



# Changing Disability Living Allowance to a new benefit

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What people said

April 2011



Easy Read

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

# Important

As this is a big booklet, we do not expect you to read all of it.

Instead, look at the list of contents on page 1. It shows what is in the booklet. Look down the list to find things you want to read about.

## Maroon writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold maroon** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a **light purple** box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal maroon** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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## What this booklet is about

This booklet tells you what people and groups said during the **consultation** about changing **Disability Living Allowance** to a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**.

### Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.

### Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may get to help them pay for the help and support they need.

### Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled.



As well as talking about what people and groups said, the booklet gives extra information about how the changes will affect **working age people** from 2013.

### Working age people

These are people who are aged 16 to 64.



## What we were told

During the **consultation**, more than 500 groups and nearly 5,000 people told us what they thought about the government's ideas for the new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**.



## About the changes in general

Many people and groups said that **Disability Living Allowance** needed some changes. They said the rules are hard to understand and sometimes they cannot understand why different decisions are made on claims that seem to be alike.

But they also wanted to know more about how the government will make the changes.

The government said it will carry on putting disabled people at the centre of the changes. To do this it will **involve** disabled people and disability groups in setting up and testing **Personal Independence Payment**

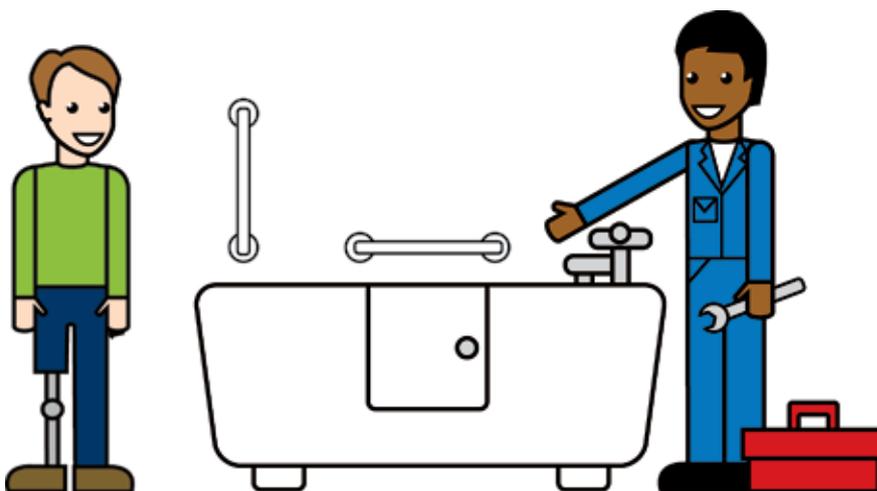
### Involve

Being involved is not the same as being asked. Being involved means disabled people playing a full part in things, not just being asked about things done by other people.

The government wants to keep the best parts of **Disability Living Allowance**. So **Personal Independence Payment** will still

- be a cash benefit – that means it is paid as money.
- be paid to people who work and to those who do not work.
- ignore any other money people have.
- not be taxed.

It can also still be spent in any way the disabled person wants.



The government wants **Personal Independence Payment** to be different to **Disability Living Allowance**.

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For example

- it will be fairer.
- it will be easier to make decisions about.
- it will be easier for everyone to understand.

**Personal Independence Payment** will have two parts – one part to help with living costs and the other to help with getting about. Each part can be paid at 2 amounts – the standard rate and a higher amount for people with greater needs.

To get **Personal Independence Payment**, most people must have been disabled or had a serious illness for at least 6 months and expect the disability or illness to last for at least 6 months more. The **Equality Act 2010** calls this a long-term disability.

### Equality Act 2010

This is a law that makes sure all people are treated fairly.

People will not be able to get **Personal Independence Payment** just because they have a certain illness or disability.

But the government will keep the rule for people who are not expected to live for more than 6 months. The Department for Work and Pensions will deal with these claims quickly, and the person will not need an **assessment** or wait the usual 6 months.

### Assessment

This is the method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**.

## About changes to the assessment

The **assessment** for **Personal Independence Payment** will give support to the people who need the most support to live full, active and independent lives.

The **assessment** will look at how well someone can do the everyday things the government thinks are most important. Many people and groups who replied to the **consultation** agreed with the things the government said are most important. These are

- planning and buying food.
- preparing and cooking food.
- feeding and drinking.
- taking medicines and looking after health.
- doing treatments a health expert says are important.
- washing and getting ready.
- using the toilet and controlling body waste in other ways.
- dressing and undressing.
- talking and listening to others.
- planning a journey and following the plan.
- moving around.

Many people said that just 1 **assessment** may not be enough and more information may be needed. The Department for Work and Pensions will work with disabled people and disability groups to find out which health and care workers to contact if more information is needed.

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The **assessment** will also look at how well the person can do everyday things in the list over a period of time, and also see if they can do them safely and on time.

Some people said that a face-to-face meeting and a check on how the customer's **aids and appliances** help them are good things about the new **assessment**. Other people said they were worried about the changes.

### Aids and appliances

These are things people use to make life easier. For disabled people these include things like special tools to help with cooking.



The government said the **assessment** will only look at the **aids and appliances** the customer uses, and they are still working out who will have face-to-face meetings as part of the **assessment**.

The government knows that not everyone will need a face-to-face meeting.

There will soon be more information about how the **assessment** for **Personal Independence Payment** will work. The government will be asking for ideas about how well it will work and if it can be made better. The new system will be tested before it is used.

### Length of awards

Most people and groups said **awards** should be longer and there should be an easier **assessment** for people with a lot of needs or a disability or illness that will not get better or change.

#### Award

This is the amount of time a person will get benefit for and the amount of money that will be paid.

The government said it will look at how these things are set up to make sure the system is fair to all groups of people.



## Children

The government will not include children in the new **Personal Independence Payment** system from 2013.

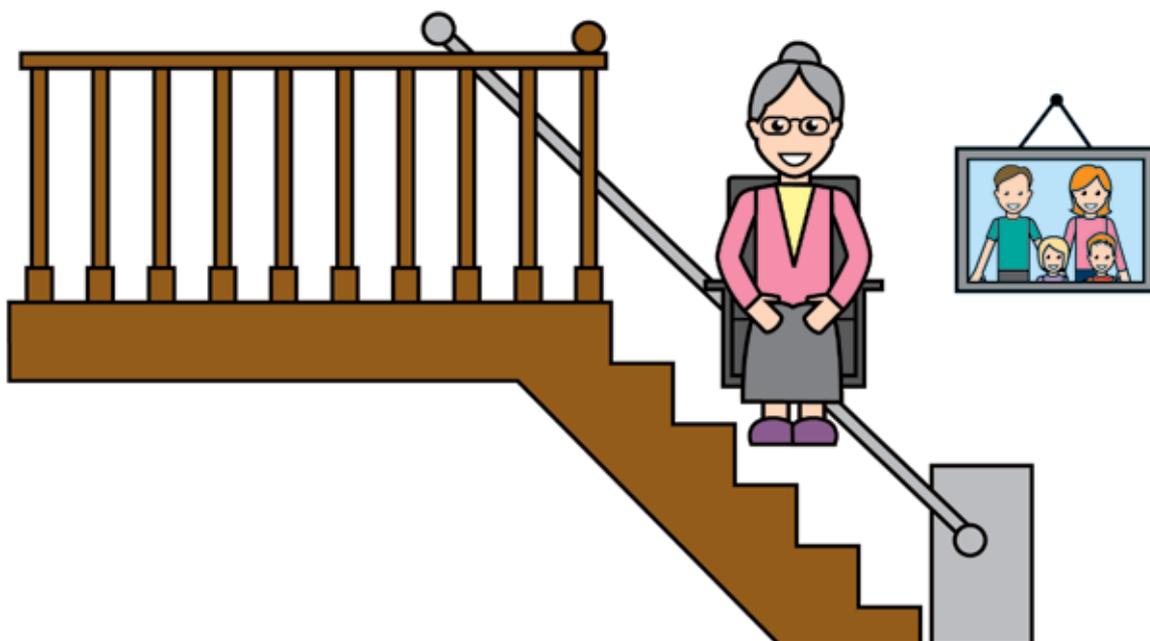
Children's needs are very different to **working age people**, so the government wants to work on and learn from the **assessment** for **working age people** before making a decision about how to treat children.

## People over 65

People over 65 will be able to get **Personal Independence Payment** if

- they are already getting it before they become 65, and
- they still meet the rules for getting the benefit.

The government will wait to see the results of changing **working age** people to **Personal Independence Payment** before making a decision about how to treat people over 65 who are already getting **Disability Living Allowance**.



## People living in residential care homes

The government listened to what people said about its idea for people living in **residential care homes** who get **Disability Living Allowance** money to help them get about.

### Residential care home

This is a place where people live when they cannot live on their own because of illness, disability or old age.



The government has decided not to take away this money this year. It is looking again at the **evidence** before it makes a decision.

### Evidence

This is information that proves something is true or not true

The government wants to make sure that people who live in **residential care homes** can get out and about if they want to.

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## More about the consultation

This section tells you more about what people said during the **consultation** and what the government is going to do.

### Involving disabled people in setting up and testing

**People said** the government should put disabled people at the centre of the changes by **involving** disabled people and disability groups in setting up and testing the new system.

### The government says

- Disabled people know a lot about disability. We will carry on working with disabled people and their groups as we work to bring in **Personal Independence Payment** in 2013.
- Disabled people and their groups will help us prepare a new claim form and claim system, as well as the training and guides for the people who work for the Department for Work and Pensions and for the people who do the **assessment**.



### Talking to disabled people about their needs

**People said** disabled people are the best people to talk about their own needs during the **assessment**.

#### The government says

- We will carry on working with disabled people and disability groups as we set up and test the **assessment**.
- People will be able to give information about their life and how their illness or disability affects how they can do everyday things.
- People will be able to say what they think is the best place or person to contact for more information.

### People who are sometimes worse, sometimes better

**People said** the claim system and **assessment** should take account of people whose illness or disability is sometimes worse and sometimes better.

#### The government says

- We will work with disabled people to set up the **assessment** and claim system to make sure it looks at how well the person can do everyday things over a period of time.
- We will work with disabled people to find out how their illness or disability affects them at different times.

### Involving disabled people in guidance and training

**People said** the government should **involve** disabled people and the people who speak for them when writing the guides and training for people who work for the Department for Work and Pensions.

**The government says** disabled people and their groups will help us write the training and guides for people who work for the Department for Work and Pensions.

### Help from an advocate

**People said** that the work done by **advocates** to help people make a claim is still very important.

#### Advocates

These are people that speak for or act for someone who finds it hard talking to other people. An advocate can help a person speak up for themselves and for their rights.

Advocates can be a carer, a member of the family, a friend or any other person.



### The government says

- We know that it is important that people can get advice and support from **advocates** when they are making a claim.
- An **advocate** can come to the **assessment** with the customer if they want them to.
- There will be space on the claim form where an **advocate** can write extra information if the customer wants them to.

### Professor Harrington's report about the Work Capability Assessment

**People said** that when the government is setting up **Personal Independence Payment**, it should think about what Professor Harrington said in his report about how the **Work Capability Assessment** is working

### Work Capability Assessment

This is the assessment for Employment and Support Allowance, a benefit for people whose illness or disability makes it hard for them to work. People talk to a health expert about their health and how it affects the work they can or cannot do.

**The government says** we will make sure that Professor Harrington's ideas about the **Work Capability Assessment** are taken into account wherever they are similar for **Personal Independence Payment**.

### The claim form must not be too long

**People said** the claim form for **Disability Living Allowance** is too long and asks for things more than once.

#### The government says

- We have promised to make it easier and clearer to claim **Personal Independence Payment**.
- We will work with disabled people and disability groups to make a better claim form. We will design and test the new form with them.

### Different kinds of people need different claim forms

**People said** that all kinds of people should be able to fill in a claim form for **Personal Independence Payment**, no matter what disability and illness they have.

#### The government says

- We have promised to make sure **Personal Independence Payment** claim form can be filled in by as many different kinds of people as possible.
- Many people said the claim form would be better if we make it in a number of different ways, such as written in Easy Read words (like this booklet) or printed with big writing, as well as people filling it in on their computer. We are looking into this.

### Reporting a change

**People said** it should be easier for people to tell the Department for Work and Pensions if there is a change.

#### The government says

- We will work with disabled people to make sure they know when and how to tell the Department for Work and Pensions if there is a change.
- We will carry on working with disabled people, the people who speak for them and our own workers to make it as easy as we can for people to report a change.



### Getting other benefits and services

**People said** that people who get **Personal Independence Payment** should get other benefits and services automatically.

**The government says** we will make sure that groups like local councils and government departments know about **Personal Independence Payment** that is starting from 2013. This will mean they have time to change their systems and information.

## Word list

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