit	€462	€1,087	€2,024	€3,587	€5,149	€11,399

How long do you want to wait until your monthly income kicks in?

Not everyone needs their income to start as soon as they're out of work. If your employer pays you sick pay, you might only want your money to kick in after that. The time in between when you stop working and when we start paying you is called your deferred period. You can choose how long this is: 1, 2, 3, 6 or 12 months (4, 8, 13, 26 or 52 weeks). The longer you wait, the lower your premiums will be.

How long do you want your cover to last?

Your income protection plan can provide cover to you up until your retirement age. The earliest age is 55 and the latest is 70. It's important to note that you can't make a claim after the end date on your plan. If you are in claim, we will stop making payments to you at this age as well.

1 The amount of State Illness Benefit you qualify for depends on your average weekly earnings for the relevant tax year. For full details check citizensinformation.ie.

More than a monthly income

Income Protection from Zurich is more than just a monthly income when you are unable to work. Our product offers you valuable additional benefits.

Automatic Additional Benefits

These are automatic additional benefits that are automatically included in your policy and for which no extra cost is charged.

Back-to-work services

When you're ill or injured, let us know as soon as you can. You may be able to benefit from our early intervention service during the deferred period. This service is provided through our partner HCB Group, experts in early intervention and employee health management with a 30 year track record. Whilst in claim you may also benefit from back-to-work services including physiotherapy and psychological support.

Early Notification Benefit

If you notify us of a potential claim during the deferred period, we will assess your potential claim and agree the next steps with you. If you agree to continue to follow these steps, we can waive your premium during the deferred period from the notification date of the potential claim.

Proportionate Income Benefit

Even when you're back at work, we can keep supporting you. With our proportionate benefit we can top up some of your salary if you are unable to return full time and you're not earning as much as before.

Reinstatement Clause

If you've missed a premium or two, and you need to make a claim, don't worry. Our unique Reinstatement Clause gives you the option of reinstating your cover by paying any unpaid premiums due on your policy within three months of the first unpaid premium. The policy can be reinstated even if you suffer an illness or injury in this period.

Guaranteed Insurability – life events[2]

You can increase your amount of cover without medical underwriting on the occurrence of:

- the birth or legal adoption of a child.
- marriage or registered civil partnership.
- divorce or legal separation.
- becoming widowed.
- the purchase of a new main residence with an increase in mortgage.

Guaranteed Insurability – work events

You can increase the amount of cover without medical underwriting every time you experience an increase in your annual gross earnings by 10% or more.

In addition to this, you have a once off option to increase your annual cover by up to €20,000, if your salary has increased by 20% or more from the policy start date and are in full-time employment at the time of making the increase.

Essential Activities Benefit

If you're not working full time because you're on maternity or paternity leave (beyond any statutory period), a career break, or if you've become an unpaid permanent carer, but an illness or injury stops you from doing day-to-day activities, like reading, walking, or moving from room to room, we'll support you. We could pay you up to €20,000 a year, depending on the level of cover you had prior to being off work.

Linked Claims Benefit

Often an illness or injury isn't as simple as you're ill and then you get better again. Things like back pain and mental health issues can come and go. You might be well enough to go back to work for a period of time, but then relapse and need more time off. If you end up out of work again, within six months of your initial return, and with the same condition as before, you may not have to wait to get your monthly income. We'll support you straight away since the claim is for the same illness or injury as before.

Waiver of Premium Benefit

We can pay your premiums for you if you're too ill to work and you're in receipt of a claim from us .You won't have to pay any premiums until you're well enough to go back to work. A waiver of premium is a bit like an insurance for your insurance policy and ensures that your policy does not lapse when you are living on a reduced income.

Hospital Cash Benefit

If you are unfortunate enough to have to spend time in hospital during the deferred period, you may be eligible to receive a daily income if your stay in hospital is for more than three continuous days. But rather than just pay you from day four onwards, any payments will be backdated so that you're also paid for the first three days you've spent in hospital.

Terminal Illness Benefit

In the event that you are diagnosed with a terminal illness at least twelve months before the end of the term, Zurich Life will immediately commence paying a monthly Terminal Illness Benefit. The Benefit in force at any date is the Annual Income Protection Benefit on your policy. There is no requirement to wait until the end of the deferred period.

Conversion Option

If you take out a Personal Income Protection Plan and your employment status changes from being self-employed to being an employee, your new employer may apply to replace your Personal Income Protection policy with an Executive Income Protection Plan. If you are employed and become self-employed, you may be able to do the reverse. If you are changing employers, you may be able to carry your current plan over to your new employer.

The above benefits are not specified in full. Terms and Conditions apply to all benefits, please see the Policy Document for full details.

2 On any one special event, the maximum increase in the Annual Income Protection Benefit under this option is the lower of €20,000 or 50% of the Annual Income Protection Benefit shown on your Policy Certificate.

Optional Additional Benefits

These are optional additional benefits that can be selected on the policy for which an extra cost is charged.

Inflation Protection Option

You can decide if you want your cover to increase at 3% a year to keep up with the cost of living. To reflect the increasing benefit amount, your premiums will also increase by 3.5% every year. These increases will only apply where you are not in claim.

Escalation in Claim

You can choose to have your level of cover increase while you're claiming. With this benefit, your level of cover will go up by 3% each year, but only for as long as the claim is being paid. Your premiums remain unchanged and don't increase on a yearly basis, but they will cost more at outset. When you return to work, and you stop receiving payments your annual benefit will revert to the level it was before the end of the deferred period.

Pension Payment Option

On the Executive product your pension contributions are covered during the time your income protection benefit is being paid. This option is not available on Personal Income Protection policies.

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Take the next step

When it comes to life insurance, serious illness cover, and income protection, Zurich is committed to doing the best we can for our customers. That's why we are one of the leading providers of protection products in Ireland. So if you'd like to take the next step, get in touch today.

Talk to your **Financial Broker or Advisor**

Call our Financial Planning Team on **0818 202102**

Email us at **customerservices @zurich.com**

Visit our website at **zurich.ie**

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