



A quick guide to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (updated 28 October 2013)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) has been fully replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for people aged 16 to 64 from 10 June 2013 for new claims only. From 28 October 2013, we will start to reassess some existing DLA claimants.

The introduction of PIP is part of a wider reform of the welfare system.

This guide is primarily aimed at advisers who provide support to people who can or do claim DLA. A range of information tailored for use with the people you support is available online at www.gov.uk/dwp/pip-toolkit. Visit www.gov.uk/pip for more claimant information.

What is PIP?

PIP is to help towards some of the extra costs arising from a health condition or disability. It is based on how a person's condition affects them, not the condition they have.

PIP is for people aged 16 to 64

- ▶ DLA remains for children up to the age of 16. From October 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will contact them as they approach 16 to explain what will happen
- ▶ DLA remains available to existing claimants who were aged 65 or over on 8 April 2013 (the day that PIP was introduced).

Claimants can receive PIP whether they are in or out of work and the benefit is not means tested or taxed.

There are two components to PIP – for daily living and mobility needs. Each component can be paid at standard rate, or enhanced rate for those with the greatest needs.

PIP includes an assessment of the individual's needs by a health professional. Most people have a face-to-face consultation as part of their claim. You can find out more about the claim process over the page.

We will regularly review awards to make sure the claimant is receiving the right support. Reviews will be at appropriate intervals based on how likely it is that the claimant's condition or impairment will change.

How is PIP worked out?

For each activity, there is a list of 'descriptors', which are sentences that describe how much support, and the type of support, the claimant needs to do the activity. Each descriptor has a point score.

The number of points scored depends on how much help they need. The scores for the activities are added together to give a total for each part.

For each part, they will get the standard rate if they score between eight and 11 points. For each part, they will get the enhanced rate if their scores add up to 12 points or more.

Daily Living	Mobility	
Enhanced	Enhanced	12+ points
Standard	Standard	8-11 points
Not Entitled	Not Entitled	0-7 points

Timetable for PIP replacing DLA

October 2013 From 28 October, reassessment of existing DLA claimants begins in postcodes: B, CF, CH1, CH4-8, CV, DE, DY, GL16, HR, IP, LD, LE, LL, LN, NG, NN, NP, NR, PE, SA, ST, SY, TF, WR, WS and WV.

Claimants who will be reassessed from October in these areas include:

- those with fixed period DLA awards coming up for renewal
- children who turn 16 years old on or after 7 October 2013 (unless they have been awarded DLA under the Special Rules for terminally ill people)
- those where there is a report of a change in the DLA claimant's health condition or disability
- existing DLA claimants aged 16-64 who wish to make a PIP claim.

Further decisions on extending reassessment will be taken and communicated to the rest of the country in due course and will be informed by the experience of introducing reassessment in a gradual way first.



How does the claim process work?

1

Thinking about claiming

Information about PIP is available from a range of sources, including online, leaflets and through support organisations. These explain the eligibility criteria and help the claimant decide if they want to claim PIP.

Existing DLA claimants will be contacted individually to ask if they want to claim PIP.



2

Making a claim

Claimants (or those supporting them) phone DWP to make a claim to PIP. This involves an identity check and some basic questions. Paper claims won't normally be used, and online claims will not be available before 2014. Additional support, such as provision of alternative formats will be available.

DWP then send claimants a form where they can explain how their disability affects them.



3

Telling your story

Claimant completes the 'How your disability affects you' form to explain how their condition affects their daily life, both on good and bad days and over a range of activities.

Supporting evidence can be sent with this form, which they return to DWP by post.



4

Assessment

Claim details, form and supporting evidence are passed to the health professional. Most people are asked to attend a face-to-face consultation unless a decision can be reached on the basis of written evidence. Home visits are available when necessary and claimants can take someone along for support. The consultation provides the opportunity for the claimant to explain their support needs in their own words.

The health professional reviews the claim against a set of clear descriptors to assess the challenges faced by the individual and provides advice for the DWP Decision Maker to consider.



5

Decision

A DWP Decision Maker uses all the information in the claim form, from the health professional and anything else that has been provided. They make a reasoned decision on entitlement, including the level and length of award.

What about existing DLA claimants?

Existing DLA recipients who were aged between 16 and 64 years old on 8 April 2013 will need to decide if they want to make a claim to PIP.

DWP will write to individuals to let them know when their DLA is due to end, and explain how they can make a claim to PIP.

Existing claimants do not need to take any action now.

From 28 October 2013, anyone living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia with fixed period DLA awards coming up for renewal, children who turn 16 years old on or after 7 October 2013 (unless they have been awarded DLA under the Special Rules for terminally ill people), or where there is a report of a change in the DLA claimant's health condition or disability, will be invited to claim PIP.

From October 2013, a claimant age 16-64 living in this area and entitled to or awarded DLA can also choose to claim PIP.

The [postcode map](#) for this area can be found in the [PIP toolkit for support organisations](#).

The majority of working age DLA claimants will not be affected until **2015 or later**.

If an existing DLA claimant decides to claim PIP then DLA will continue to be paid until a decision on entitlement to PIP is made. If existing claimants don't claim or are not awarded PIP then DLA payments will stop.

DLA will continue to be paid for a period of four weeks following the date of the PIP entitlement decision. For reassessed claimants reaching age 16, their DLA award can be extended for up to six months.

How are other benefits and services affected?

PIP is not taken into account as income when assessing entitlement to any means tested benefit and may even help claimants qualify for extra benefit.

People receiving Attendance Allowance will not be affected by the introduction of PIP.

Receiving PIP will provide access to other help. This can include Blue Badges, concessionary travel passes or a Motability vehicle.

Carers may also receive Carers Allowance because the person they are caring for is receiving the care component of DLA or the daily living component of PIP.

If claimants are subsequently not eligible to PIP then these benefits and services may also be affected.

Where to get more information

The PIP toolkit for support organisations is available online at www.gov.uk/dwp/PIP-toolkit. It includes quick guides, example forms and a range of factsheets. Your local [DWP Partnership Manager](#) may also be able to help. Direct claimants to www.gov.uk/PIP for more information.

We welcome your feedback on this guide and how we can make sure you have the information you need – please email PIP.feedback@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.