

Supervision

Ian has epilepsy.

He used to get the **highest rate of DLA for care**, as he needs someone to watch over him throughout the day and to check on him at the night. He also got the **lower rate for mobility**, as he needs supervision from another person when walking outdoors.

Ian got over £100 per week on DLA.

When he had to claim PIP, he found he only scored enough points for the **standard rate for daily living** (£68.10 per week), and **nothing for mobility**.



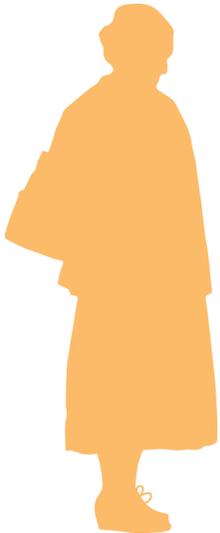
Mobility

Ellen used to get DLA at the highest rate for mobility because she was **virtually unable to walk**.

She used her benefit for a **Motability car**.

When it was time to renew her claim, she was invited to claim PIP.

Because she could reliably walk **more than 20 metres** but less than 50 metres, Ellen only got the lower rate of PIP for mobility and lost her car.



Reconsiderations and Appeals

If you get less PIP than you hoped for, or are turned down for PIP, you can ask for the decision to be looked at again. This is often called a **mandatory reconsideration**. You must ask within **one calendar month** of the **date on the decision letter**.

If you are unhappy with the **second decision**, you can **appeal to a tribunal**. You have **one calendar month** from the date on the **new decision letter** to appeal.

If you have been given **less PIP than you hoped for**, **get advice** before asking for a reconsideration or appeal. You might win more, but you could also get less or lose your PIP if the decision is looked at again.

Changing from DLA to PIP can also affect the other benefits you get, or benefits for your carer. **Get a benefit check** when you know what rate of PIP you have been awarded to see if it changes anything.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our **Citizens Advice Helpline: 0800 144 8848**



Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system
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Changing from DLA to...

Personal Independence Payment

Benefits and Health no. 6



What is PIP?

PIP (Personal Independence Payment) is a benefit for working age people whose disabilities affect their daily lives or mobility.

It is not means-tested and you do not need to have paid National Insurance to get PIP.

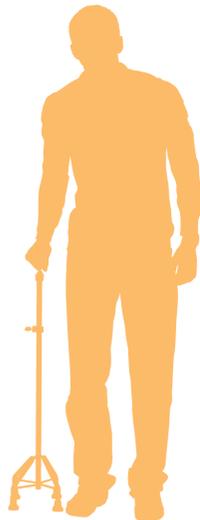
You do not have to be unfit for work to claim PIP. You can claim PIP even if you are in full-time, paid work.

You cannot make a new claim for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) unless you are claiming for a child under 16.

If you are working age and still getting DLA, eventually you will be told to claim PIP instead. If your DLA runs for a fixed time, you will be told to claim PIP just before it ends. If you have to report a change in your circumstances to the DLA unit, you may be told to claim PIP then.

Even if your DLA was for life, you could still be told to claim PIP one day. If you don't make a claim for PIP when told to, your DLA will stop anyway.

During the Covid-19 crisis, re-assessments of disability benefits were postponed and there are still delays to this process.



PIP v DLA

PIP looks at disability differently to DLA. DLA for care asked if you needed attention or supervision from another person and if you needed this during the day, at night or both.

DLA mobility looked at whether you were unable to walk or virtually unable to walk but you could also get this if the effort of walking was a significant risk to your health.

PIP has a points system which looks at ten daily living activities and two mobility ones. The more difficult an activity is for you, the more points you should get for it.

For example, if you need to use a special aid or appliance to cook, you score 2 points; if you need help from someone else to cook, you score 4. If you cannot cook at all, even with help, you score 8.



Some people might find it easier to get PIP than DLA, or might get a higher rate of PIP. This is often the case for people who look after themselves using aids and adaptations.

Some people will find it harder to get PIP than they did DLA, or might get a lower rate. If you have physical problems walking you are less likely to get enhanced rate of PIP than higher rate DLA.

Here are some examples of what can happen when you are swapping to PIP.

Aids and Appliances

Samira has severe arthritis but manages to look after herself. Because she does not need help from another person, she did not get DLA.

Samira needs special equipment and gadgets to cope at home. She can cook and cut up meals using special cutlery with handles that are designed to be easy to hold. She wears slip-on shoes and loose-fitting clothes as she cannot manage buttons and zips.

She needs lever taps on her kitchen sink, bath and wash basin, and hand rails to help her get on and off the toilet and out of the bath.

Because Samira needs to use aids and appliances for so many tasks, she scores enough points for the standard rate of PIP for daily living. This is £68.10 per week.

If Samira qualifies for PIP, she will carry on getting it as long as she meets the rules, even when she is over retirement age. She might also find she can claim other benefits or get higher rates of some she gets already, like ESA or HB.

Samira must claim PIP before she retires, or her only option will be Attendance Allowance. As the rules for this are like those for DLA, she won't qualify for that unless her needs increase.

