

Personal Independence Payment – people turning age 65 after 8 April 2013

Introduction

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is being replaced with a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for people who are aged 16 to 64 on or after 8 April 2013.

PIP will be introduced on a gradual basis:

- New claims will be accepted in a limited geographic area in the North West and part of the North East of England from 8 April 2013, before new claims are expected to be taken in all remaining areas of GB from June 2013; and
- DLA recipients will start to be invited to claim PIP from October 2013, for example where they report a change in their care or mobility needs or a fixed term award is due to expire¹. Most DLA recipients will start to be invited to claim PIP from October 2015. The implementation timetable is available on the DWP PIP webpage: <http://dwp.gov.uk/pip>

Those people already aged 65 or over (on 8 April 2013) will not be reassessed for PIP, and will remain on DLA as long as they continue to satisfy the eligibility criteria.

Policy context – clarity and fairness

We have created a “bright line” rule in that those DLA recipients aged below 65² on 8 April 2013 will be within scope for PIP, and those aged 65 or over on this date will remain on DLA where they continue to satisfy the eligibility rules.

This rule gives individuals certainty as to whether or not they will be affected by the change. People will simply have to consider when they were born. If they were born on or before 8 April 1948 they will stay on DLA. Individuals who were born after this date will know they will be invited to claim PIP. The intention here is to provide clarity and transparency for all existing DLA claimants, their advisers and the Department.

There is also an important point of fairness. It would be unfair to treat some working age DLA recipients, who were under age 65 on 8 April 2013, differently depending on whether they had an award ending, their needs changed or they were randomly selected to claim PIP from October 2015.

¹ Where a fixed term award is due to expire from the end of February 2014.

² Excluding young people below age 16.

We have also added an important safeguard which means that anyone being assessed for the first time for PIP who at the time when they are assessed is aged 65 or over will be able to access the daily living and the mobility component of PIP at either the standard or the enhanced rate without the normal age restrictions applying. This means that some people may be able to access the mobility component for the first time, even if they were aged 65 or over at the point they are assessed.

PIP will not be available to new claimants who are over the upper age limit (age 65 or State Pension age, whichever is higher), except where they had a previous claim to PIP or DLA which ended within the last 12 months or where they applied before that age, but that claim was not decided. Anyone making a new claim over the upper age limit will instead need to make a claim for Attendance Allowance.

DLA recipients reaching age 65 from 8 April 2013

Around 206,000 DLA recipients are expected to turn age 65 between April 2013 and the end of September 2015 when managed reassessment is planned to start. This figure is an upper limit, as people in this group are likely to report a change in needs or their existing fixed term DLA award will be due to expire at an earlier date – in these circumstances they will be invited to claim PIP before 2015. It is also possible that some may have voluntarily elected to claim PIP before turning age 65, and others may have come off the benefit.

The table below shows the DLA care/mobility award profile of this age group:

DLA Entitlement for claimants turning 65 during April 2013 – September 2015		
DLA Rate Combination	Caseload	Percentage
Higher Care, Higher Mob	41,000	20%
Higher Care, Lower Mob	5,000	2%
Higher Care, No Mob	1,000	0%
Middle Care, Higher Mob	40,000	19%
Middle Care, Lower Mob	14,000	7%
Middle Care, No Mob	3,000	1%
Lower Care, Higher Mob	43,000	21%
Lower Care, Lower Mob	10,000	5%
Lower Care, No Mob	19,000	9%
No Care, Higher Mob	28,000	14%
No Care, Lower Mob	3,000	1%
Total	206,000	100%

Note:

Source: DWP Longitudinal Study, May 2012

The size of the sample data for the modelling of the impact of the assessment criteria under PIP does not allow a meaningful breakdown by age group to be produced for PIP award outcomes.

Delivering PIP – further work we will do

We have published our timetable for implementing PIP. The detailed planning for this is still being worked through, and we have deliberately allowed for some flexibility in order to learn from the early implementation, our evaluation work, and the first independent review (which we intend to complete by the end of 2014).

When managed reassessment starts from late 2015 we will want to ensure that there is a balance of people of different age groups being invited to claim PIP, but with a slight bias so that the eldest potential claimants are invited first. This will help to ensure that individuals are assessed for PIP as close as possible to their 65th birthday.

We will ensure that all current DLA claimants are provided with information on what will happen to their existing claim and when they may expect to be invited to claim PIP. As part of our plans our objective is to ensure that those individuals turning age 65 after 8 April 2013 are clear that they will need to claim PIP, when they will be contacted and what they will need to do should they wish to make a claim. We want this transition to operate as smoothly and sensitively as possible.