

# PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

## Background

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for working age people (16 – pension credit age). DLA will remain for children and if you receive Attendance Allowance you will not be affected by these changes.

PIP, like DLA, will remain a non means-tested, non contributory benefit. It is not taxable and will not count as an income when calculating your other benefits. There are many similarities to DLA but also, some key changes.

## Structure

The Care Component will be re-named the Daily Living Component and will effectively see the Lower rate removed. There will be a standard and enhanced rate which will reflect the current middle and higher rates of the Care component.

## Daily Living component

- Standard rate - £57.30 (Limited ability to carry out daily living activities)
- Enhanced rate - £85.60 (Severely limited ability to carry out daily living activities OR defined as terminally ill)

The structure of the Mobility Component will remain unchanged although there have been some changes to the descriptors. The rates will also be re-named - standard and enhanced.

## Mobility component

- Standard rate - £22.65 (Limited mobility to carry out mobility activities)
- Enhanced rate - £59.75 (Severely limited mobility to carry out mobility activities)

## Application and Awards

There is a change to the way that assessments are made through PIP. For DLA there is a focus on the health condition itself and you are asked to consider your 'worst day' scenario. Under PIP the focus for assessment will be on the impacts that the health condition has on your day to day living. A longer length of time will be considered for assessment.

You will need to call DWP to make a claim. **The telephone number is: 0800 917 2222.**

You will be asked some identity questions and then be sent a form to fill out. This claim form will give you the chance to explain how your health condition affects your day to day living. On returning this form, you should also provide any medical evidence to support your claim. A decision maker at DWP may be able to make a decision based on this information.

If they are unable to make a decision at this point, you will be asked to attend a face to face assessment with a health professional where you will be able to give more details about the affects of your health condition on your day to day living. Home visits are available, but you will need to give good reason for requesting these.

After this assessment, all the information will be sent to a DWP decision maker who will decide whether you are eligible for PIP and which rate will be payable.

If your claim is not successful and you wish to challenge this decision, you will need to request a 'mandatory reconsideration' from the DWP before you are able to appeal. You should ask for this within one month of being turned down for the benefit. We suggest that you do this by telephone and confirm in writing.

**Timetable of introduction** – You can no longer claim DLA if you are working age – you will need to claim PIP instead. If you are still in receipt of DLA, you will soon receive a letter from DWP inviting you to claim PIP. You will need to initiate this new claim, **you will not be moved over from DLA**. If you do not make a new claim for PIP when you receive this letter, your DLA payments will stop within 4 weeks.

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