The future of the Independent Living Fund

What the government says

December 2012

Easy Read
Important

Green 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 green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.
The future of the Independent Living Fund  What the government says

Contents

What this booklet is about ................................. 4

What the government says ................................. 5
    Closing the Independent Living Fund ................. 5
    How we work at the moment ............................ 6
    The main change in care and support for people  
    who get help from the Independent Living Fund ... 6
    What will happen next ................................. 8

Word list ..................................................... 10
The future of the Independent Living Fund What the government says

What this booklet is about

The government has been asking people what they think about its plans to close the Independent Living Fund in 2015.

This is called a consultation. The consultation finished on 12 October 2012.

Independent Living Fund

This is one of the ways the government gives money to disabled people who need extra help at home.

Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about its plans.

The government has looked at all the replies to the consultation. This booklet tells you what the government says about the replies.
What the government says

The government has looked carefully at all the replies we got to the consultation.

Closing the Independent Living Fund

The government thinks that the Independent Living Fund should close in 2015. And in England, that local councils should look after care and support.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, their governments will decide who should look after care and support when the Independent Living Fund closes.

Care and support

Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives.
How we work at the moment

We have got an Independent Living Fund and a care and support system at the moment.

This means that we do the same things more than once. It also made things harder to use for both the people who use the systems and local councils.

The main change in care and support for people who get help from the Independent Living Fund

The care and support needs of people who get help from the Independent Living Fund will be met from just 1 system.

We do not think it is right to keep supporting disabled people who were using the Independent Living Fund in this way when disabled people cannot join the Independent Living Fund any more.
If we do this it means we are treating disabled people with the same sort of needs differently.

The government wants to make sure that disabled people’s needs are met using **direct payments** and **personal budgets**. These will be set up so they meet the needs of each person.

### Direct payments

This is when a disabled person gets money so that they can pay for their own support.

### Personal budgets

This tells a disabled person how much money they can spend on their care and support services. It also shows how it was worked out.
The future of the Independent Living Fund: What the government says

The government will keep helping those disabled people using the Independent Living Fund at the moment, until 2015.

We will make sure that the changes, from closing the Independent Living Fund to setting up direct payments and personal budgets, run smoothly and with no problems.

What will happen next

The Independent Living Fund will start to talk to people who need to know what they are going to do. In early 2013 they will tell everyone about their plans for how local councils will take over from them and start giving care and support to disabled people who used the Independent Living Fund.

People who use the Independent Living Fund and people who act for them will be asked to take part in this work.

The government, the Independent Living Fund and the people who give people social care will write a set of rules.
These rules will help local councils support the Independent Living Fund users when the changes are happening.

The Independent Living Fund has set up a plan called a transfer review plan. This plan will let disabled people who used the Independent Living Fund do these things.

- Talk to workers from the Independent Living Fund and the local council about their care and support.
- Get help and advice about how the changes to local council care will be run.

The government does not want local councils to put a set amount of money to one side to spend on disabled people’s needs. This way of working does not work.

The government wants local councils to be able to deal with things quickly and to be able to meet the needs of different people.
Word list

Care and support
Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives.

Consultation
This is when the government asks what people think about its plans.

Direct payments
This is when a disabled person gets money so that they can pay for their own support.

Independent Living Fund
This is one of the ways the government gives money to disabled people who need extra help at home.

Personal budget
This tells a disabled person how much money they can spend on their care and support services. It also shows how the personal budget was worked out.
© Crown copyright 2012

You may use the words in this booklet in any way you want to as long as you make sure you use them correctly.

The Open Government Licence covers the use of the words. The only thing you cannot use are the logos.

If you want to know a bit more about the Open Government Licence or if you need some help to understand what we have said, the website which tells you more about the Open Government Licence is

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence

Or you can write to

   The National Archives
   Kew
   London
   TW9 4DU

Or email your questions to

   psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

If you want to read a copy of this booklet online you can find it at www.dwp.gov.uk/future-of-ilf
If you need more of these easy-read reports, please contact us. Our address is shown below. Easy-read reports are free.

If you want the full reports written in English, you can buy them at TSO bookshops. TSO is sometimes called The Stationery Office. You can also get the full reports in English free at

- www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/

Copies of the full reports can be made available in other formats on request. Contact details are below.

ILF Consultation Team
Ground Floor
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1A 9NA

e-mail: ilf.consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Please contact us if you have any other problems getting the report.

ISBN: 978-1-78153-312-3
© Crown Copyright 2012
Published by the Department for Work and Pensions
December 2012