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10/2/11

Ref No 367

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

DLA Reform Team  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Dear Sirs,

I am responding to your consultation as a private, disabled individual.

Clearly this revision of the DLA scheme is intended to save money. Much could be done to prevent the existing scheme from being abused and thus save a substantial amount of fraudulent payments. I am not averse to changes being made but they should not be to the detriment of deserving beneficiaries. A disabled person who suddenly goes from receiving DLA to nothing at all could be seriously disadvantaged.

I could not find any proposal about whether or not the scheme would continue for the over 65's. I think it is essential that it does. It is likely that the health of people over 65 will deteriorate and they are more likely to need additional help and support as they get older. A disabled person's needs do not suddenly change when they reach a certain age.

I have been disabled for about 10 years and DLA has been a financial lifesaver. My situation was reviewed two or three years ago to which I had no objection whatsoever. I think it is essential, as you propose, that regular reviews should be part of any new scheme but also that efforts should be made to minimize fraud and abuse of the system.

However, in implementing a new scheme it is vital that any savings are not wiped out by the costs of an army of new civil servants putting the scheme into practice and monitoring it. I would have thought that the need for additional

staff should be minimal and that most of the work could be undertaken by existing people already engaged in DLA work.

I know that many disabled people, myself included, are very concerned about the implications of the introduction of the PIP scheme and I hope that every effort will be made to keep us informed of developments. I first learned of the proposals through the Mobilise organization. Please ensure that they and other organizations for the disabled are kept up to date. It is not helpful that the consultation period is shorter than normal. This gives the impression that you are pushing through something which has already been decided.

Yours faithfully,

A large rectangular black box redacting the signature of the sender.A horizontal black box redacting the contact information, likely a phone number or email address.