



Personal Independence Payment

The Government is proposing to introduce a new benefit, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in 2013-2014. Like DLA, PIP is designed to cover extra costs disabled people have and to help them lead full and active lives.

Why is the Government getting rid of DLA?

The Government has said that DLA needs reforming as the application process is complicated and can have inconsistent results.

They say that PIP will have a more 'objective assessment' which will reflect people's changing needs. This will mean that some claimants will have their entitlement reviewed more regularly. The Government want to focus PIP on 'those with greatest needs'.

They are also trying to achieve a 20% cut to the current cost DLA.

How will PIP be paid?

Like DLA, you may be eligible for PIP even if you work. It will not matter how much you have in savings, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

PIP will also have two components:

- the 'mobility' component
- the 'daily living' component, which will replace the current DLA 'care' component

However, whereas DLA has three rates of the care component (low, middle and high), under PIP both the mobility and daily living components will be paid at just two rates: 'standard', and 'enhanced'. We do not yet know what the monetary awards for the different rates will be.

More information on PIP

Read the Disability Alliance fact sheet on PIP at

<http://www.disabilityalliance.org/f60.htm>



How will PIP be assessed?

There will be a new assessment for PIP. Unlike the current assessment for DLA, this will involve a face-to-face interview with an independent healthcare professional, in most cases. The proposed assessment asks about your ability to carry out eleven key daily activities, as a measure of the barriers that you may face to in your day to day life.

The format of the questions will be quite similar to the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), which is used to assess claimants for Employment and Support Allowance (which has replaced Incapacity Benefit). As with the WCA, PIP claimants will be given a score at the end of their assessment, which will indicate whether or not they are eligible for the benefit. Information from the claimant's doctor or other relevant people, such as support workers, will also be collected and used in making the decision. If you do not agree with your decision, you can appeal it.

When will PIP be introduced?

Parliament still has to pass the legislation to remove DLA and replace it with PIP. However, assuming that this happens, PIP will come into effect from 2013 for new claimants.

Will my current DLA claim be affected?

Once the PIP system is implemented (after 2013), existing DLA claimants will also have their claims reassessed, to see if they are eligible for PIP.

Sources of advice and help

THT Direct (free call 0808 802 1221) can give first line advice on benefits and for in- depth support they will refer you to a local agency or Citizens Advice Bureau

www.nat.org.uk has details of the latest developments in benefits as they relate to people with HIV

www.directgov.uk is the Government site which explains benefits and entitlement.

<http://benefits.tcell.org.uk> is a website run by and for people with HIV, with a lot of benefits-related information and tips and interactive forums.

Your **local HIV organisation** may also have benefits advice online.

Always **check that any information you are using is up to date** as benefits are changing fast.