

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Factsheet

In England and Wales the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is being phased out to be replaced by the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

This will affect everyone with a disability between the ages of **16 and 65** who currently receives DLA.

What does this change mean?

If you are **under the age of 16**, a child's DLA award will continue until your 16th birthday, then you'll be invited to apply for PIP.

If you were **born before 8 April 1948** and are already receiving DLA, you will continue to receive it for as long as you continue to meet the criteria.

If you **currently receive DLA** you will be contacted by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) telling you that your DLA is ending and inviting you to claim PIP.

If you do not apply for PIP within the 28 day deadline your DLA will automatically stop from the next payment date. If you do apply for PIP your DLA will continue until a decision has been made about your PIP application.

If you report a change in your condition before being invited to apply for PIP then you will be asked to move onto PIP at that stage.

If you are aged between 16 and 64 and applying for a disability benefit for the first time, you will be required to apply for PIP.

What is PIP?

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for people who have a long term physical or mental disability and need help participating in everyday life or find it difficult to get around.
- In some ways PIP has similarities with DLA, for instance they are both made up of two components – **Daily Living** and **Mobility**. PIP is however, a different benefit with different criteria, and individuals will not be able to accurately tell how the transition to PIP will affect them. You may see an increase in your benefits, or you may see a decrease.
- PIP is tax free, is not means tested, and you don't need to have paid National

Insurance contributions to be entitled to it.

- PIP has a daily living component and a mobility component and both components have two rates - a standard rate and an enhanced rate (see below for details).
- PIP is awarded according to how your illness or disability affects your ability to carry out certain specified activities and what help you need with those activities, not on your diagnosis.
- Eligibility for PIP is based on a points system. You get a certain number of points depending on whether you meet certain descriptors for the specified activities. For example, one activity which is considered is preparing food and there are a range of descriptors which relate to this activity. If you have no difficulties preparing a meal you will score no points for the activity. However, if you can only prepare a meal using a microwave you will score 2 points. If you need supervision or assistance preparing a meal you will score 4 points, and if you are unable to prepare and cook food you will score 8 points.
- You need a minimum of **8 points** to get the standard rate, and **12 points** to get the enhanced rate for daily living and/or mobility.
- It's a good idea to get supporting evidence from your doctor, social worker, care worker, or other professionals. This evidence should explain how your illness or disability affects you, and the help you need. It should be from people who know you well and who understand your situation. You could even keep a diary of the help you need each day to give a proper understanding of your situation, especially if your condition isn't the same every day. Don't be tempted to make light of your difficulties, even if some of the issues are embarrassing, you need to show how your condition really affects you.

Examples of evidence you could provide includes:

- care plans
- diary sheets
- supporting statement or information from family or friends
- information from a social worker
- educational records
- statement from teacher/headteacher
- prescriptions
- consultant's report
- community nurse statement
- GP letters
- existing DLA evidence already on file (you have to specifically ask for this to be included).

PIP rates

The proposed PIP rates from April 2017 are:

Daily living component Weekly rate (£)

- **Lower rate:** £55.65
- **Higher rate:** £83.10

Mobility component Weekly rate (£)

- **Lower rate:** £22.00
- **Higher rate:** £58.00

Take a look at the **Benefits and Work PIP self-test** to see your score and what you might be eligible for.

The application process

If you already receive DLA you do not need to do anything until DWP contact you by letter and invite you to apply for PIP. However, if you report a change of circumstances, such as a change in your condition, to the DWP, it will trigger an invitation to apply for PIP. Please be aware the DWP will contact you by letter, so this is something you should try to look out for. If you do not respond to the letter your benefits could be delayed or even stopped.

The application for Personal Independence Payment has four stages:

1. Initial claim

To start your PIP claim you need to contact the DWP.

Details of the different ways to start your initial claim, including the address to write to for requesting a paper form, can be found on the **GOV.uk website**. At this stage DWP will collect information such as your contact details, bank details, and your accessibility requirements.

2. Filling in 'How your disability affects you' form

After you have made an initial claim, the DWP will post a form to you. This is where you describe the impact of your impairments or health conditions, any specialist equipment you use or any help that you need. The assessment for PIP aims to make greater use of evidence from the people who support you. See the **"What is PIP?"** section above for examples of useful evidence you could provide.

3. An assessment by a health professional from Atos or Capita

This is when a health professional collects all the information and writes a report for the DWP.

You will likely be invited to a face-to-face consultation at this stage, though in some cases a decision will be made based on the form you have filled in and any further evidence you have provided.

4. Decision made

A case manager at the DWP will look at all the information and make a decision about your award. They will then let you know what decision they have made.

Unsuccessful applications

If your application is unsuccessful or you are unhappy with the outcome, you should contact the DWP **within one month** of the date of the decision to request a mandatory reconsideration.

This can be done over the phone, but we recommend that you do it in writing so you have a record of your request. If you need more time, contact the DWP and ask for an extension.

The DWP will then take another look at their decision.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the mandatory reconsideration then you can appeal the decision. This should be done in writing **within one month** of the date of the mandatory reconsideration decision.

If your challenge is successful then your claim will be backdated to the date of your original application.

We hope that you have found this factsheet useful. Whilst you are here, we have a small favour to ask. More people are using our service than ever before. We can't keep up with demand. We don't want to turn people away, and we want to keep on developing more information resources like this factsheet, but we don't have enough money to expand. So you can see why we need to ask for your help. We know that our information and advice can make a real difference to the quality of life of the people we support. If people using our service could help to support us, our future would be much more secure.

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