Withdrawn

This publication was withdrawn on 18 March 2019.

This publication is no longer current. Read the current guidance about <u>Disability Living</u> Allowance (DLA) for adults.

This is an example letter that DWP sends to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants that tells them what their new benefit rate will be. We are sending these out to DLA claimants from late January to mid-March.

Information about Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is included at the end of the letter – jump to the PIP section.

Visit www.gov.uk/pip for information about how to claim PIP and what you'll get if you are entitled.

Visit www.gov.uk/dwp/pip-toolkit for detailed information for support organisations and advisors.

Disability Living Allowance

Your reference is [XXXXXXXX] Please tell us this number if you get in touch with us

[Claimant name]
[Claimant address 1]
[Claimant address 2]
[Claimant postcode]

Disability Living Allowance Unit 3 Warbreck House Warbreck Hill Blackpool FY2 0YE

Phone 08457 123456

Date DD MMM YYYY

TEXTPHONE for the deaf/hard of hearing ONLY 08457 224433

Helpline Opening Hours
07:30 - 18:30 Monday - Friday

Dear [representative name]

We are writing to you about [claimant name].

You are dealing with a claim for [claimant name]. Remember that the information in this letter is about them.

The purpose of this letter is to give you:

- Proof of entitlement to your benefit
- Information about Disability Living Allowance rates
- Information about changes you must tell us about
- Important information about how Disability Living Allowance is being replaced by a new disability benefit called Personal Independence Payment.

- There is more information at the end of this letter please read it carefully.
- If you've already made a claim for Personal Independence Payment we'll continue to pay your Disability Living Allowance until a decision is made on your claim for Personal Independence Payment. Once a decision has been made, your Disability Living Allowance will end.

Please read all this information carefully.

Keep this letter safe because it is proof of your entitlement to benefit.

Disability Living Allowance Entitlement

You are entitled to:

middle rate care component for help with personal care until DD/MM/YYYY

higher rate mobility component for help with getting around until DD/MM/YYYY

Disability Living Allowance Rates

Benefit rates are reviewed every year.

How much money we can pay you

The current weekly rate is

Care Component: middle	£XXX.XX
Mobility Component: higher	£XXX.XX
Total each week	£XXX.XX

The weekly rate from DD/MM/YYYY will be

Care Component: middle	£XXX.XX
Mobility Component: higher	£XXX.XX

Total each week £XXX.XX

If you are paid every four weeks, this amounts to £XXX.XX every four weeks at the revised rate. The payment you receive in April may be less than £XXX.XX, if it includes payments at the current rate and the revised rate.

Motability and other adjustments

Please note the amounts referred to above are before any deductions towards the Motability Scheme on your behalf, or for any other reason related to where you are living, for which we have previously notified you.

How you will get your money

We will continue to make payment via your normal method of payment. If you do not receive your payment by the expected date, please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Please note - We may look at your award again from time to time to make sure you are getting the right amount of Disability Living Allowance. This means that if the amount of help you need has changed, your award may increase, decrease or stop altogether. If there has been no change in the amount of help you need then your award will stay the same.

If you are a resident of a care home and eligible for the DLA mobility component but not receiving it because you are funded by the NHS, you may now be entitled to the payment following a court judgement.

The Changes you must tell us about

These are just some of the changes that may happen to you.

You must write straight away if any of these changes happen to you. They may make a difference to how much money you get or how long you get it for. Remember if you are writing to us for someone else, we need to know about the changes that happen to them.

Your illness or disability

We must know if anything you told us changes about how your illness or disability affects you. You must tell us if things get easier or more difficult for you. And you must tell us if you need less help or more help. If your doctor tells you your illness or disability will last for a longer time or a shorter time, you must tell us that as well.

Dialysis

You must tell us if the amount of time you spend having dialysis changes. If the type of dialysis changes, you must tell us that as well.

Transplant

You must tell us when you have had a transplant.

Change of address

You must tell us straight away if you change your address.

Hospital, care home or similar establishment By hospital we mean a hospital or hospice.

By care home or similar establishment we mean:

- a care home, or residential hospital in England or Wales
- a care home service or independent health care service in Scotland or
- somewhere similar.

If you are getting Disability Living Allowance and you go into hospital, a care home or similar establishment, you must tell us the date you go in.

If you are already in hospital, a care home or similar establishment, you must tell us the date you come out.

You must tell us if the local council start paying for you to live in a care home or independent hospital in England or Wales or a care home service or independent health care service in Scotland. Even if you pay the council back, or they do not pay all the cost, you must still tell us.

You must tell us if the local council stop paying for you to live in a care home or independent hospital in England or Wales or a care home service or independent health care service in Scotland.

Special school or college

You must tell us if you go to stay in a special school or college or somewhere like this and tell us the date you go in.

Foster care or local authority care

If you are the parent or guardian of a child who is getting Disability Living Allowance, you must tell us if they go into foster care or local authority care. If payments are by cheque you must send their cheque to us straight away.

Leaving the country

You must tell us if you are going to leave Great Britain for more than 4 weeks. Great Britain is England, Scotland and Wales. Please tell us which country you are going to and how long you will be staying there.

Prison

You must tell us if you go into prison and if paid by cheque you must send any cheque to us straight away.

If someone dies

You must tell us if someone getting Disability Living Allowance dies. If paid by cheque you must send any cheque to us straight away.

These are not all the changes we must know about. There may be other changes that you want to tell us about. If you are not sure what to tell us, just ask our advice.

When you write to us, tell us:

- your name and address
- your National Insurance (NI) number. If you are
- writing to us for someone else, tell us their name and
- their National Insurance (NI) number
- what the change is

• the date the change happened or the date the change is due to happen.

Help and advice

Please get in touch with us if you:

- want to ask us about anything in this letter, or
- want to know more about Disability Living Allowance.

If English is not your first language and you want to talk to us in another language, please phone and tell us. We will arrange to talk to you through an interpreter.

The phone number and address are at the top of the front page of this letter. The new helpline opening hours are 08.00 - 18.00.

To make sure you receive a good standard of service from the Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance Helpline, our Managers may monitor or record telephone calls without warning.

If you need to get in touch with us please tell us:

- the reference number at the top of the front page of this letter
- this reference UPRATING/PIP.

If you want to know more about other Social Security benefits you can:

- get in touch with your Job Centre Plus, Pensions Centre or Social Security Office
- contact a local support organisation who can provide independent help and support.

You will find their phone number and address in the telephone book.

If you have any comment about our standard of service please write to the Customer Service Manager at the above address.

Please continue reading this letter for more important information about changes to Disability Living Allowance that may affect the benefits you receive.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - please read carefully

A new benefit called Personal Independence Payment started to replace Disability Living Allowance for disabled people aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013.

You don't need to contact us about Personal Independence Payment now. This letter will help you understand how these changes may affect you.

What is Personal Independence Payment?

Personal Independence Payment is designed to help disabled people live more independently and support those with the greatest need. The new benefit is to help people meet the extra costs that come from having a long-term health condition or disability. By long-term condition we mean ill-health or disability that is expected to last 12 months or longer.

Personal Independence Payment is made up of two parts (components), a Daily Living component and a Mobility component. Each component has two rates - standard and enhanced. Personal Independence Payment isn't affected by income or savings, it's not taxable and people can get it if they're in or out of work.

The new benefit will target help on those that need it most.

How will we decide if you can get Personal Independence Payment?

Entitlement to Personal Independence Payment will be based on the effect a long-term health condition or disability has on your daily life. To make sure we have a clear understanding of this, you'll be asked to complete a form where you can describe how your health condition or disability affects you. You'll also be asked to include any supporting evidence you have and to tell us who might be able to advise us on your situation. Most people will be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with a health professional as part of their claim but this may not be needed.

We'll use all this information to decide if Personal Independence Payment can be awarded. Many people claiming Disability Living Allowance will continue to be entitled to Personal Independence Payment, and you may get more, the same or less benefit than you currently get.

If you're awarded Personal Independence Payment your award will be reviewed over time to make sure it remains correct and continues to help meet your needs.

How might I be affected?

If you were aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013 then you'll be affected by the introduction of Personal Independence Payment, even if you get an indefinite or lifetime award of Disability Living Allowance.

Personal Independence Payment is being introduced in stages over a number of years.
We've started to ask people who already claim
Disability Living Allowance to claim Personal
Independence Payment instead, under certain conditions.

- If there are changes in how your health condition or disability affects you then we may ask you to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment. When we receive information that your needs may have changed we'll explain what will happen next.
- If your existing Disability Living Allowance award is due to end, or be reviewed, and you've not already received a renewal letter about your Disability Living Allowance, then you may be asked to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment. We'll write to you in plenty of time if you need to take any action. You don't need to contact us now.
- Everyone else in receipt of Disability Living Allowance will not be contacted until 2015 or later, unless you report a change in how your health condition or disability affects you, or if your award is due to end as above. We'll write to you in plenty of time to explain. You don't need to contact us now.

If, after we contact you about claiming Personal Independence Payment, you decide to apply, or if you've already made a claim for Personal Independence Payment, your Disability Living Allowance will continue to be paid until we make a decision about your claim. If you decide not to apply for Personal Independence Payment, your Disability Living Allowance will end.

Young People

These changes do not affect children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. They'll continue to receive it until they reach 16 when they may become eligible for Personal Independence Payment.

Once a young person reaches age 16 they'll need to decide if they want to claim Personal Independence Payment. We'll write to them and their parent/guardian in plenty of time to explain how to apply for Personal Independence Payment, when they need to claim by and what will happen to their Disability Living Allowance.

If you are 65 years and over

- People aged 65 or over on, or before, 8 April 2013 don't need to claim Personal Independence Payment. You'll continue to get Disability Living Allowance, as long as your circumstances don't change.
- If you reach 65 after 8 April 2013 then you'll not be contacted until after 2015 or later. However, if there are changes in how your health condition or disability affects you, or you reach the end of your Disability Living Allowance award before then, you'll be asked to claim Personal Independence Payment at that point. You can find out more about this above.

People receiving Attendance Allowance will not be affected by the introduction of Personal Independence Payment. They'll continue to receive Attendance Allowance.

Where can I find further information?

To find out more about Personal Independence Payment and when you may be affected, go to www.gov.uk/pip