

# Disability Living Allowance replaced by PIP scheme

Understandably many people have expressed their concerns and worries about the changes to Disability Living Allowance (DLA), so we are covering these changes to provide a better understanding of what is happening.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) started to replace Disability Living Allowance from 8 April 2013 for people aged 16 to 64 with a health condition or disability.

PIP helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability. What you receive is not based on your condition, but how your condition affects you.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will carry out assessments so that they can work out the level of help you receive. There will then be regular re-assessments.

## Most people will not be affected by PIP until 2015 or later.

The details of if/when PIP affects your DLA or when you can claim PIP can be found on the following website [www.gov.uk/pip](http://www.gov.uk/pip)

This site advises that you get help if you don't understand PIP, or presumably, if you don't use the internet.

## What you will receive

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is usually paid every 4 weeks. It's tax free and can be paid if you're in or out of work. It is made up of 2 parts and whether you get 1 or both of these depends on how your condition affects you. The payments are as follows:

Daily Living component	Weekly rate	Mobility component	Weekly rate
Standard	£53.00	Standard	£21.00
Enhanced	£79.15	Enhanced	£55.25

## Who is eligible for PIP?

To qualify for PIP, you must have a long-term health problem or disability related to daily living and/or mobility. You must have these for at least 3 months and expect them to last for 9 months.

## Daily living difficulties include:

- ◆ preparing or eating food
- ◆ washing and bathing
- ◆ dressing and undressing
- ◆ reading
- ◆ using the toilet
- ◆ communicating
- ◆ managing your medicines or treatments
- ◆ making decisions about money.

## Mobility difficulties

You may get the mobility component of PIP if you need help with going out or moving around.

## Health assessments

You may get a letter telling you to go for an assessment to work out the level of help you need. The letter explains why and where you must go.

The DWP makes the decision about your claim based on the results of the assessment, your application and any supporting evidence you include.

## How to claim

If you get DLA You don't need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) about PIP now. You'll have received a letter in early 2013 to tell you more about PIP and when you might be affected.

Most people getting DLA won't be affected until 2015 or later. You may be affected earlier if your care or mobility needs change, or you reach the end of your existing DLA award. To find out when your DLA will be affected you can use a 'PIP checker' on the website [www.gov.uk/pip](http://www.gov.uk/pip)

You do need to apply for PIP when asked even if you get an indefinite or lifetime DLA. When you apply, your DLA will continue until DWP makes a decision about your claim. If you decide not to apply, your DLA will end.

The change from DLA to PIP only affects you if you are aged 16 to 64 from April 8th 2013. You should use the 'PIP checker' to find out what happens to your DLA when you turn either 16 or 65.

## New claims

PIP was introduced for new claims in parts of the north of England from 8 April 2013. It will be introduced nationwide from 10 June 2013.

To make a new claim you have to phone the DWP who will then send you a form to fill in about how your long-term health condition or disability affects you. You can describe your condition on both good and bad days.

## Contact numbers – available 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday

New claims

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

General information (if you already get DLA)

Telephone: 08457 123 456

General information (if you don't get DLA)

Telephone: 0845 850 3322