

# PIP is replacing DLA - know the facts

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) has replaced Living Allowance for people of working age – 16 to 64 years old. Making sure you have the right information is very important to us so here are some of the key facts to help you understand the benefit called Personal Independence Payment, which was introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) has been replaced for people of working age including those who have an indefinite or long-term award of DLA. If you currently receive DLA and are aged 16 to 64 years over the next two years you will receive a letter from the Department for Communities (DfC) inviting you to apply for a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The letter will tell you what to do next and by when. As your DLA will come to an end it is important that you claim PIP when you are invited to do so.

## YOU WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE DLA IF YOU:

- were aged 65 years or over on or before 20 June 2016 and continue to meet the eligibility criteria for DLA; or
- are under the age of 16.



Northern Ireland  
Executive

[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

**welfare  
changes**  
Personal Independence Payment

# PIP is different from DLA

PIP is a new benefit that has replaced DLA for people aged 16 to 64 years. PIP and DLA cannot be in payment at the same time. PIP has been designed to help towards some of the extra costs arising from having a long-term health condition or disability (ill health or disability that is expected to last 12 months or longer). It is assessed on how a person's condition affects their daily life, not on the condition they have.

## PIP IS MADE UP OF 2 COMPONENTS:

**Daily Living** – for help participating in everyday activities

**Mobility** – for help with going out and moving around

You can be paid either the Daily Living part or the Mobility part, or both. Each part can be paid at either a 'standard rate' or an 'enhanced rate'.

The amount you get is based on how your health condition or disability affects how well you carry out 'everyday activities', the difficulties you face and the help you need to do them.

Find out more about PIP at:  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk/pip](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/pip)

## What will happen?

The DfC will send you a letter to tell you what to do next and by when. You should not ignore this letter and you will need to telephone the PIP Centre to let them know whether or not you want to claim PIP (Telephone: 0800 012 1573 or Textphone: 0800 012 1574).

If you decide to claim PIP, the PIP Centre will send you a 'How your disability affects you' form. It comes with notes to help you fill it in and asks you to explain how your condition affects your daily life, both on good days and bad days, and over a range of activities.

It is important that you complete this form and return it in the envelope provided, along

with any other supporting information that you already have about your condition, as soon as possible. If you don't return this form your claim for PIP may be disallowed.

Your claim will be assessed by an independent Health Professional to help work out the level of help you need. They will look at the information you provide and may ask your GP, or other contacts you've given on the form, for any further information they need.

Sometimes they can assess your claim just using the written information, but most people will be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with the Health Professional.

### WHAT IS A FACE-TO-FACE CONSULTATION?

A face-to-face consultation is a meeting with the independent Health Professional that gives you the opportunity to explain your needs in your own words. The Health Professional will contact you to arrange it and you can take someone with you for support and they can take part in the discussion too.

### DO I NEED TO CLAIM PIP NOW?

If you were aged between 16 and 64 years on or after 20 June 2016 you will be randomly selected and invited to claim PIP between now and December 2018.

You don't need to contact the DfC until we write to you unless there is a change in how your condition or disability affects you. For these changes you should contact the

Disability and Carers Service (Telephone: 0300 123 3356 or Textphone: 028 9031 1092).

### WILL I GET PIP AUTOMATICALLY?

No. PIP and DLA are different benefits, with different assessment criteria. When you receive your letter you will need to contact the PIP Centre to let them know if you decide to make a claim for PIP or not. If you don't make a claim in the time available, your DLA payments may stop.

Should you decide to make a claim for PIP, your DLA will continue to be paid until a decision on your PIP entitlement is made.



### WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING WHEN I RECEIVE MY LETTER?

You will have four weeks to make a claim to PIP when you are invited to claim. If you don't contact the PIP Centre, after four weeks your DLA may be suspended and you may not be paid. If you still do not contact the PIP Centre after another four weeks your DLA claim may be terminated.

### IF I DECIDE NOT TO CLAIM PIP, WHEN WILL MY DLA PAYMENTS STOP?

If you contact the PIP Centre to confirm you do not want to claim PIP your DLA payments will be stopped 14 days after your next payday.

### I'M OVER 65 - DO I HAVE TO CLAIM PIP?

If you were aged 65 years or over on or before 20 June 2016 you will continue to receive DLA provided you continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

### MY CHILD IS UNDER 16 - WILL THEIR DLA STOP?

No. DLA will remain for children up to the age of 16, whether they are existing or new claimants. The parent or guardian of existing DLA claimants will be contacted in plenty of time before their child turns 16 to tell them what they need to do.

### WILL MY MONEY CHANGE?

The rates for PIP are different from DLA. The money you get will depend on how your condition affects you.

If you are awarded PIP, your award will be reviewed periodically. You can see the current PIP rates at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/pip](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/pip)





## What support is available?

The Northern Ireland Executive has put in place measures to support people who are currently receiving DLA and who are financially worse off after they have been assessed for PIP.

### **THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES OF SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS FOR PIP:**

#### **1. IF SOMEONE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR PIP:**

If after their assessment, someone doesn't qualify for PIP and lodges an appeal, a Supplementary Payment can be provided, equal to their DLA payment, until their appeal is heard and a decision is made.

#### **2. WHEN SOMEONE RECEIVES LESS ON PIP THAN THEY DID ON DLA:**

A Supplementary Payment for one year can be provided if someone qualifies for PIP, but at a reduced rate, and their weekly loss is more than £10. This Supplementary Payment will be equal to 75% of the difference in benefit. For example, if the difference is £20 they will receive £15.

#### **3. WHEN SOMEONE HAS A DISABILITY OR ILLNESS AS RESULT OF A NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT RELATED INJURY:**

To qualify for PIP someone must score at least eight points in the assessment process. If they score between four and seven points and therefore don't qualify for PIP but can show that their disability or illness is as a result of a Northern Ireland conflict related



injury, they may be awarded four extra points. A Supplementary Payment will be paid for one year.

### **SUPPORT FOR CARERS**

You will no longer be entitled to Carer's Allowance or Carer's Premium if the person in receipt of DLA, who you currently provide care for, doesn't qualify for PIP after their assessment. However, in these circumstances a Supplementary Payment will be paid for up to one year.

### **SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING ADDITIONS TO BENEFITS BECAUSE OF DISABILITY**

If after your assessment you do not qualify for PIP or do not qualify at the same rate as you were receiving under DLA it could affect certain additions known as Disability Premiums which are included in some other benefits paid to you.

People who are impacted in this way will receive a Supplementary Payment to cover this loss for up to one year.

### **HOW IS A SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT PAID?**

A person can only receive a PIP Supplementary Payment for one category at any one time. Supplementary Payments will be made every four weeks in arrears.

Supplementary Payments are only available until March 2020



### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

There is information for the public on all aspects of Welfare Changes and PIP available at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/welfarechanges](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/welfarechanges)