

# Personal independence payment

Personal independence payment (PIP) is a new benefit that was introduced in April 2013, replacing disability living allowance (DLA) for working-age people (aged 16-64).

## When is personal independence payment introduced?

8 April 2013	New claims for PIP introduced from this date in most of Northern England. No new working age claims for DLA in this area.
10 June 2013	PIP was introduced for new claims throughout the UK from this date.
28 October 2013	<p>The transfer of existing working age DLA claimants begins in some areas of England and Wales if you are in one of three groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your existing DLA award is coming to an end;</li> <li>• you report a change in your circumstances; <i>or</i></li> <li>• you reach the age of 16, unless you are terminally ill.</li> </ul> <p>You can also voluntarily claim PIP from this date in those areas, if you get DLA and you were under 65 on 8 April 2013.</p> <p><b>It is not clear when DLA claimants in the rest of the UK will be affected by the transfer. See <a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a> for updates.</b></p>
October 2015	It is expected that if you have a longer term or indefinite award of DLA you will be transferred to PIP from this date, if you were under 65 on 8 April 2013.
October 2017	If you are a working age DLA claimant, you should have been contacted and invited to claim PIP by this point.

## Who can claim personal independence payment?

To be able to make a claim for PIP, you have to satisfy the following basic conditions:

- Be over 16 and under 65 (with some exceptions if you are being transferred from DLA);
- Not be a 'person subject to immigration control' (there may be limited exceptions);
- Meet residence and presence conditions (normally including being 'habitually resident', and having been present in Great Britain for two of the past three years); *and*
- Satisfy the disability conditions for one or both of the two components (see below).

PIP is not taxable or means tested, and there are no National Insurance conditions. It is paid to you if you qualify regardless of whether you are in or out of work.

## What are the disability conditions for personal independence payment?

Personal independence payment is divided into two components – the daily living component and the mobility component. It is possible for you to qualify for both if you meet the entitlement conditions for both.

Each component is payable at two rates, a standard rate and an enhanced rate:

- to qualify for the standard rate, your ability to undertake daily living or mobility activities must be 'limited' by your physical or mental condition; *or*
- to qualify for the enhanced rate, your ability to undertake daily living or mobility activities must be 'severely limited' by your physical or mental condition.

For both components, a 'required period' condition must also be satisfied, which means that you must have had the limitations for three months to qualify, and be expected to have those limitations for a further nine months. Once awarded PIP, your needs must be expected to last for nine months throughout your award.

The only exception to these rules is if you claim because you have a terminal illness (which means that you have a progressive disease and death from that disease can reasonably be expected within six months). If you are terminally ill, you do not have to satisfy a required period condition; and automatically receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component. You should get a DS1500 form completed by a medical professional if you are terminally ill, and explain this when you claim.

<b>Daily living Activities</b>
1. Preparing food
2. Taking nutrition
3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition
4. Washing and bathing
5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence
6. Dressing and undressing
7. Communicating verbally
8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words
9. Engaging with other people face to face
10. Making budgeting decisions
<b>Mobility activities</b>
10. Planning and following journeys
11. Moving around

In the assessment there are ten daily living activities and two mobility activities. The table to the left shows the activities.

Each activity contains a list of statements describing different difficulties with the activities, called 'descriptors'. Each descriptor scores a certain number of points. You will be awarded points for one descriptor in each activity, and the scores will be added together to give a total for daily living activities and a total for mobility activities. Lots of the words used in the descriptors are given a special definition for the purposes of the assessment.

There is a 'threshold' score to become entitled to a component. The thresholds are:

- 8 points for the standard rate of a component; *and*
- 12 points for the enhanced rate of a component.

As some conditions fluctuate over time, the regulations set out how you score points if your needs vary from day to day. If you should score points for the activity on over half the days in the 'required period' - for a single descriptor or a combination of scoring descriptors - you will be given some points in the assessment.

You will be awarded the highest scoring descriptor from an activity that applies to you on over half of the days in the required period. If no descriptor applies on over half of the days, but you score points for two or more of the scoring descriptors (added together) on over half of the days, the descriptor that applies most often and scores some points will be awarded.

You should only be awarded a particular descriptor if you can undertake an activity at the level it describes 'reliably'. This means that if you cannot manage the activity safely, as often as you need to, to an acceptable standard and in under twice the time it would take someone with no disability or health problem, you should instead be awarded a higher scoring descriptor.

### **How do you claim and get paid?**

The main method of claiming PIP is by telephone, and eventually online claims will also be available. Paper claim forms can be provided for people who can't use these methods, although the easiest way to obtain these is to call the telephone claims number. The number is 0800 917 2222 (textphone 0800 917 7777).

The initial claim only requires quite basic information, and there is then a separate stage of evidence gathering. This involves completing a paper questionnaire about the impact of your disability or health problem on the specified daily living and mobility activities, which you have to return within a month. Most people also have a face to face assessment. A claim will be refused if you fail to provide return the questionnaire or take part in an assessment without good reason. The assessor may contact your doctor or other relevant professionals, but does not have to do so. You will be able to bring someone to the assessment to offer support, and to send in supporting evidence with the questionnaire.

If you are terminally ill, the claims process is different. You are asked questions about the mobility activities as part of your initial claim, and do not have to complete the normal questionnaire or go to an assessment.

Payments is normally be made 4-weekly, paid directly into your bank account. The date of payment is set by the date on which the decision on the claim is made. You can be paid weekly in advance if you are terminally ill.

### **The amount of personal independence payment**

The table below shows the amounts of PIP.

<b>Component</b>	<b>Standard rate</b>	<b>Enhanced rate</b>
Daily living	£53.00	£79.15
Mobility	£21.00	£55.25

These are the same as the rates of the middle and highest rates of the DLA care component, and the two rates of the DLA mobility component.

### **What happens if you are in hospital, care or prison?**

Personal independence payment is normally paid if you are in hospital, residential care or prison. There are some exceptions to this rule:

- if you are a self-funding hospital or care home resident you can still get paid PIP;
- the mobility component is still paid if you are in residential care; *and*
- payment continues as normal for your first 28 days in hospital, prison or care.

Different periods in hospital care and prison are linked together, stopping you from qualifying for a further 28 days payment if you move from one to the other. Periods in hospital or care separated by 28 days or less link together, and two periods in prison link together where separated by less than one year.

## How long is an award made for?

An award must be made for a fixed time unless this would not be appropriate. Where your condition may improve over time an award of up to two years is likely to be made. Longer awards are made where change is unlikely; and indefinite awards in a few cases. Even indefinite awards will be checked for accuracy, and you can be reassessed at any point during your award, to check whether you still satisfy the entitlement conditions.

## What happens when you reach 65?

The rules about personal independence payment when you reach the age of 65 are similar to the disability living allowance rules.

- If you reach the age of 65 and are receiving PIP, you continue to receive it for as long as you still meet the entitlement conditions.
- It is possible to renew your award, or make a new claim if entitlement ceased within the past year and you still have the same medical condition(s).
- It is not possible to qualify for the mobility component for the first time after the age of 65, or move to a higher rate of it than you are already awarded.
- It is possible to qualify for the daily living component after the age of 65 if the mobility component is in payment; or to move between rates if your needs change.

## What will happen to you if you get disability living allowance already?

Existing working age DLA claimants will be transferred to PIP, using the process below.

### *When the transfer process affects you*

If you get DLA and were under 65 on 8 April 2013, you will be contacted at some point between 28 October 2013 and 2017, and invited to make a claim for PIP.

**If you live in some parts of England and Wales** (see [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for which areas), you are invited to claim PIP in the following situations.

- If you reach 16 on or after 28 October 2013, you will be invited soon after your 16th birthday, (unless you are terminally ill).
- If your award is due to end after February 2014, you will be contacted before your award ends and invited to claim PIP.
- You can voluntarily claim PIP from 28 October 2013, if you are over 16 and were under 65 on 8 April 2013. **Seek advice before making a claim.**
- If you report a change in your circumstances relevant to your DLA award (apart from leaving the UK) you will be invited to claim PIP. **Seek advice about whether your circumstances have changed in a way that is relevant to your DLA award before reporting a change.**

**At the time of writing it was understood that if you get DLA and live elsewhere in the UK you will not be affected by the transfer to PIP at present. However, this situation can change without notice. Check any letters about your DLA award carefully; make sure you return DLA renewal forms in good time; and contact DWP if you have not received renewal forms.**

It is intended that if you have a longer term award of DLA, this process will not affect you until October 2015, unless you reach the age of 16 or report a change in your circumstances.

## ***How the transfer process works***

- If you claim PIP, the assessment process will be similar to a new claim. Your DLA award will end when the PIP claim is decided, whether PIP is awarded or not.
- If you do not respond to the invitation to claim PIP, your DLA award will be suspended four weeks later (or longer if reasonable). If you claim PIP within the four weeks after suspension, your DLA award will be restored until a decision is made on your PIP claim.
- If you do not claim PIP within four weeks of your DLA being suspended, your DLA award will be terminated. You will be able to make a new claim for PIP straight away.

Your DLA award can be extended for up to one year after your 16th birthday, to allow a decision to be made on your PIP claim. Any other DLA award can be extended for as long as is needed to make sure that there is time to decide if you are entitled to PIP or not.

## **How does personal independence payment affect other benefits?**

- If you get the daily living component of PIP, then a carer may be able to claim carer's allowance for looking after you.
- PIP is not counted as income for means-tested benefits or tax credits.
- Being entitled to PIP gives access to the system of disability premiums and additions in the current benefits system, and disability elements for tax credits, in a similar way to DLA.
- If a young person still included in your universal credit claim is entitled to PIP, a disabled child amount is payable in your household's universal credit award.
- If you or your partner are over pension credit age and get PIP, a 'limited capability for work' element can be included in your universal credit award.
- If you get the enhanced rate of the PIP mobility component, you can access the Motability scheme if your award has over a year left to run.
- You cannot get PIP at the same time as some industrial injuries benefits; war pensions or armed forces compensation payments; or NHS mobility assistance.

## **Is there a right of appeal?**

There is a right of appeal to a First-tier Tribunal against most decisions concerning entitlement to PIP. However, there is the power to require consideration of a revision request before an appeal. If a PIP decision notice says that the right of appeal only arises after the Secretary of State has considered whether to revise the decision, then you must first request a revision before being able to appeal. This should apply to all PIP decisions. When a revision request has been considered you are sent a 'mandatory reconsideration notice', and you can appeal directly to the tribunal within one month of the date on the notice

## **Further information**

CPAG information at: [www.cpag.org.uk](http://www.cpag.org.uk), and CPAG publications about PIP available from our online bookshop.

The DWP have placed information about PIP on the internet at [www.gov.uk/pip](http://www.gov.uk/pip)

The telephone number to make a claim for PIP is 0800 917 2222 (textphone 0800 917 7777), open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

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