



A quick guide to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for support organisations (updated 13 December 2012)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for people aged 16 to 64 from 8 April 2013. This will initially be for new claims only.

The introduction of PIP is part of a wider reform of the welfare system. The new benefit will better reflect today's understanding of disability which has changed significantly in the two decades since DLA was introduced.

PIP will include an assessment of individual needs and aims to ensure that financial support is targeted at those who face the greatest challenges to living independently.

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/pip

What is PIP?

PIP is to help towards some of the extra costs arising from 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 will remain for children up to the age of 16. Once PIP has been introduced, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will contact them as they approach 16 to explain what will happen
- ▶ DLA will remain available to those 65 or over on 8 April 2013 (the day that PIP is introduced)

In the same way as DLA, claimants can receive PIP whether they are in or out of work. The benefit is not means tested or taxed.

Enhanced	Enhanced
Standard	Standard

Daily Living **Mobility**

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

Awards will be reviewed to ensure that the claimant is receiving the right support. Reviews will be at appropriate intervals depending on how likely it is for the claimant's condition or impairment to change.

When is PIP being introduced?

February 2013

DWP will send general information about PIP to all existing DLA claimants in their DLA uprating letters. DLA claimants don't need to take any action as a result of this letter.

April 2013

New claims to PIP start for people living in areas including Cheshire, Cumbria, Merseyside, North East England and North West England. When a DLA claim is received from this area, it will be treated as a claim to PIP instead.

DLA new claims continue **in all other parts of the country** and for existing DLA claimants.

June 2013

New claims to PIP will start for the remaining parts of Great Britain. There will be no new claims to DLA for people aged 16 to 64.

October 2013

Reassessment to PIP starts for fixed period DLA awards coming up for renewal, young people turning 16 or where DLA claimants report a change in their condition.

October 2015

DWP will begin selecting existing DLA claimants and tell them what they need to do to claim PIP. We will prioritise DLA claimants who have turned 65 after 8 April 2013, when PIP was first introduced.



Department for Work & Pensions

How does the claim process work?

1

Thinking about claiming

Information about PIP will be available from a range of sources, including online, via leaflets and through support organisations. This will 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 should be available from Spring 2014. Additional support, such as provision of alternative formats will be available.

DWP will 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 will be asked to attend a face to face consultation unless a decision can be reached on the basis of written evidence. Home visits will be available when necessary and claimants can take someone along for support. The consultation will provide the opportunity 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.

5

Decision

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

What about existing DLA claimants?

There are no automatic entitlements to PIP, even where an indefinite or lifetime DLA award has been made.

Existing DLA recipients who are aged between 16 and 64 years old on or after 8 April 2013 (the day that PIP is introduced) will need to decide if they want to make a claim to PIP.

DWP will write to individuals from October 2015 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 October 2013, anyone with a DLA award coming up for renewal, young people turning 16 or DLA claimants reporting a change in their condition, will be reassessed for PIP.

From October 2015 all remaining DLA claimants will be invited to make a claim to PIP.

If an existing DLA recipient makes a claim to PIP then their DLA would normally continue until a decision on their PIP claim is made. If PIP is not awarded or not claimed then DLA will stop.

How are other benefits and services affected?

PIP does not affect benefits such as Employment and Support Allowance or Jobseeker's Allowance. People receiving Attendance Allowance will not be affected by the introduction of PIP.

Like DLA, receiving PIP may provide access to other help. This can include Blue Badges, concessionary travel passes or Motability. These arrangements are being finalised and we'll update this guide once confirmed.

Carers may also receive Carers Allowance because the person they are caring for is receiving DLA or PIP.

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

Where to get more information

There is a range of information about PIP online, including regularly updated frequently asked questions, and the latest version of this quick guide. You can find detailed information for advisers including policy briefings at www.dwp.gov.uk/pip. Your local DWP [DWP Partner Manager](#) may also be able to help.

There is more tailored information for claimants at www.gov.uk/pip. You may want to link to this page from your own sites.

We'd 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.