

Individual response for

Rec'd

10/2/11

member

Personal statement from a [REDACTED] member.

Transcribed - 17th January 2011

Ref no 36.

I have been receiving DLA since about 2005/2006. I was called for a medical assessment for the first time in October 2010.

As I was so anxious about the medical, my mum came with me to support me.

When I was speaking to the doctor about my conditions she mentioned that she knew [REDACTED] who had been my consultant. I thought that this meant she had a lot more information and knowledge about my condition than we discussed at the assessment.

Within 5 days of the medical I received a letter about my DLA and the payments were stopped immediately.

Since then I have been upset, confused and angry because my medical conditions still restrict my quality of life a great deal. I feel that I am being punished and penalised for making the decision to have an operation that means I don't have to be in hospital for 5 days a week having dialysis.

I also feel that I am being punished for moving to independent living. It took me 12 years to move on to independent living and out of residential care. I have lived independently with only an hour's support a week for the last 5 years. I feel like the decision to stop my DLA payments has affected my life so much that maybe I would be better off going back into residential care, which would be a huge step backwards for me.

This decision has also had a bad effect on my mental health. As well as making me feel like giving up on living independently I am constantly anxious, worrying about money and angry. I am unable to socialise with my friends and spend a lot of time sitting indoors feeling unhappy and down.

Stopping my DLA payments has also had a negative impact on my parents, both of whom are pensioners. I have had to borrow money from them to make up some of the shortfall that stopping my DLA has caused. They also both worry about what is going to happen as they can see how much distress this is causing me. I don't see why they should have to suffer as well as a result of this decision.

I am also angry about the time it takes to appeal against this decision. My payments were stopped within 5 days of my medical but it could take up to 7 months to getting an appeal hearing. I feel the longer this appeal takes the greater the damaging affects on my mental well-being and as a

consequence my physical health.

I feel that people with a disability should be able to live as normal and active life as possible and not be treated as if they were 3rd class citizens who don't deserve a normal life.