

DLA Reform Team
1st Floor
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9NA

Ref No 368

Rec'd
10/2/11

7 February 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSULTATION RESPONSE: DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE REFORM

It is with disgust and great disappointment that we find ourselves writing to you in response to the Government's proposal to reform the Disability Living Allowance.

Our mother (who is 79 years of age) has been in receipt of this allowance for quite some time now receiving both the care and mobility element due to her severe disability as a result of Multiple Sclerosis and having suffered a stroke a number of years ago.

Due to the sudden passing of our father last March, Mum now lives in a very good nursing home where she is self-funding. Both elements of benefit paid to Mum are essential for her to be able to live at the Nursing Home. One would assume that for Mum to require nursing care, that this would justify the care element being paid.

Regarding the mobility element, as we understand it, for anyone resident in a care home (and we therefore presume a nursing homes comes within the same category) the mobility element may no longer be payable. This is a very important factor in that when we need to transport Mum to anything outside of the home she would have to be transported by a vehicle able to take a wheelchair, and pay substantially for the privilege of doing so. To remove this element from her allowance would leave her unable to leave the nursing home, as funds would not permit. This would be a shameful manner in which to treat Mum and anyone else in the same or similar circumstances. To be confined at the home permanently with no possibility of leaving due to the funds being restricted is appalling. As stated previously, Mum is self-funding in the nursing home which is costly and the allowance plays an important part in her being able to live there. The home is a small, extremely well run establishment, but does not own its own transport, so the only means for Mum to go out would be via a taxi which is geared to transport wheelchairs and severely disabled people.

To attack the benefits paid to those already affected with disability is a disgrace, and we would like you to accept this letter as a strong response **AGAINST** the reform proposed by our current Government.

Yours faithfully

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