

# Disability Solutions



WEST MIDLANDS

1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

PIP Assessment Development Team  
Department for Work and Pensions  
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To whom it may concern

We are Disability Solutions West Midlands, a voluntary organisation, a registered charity controlled and run by disabled people, for disabled people. Our constitution places us amongst the foremost user-led organisations in Staffordshire. We work with people across all disabilities and all ages, and with the people who care for them. We were originally established in 1982 as part of the DIAL network.

We are concerned that the new 20 metre rule to qualify for the Enhanced rate of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), will mean many of those who already qualify and have relied on Disability Living Allowance in the past will effectively be trapped in their own homes. Help with transport costs and the Motability scheme have been a lifeline to disabled people in helping them into work and to attend hospitals etc.

New claimants of PIP who have identical needs to those already on the high rate of Mobility of Disability Living Allowance will be disadvantaged in comparison because the criteria for PIP are more restrictive. This will lead to inequalities when it comes to providing services to disabled people. The Mobility component has been the key indicator when accessing employment and services from Social Services etc. A person's disability does not disappear just because you change the criteria for mobilising.

We urge you to consider reinstating the use of a 50 metre qualifying distance for the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP.

Yours faithfully



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