

The rejection of an application for constant attendance allowance by a young man suffering from — — prompts me to write to ask if the terms of eligibility of this benefit, so universally acclaimed, ~~do not~~ exclude many severely disabled persons. This benefit is one of many which has recently been advertised in the press by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The qualifying conditions briefly stated in both the Act and the advertisement are (a) he requires frequent attention from another person in connection with his bodily functions throughout the day and prolonged or repeated attention throughout the night. (b) he requires continual supervision from another person in order to avoid substantial danger to himself or others.

I would like to ask readers whether if they were disabled and unable to walk, get in and out of bed, dress, eat or drink or visit the lavatory without assistance; would they confidently expect to satisfy ^{the conditions} of eligibility for this benefit? If they do, like my friend, they would be disappointed.

I might add that my friend is one 157,000 ^{severely} estimated disabled persons in private households requiring ^{According to} special care. The Government Social Survey report 'Handicapped and Impaired in Great Britain' ~~says those in special care are those needing constant~~ ^{for this group of disabled are those needing constant attention} attention. Since my friend's application was rejected I would like to know how many other severely disabled persons have or are about to be disappointed by the rejection of their application for this benefit,

Yours etc.

