

Disability Living Allowance reform consultation – email responses 850 to 935

Respondent Number	Date received	Response
EM850	09/02/2011	<p>Dear Sir, *I write with great concern about the proposed changes and replacement of D.L.A . *My name is [REDACTED] and I am a [REDACTED] year old woman bringing up my family alone. For the past 5 years I have been caring for 14 year old son who is diagnosed with ASD and has a statement of special educational needs.. He has been out of school now for over 2 years, and I have a full time position at home fighting for a suitable placement for him and fought to get him home tutoring to fill the gap.</p> <p>*My son receives D.L.A which also entitles me to a carer's allowance, if he did not get D.L.A I do not know how we would survive since I am not able to go to work, due to not only being my son's full time carer but also to my partial blindness, which I am presently looking to obtain a Certificate of Visual Impairment for, and I am also dyslexic and suffer from a hertias hernia and agoraphobia.</p> <p>*In a situation where I am not able to go to work, (as described above), D.L.A is not only imperative to enable my son the things he needs, but also without it I would also lose my carer's allowance should he stop receiving.</p> <p>*As a carer I believe that my background position saves the country millions of pounds per year, (around £87 billion, I believe), of money which would otherwise have to be found to bring in outside help.</p> <p>*Yet the government are considering cuts of £1 billion. This is hardly fare?, (presently I work not only a full time day supplying for my son's needs, but often through the night as well. As carer's we do not have a lunch hour, or holiday and have to be available for 24 hours a day.</p> <p>*We do not have any immediate family, (they have sadly all passed away now), or friends who could aid us. Daily life is already a huge struggle for me, and the very thought of my son loosing his D.L.A and my carer's allowance is a very frightening prospect.</p> <p>*I have no idea how we could eat properly or pay bills should our D.L.A we taken away from us, and I believe that the Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. It would be so very wrong to put carer's through means testing as this would put many of us many of into a position where we would not be able survive properly and yet at the same time without any recognition of our contribution.</p> <p>*Thank you for reading my plea.</p> <p>*Best wishes,</p>
EM851	09/02/2011	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>*First my name is [REDACTED] and I care for my son [REDACTED] he is aged 16years.I am worried very much about hearing about these reforms, as if you do this to my son it will make life even harder than it is now, as even though I get a pension but it is the very low basic one, as I have had to do the caring for my son since he was diagnosed when he was only 4years old. and I have never asked for anything other than applying for his DLA for him, and I only got Carers allowance up till I received my pension and have had to struggle along only on my pension I have only the last year or so be given when told I was entitled to Pension credit as I had been told if you do not have saving you would not get pension credit. Which I do not have as have never been able to have any savings. As I was not able to work,</p> <p>*I have only just found out that I may because of having pension credit I would could be entitled to a little extra on my pension credit, I have not heard if I will get the extra and and worried about if this may stop now,</p> <p>*As we have struggled for so long with the little we get, I have not be able to have or take my son [REDACTED] on a holiday for over 10 years now not even a few days away any where,as we have not had the money to do so. my only day out is either to the shops to shop or take my son to go swimming which he likes. I would very much love to be able to have a holiday for my son,But</p>

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		<p>with what is happening this looks like we never will,</p> <p>*My son was born with rhesus disease though two bloods mixing during birth, and my son also had Jaundice also straight after birth, myself being A/Rhesus Negative my son is different, my consultant did put all that in my records. From what I found out about this is because in 1996 I wrote to my consultant a Mr Ward at University College Hospital he soon after my letter he retired. he wrote to me saying that he was so sorry that it was mentioned in my records about all that but no treatment was given to my son afterbirth for this problem so my son has been left after birth with jaundice and two different bloods mixing so it caused the Rhesus disease resulting to the very rare brain damage, which has left him with Dyspraxia, Learning problems, he is registered blind on one side and has no hearing on the same side, he also is Agnosia which means he does not understand the meaning of what he sees, he also has lived with painful joints and when he tries to walk which is only limited as every step he takes is painful, he uses a wheelchair when out as cannot walk to far as every step he takes is so painful, he also has Raynaud's Phenomenal(I think I may have spelt it incorrectly please except my apologise.) and feels the cold even when a warm or slightly warm day he cannot not get warm. his toes are black sometimes and he needs support in doors and out as he cannot handle money he needs his transport as he cannot use public transport.</p> <p>*I feel that you should not cut the benefits to the disabled because I know from my side it would be a terrible thing and would make it even harder for him and me, and there is I know many of the same like me, I do know of course you have to do more checks to stop the wrong type claiming who should not really be entitled to it, But like my son who was born with what he has it would be worse than terrible for him and me, also I worry very much about these reforms as for my son if and god forbid if anything happened to me, my son would have no one to give him support in applying or getting help for himself. As he cannot do it himself, and if you change things around he himself will be totally lost and confused.</p> <p>*I think please you should keep the Carers Allowance in force and for it to remain outside of the Universal Credit please. to help us that do the caring for our loved ones as there is no one else who will do what we do not even your Social services do as much as we do for our love ones who cannot do it for them selves. Please do not dismiss what we have said, I really worry for my son and hope that he will not be effected as he gets confused even trying to choose what he has to wear each morning and is really like a child.</p> <p>*So Please please think about the people like my son [REDACTED] who for no fault of his own has these problems, as it was a result of a medical negligence by not being treated for something that should have been after he was born, 26 years ago. I even have my copy of the letter my consultant sent me telling me that my son had not been treated for what happened at birth.</p> <p>*So please take into consideration all that I have said. and I thank you for letting me write to tell you of my situation.</p> <p>*Thank you</p> <p>*Yours Sincerely</p>
EM852	09/02/2011	<p>I am my wife's carer and have been for 15 years, her disability becomes more serious each year and her DLA is important to her as she is on a restrictive and expensive diet and requires transport if and when she goes anywhere. *Carers allowance is important to our finances and it's loss would mean that we would struggle to make end meet. The cost of setting up a new system would be better spent on leaving the present system alone and more effort in catching those who abuse it.</p> <p>*We dont want to see a similar fiasco to when the council tax was implemented.</p> <p>*Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their</p>

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		contribution.
EM853	09/02/2011	<p>my name is [REDACTED] i am the carer of [REDACTED] my son and i am very concerned about losing his disability living allowance as i am worried he might not be assessed properly by a medical professional as my husband & i are pensioners we are now subsidize him out of our meager pension if he loses his D.LA or have it reduced it would put an unmanageable burdon on us and mean we would not be able to carry on . I believe the government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benifitsbecause of the devastating consequencesit would have for disabled people like our son</p>
EM854	09/02/2011	<p>I am writing as I am very concerned about the cuts you are planning to make to the above.</p> <p>*These are not benefits these are necessary to all carers to care for their families.</p> <p>*I am a carer to two boys with disabilities I have been since they were born. I gave up my job in October 1998 as I knew my son had additional needs, then I had another son in 2001 who also had a disability, I care for two children but only have one income. Losing this money will stop the boys and myself to do things that other families can do.</p> <p>*It makes me laugh I have never been given respite care or any other help, I had to fight to get my daughter into young carers and now you are saying you are cutting these to come in with another system. I know another carer who you give nearly £50,000 a year for her to get staff in to help. I bet this will not affect her....</p> <p>*How much does all this consultation and setting up a new system cost?</p> <p>*You should not be cutting here, you should be giving carer more money and support.</p> <p>*Most families who ave children with disabilities have parents whose relationship break down, yet with you taking more money away that is going to add more pressure to this environment. Especially to families who have one parent working.</p> <p>*Please reconsider this cut and the emotional effect this has on people lives.</p> <p>*Quote: Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*You going through this may be too much fo a lot of families and them million you already may end up costing you more in the long run, stress, depression, families splitting, suicides, and even assite deaths.</p> <p>*Please listen to Carers we need a voice and we need support</p>
EM855	09/02/2011	<p>Hi</p> <p>*my name is [REDACTED] and i care for my husband and my ailing mum I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance</p> <p>*because the person you care for might lose their benefits. I am worried that the people that I care for could be at risk of losing their benefits has when they are assest by a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times?</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like me.</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution and it has been a hard enough fight to get the recognition in the first place i have cared for someone for the last</p> <p>*22 years and dread to think what pension i might get when i retire this is a great worry to most carers</p>

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EM856	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I would like to make known my concerns with regards to the proposed major cuts to disability and carers' allowances. I care for my wife, [REDACTED], the mother of our six children, who became paraplegic nearly seven years ago.</p> <p>*While the present system may have its flaws, it does recognise the concept of a general state of health and thus reduces the possibility of evaluating someone's condition on a 'good day' and basing judgement on incomplete evidence. My wife, who is paraplegic, receives the higher rate allowance for mobility (fairly obviously) but only the middle rate of the care component (did we reference too much from her better days when she was evaluated?). I fear the 'new, improved' method for providing means to the disabled and their carers may reduce our incomes to an intolerably low level. It is impossible for me to take on even part time work that requires being away from the home or that demands fulfilling tight deadlines because of the unpredictability of my wife's health so if there were changes made that affected her DLA and as a result the carers's allowance I receive it would make life very difficult indeed. As it is the benefits we receive do not keep pace with prices in the real world and we find we have less to spend on essentials year on year - further cuts would make keeping our family afloat financially practically impossible.</p> <p>*I would love to be back in work full-time or even part-time but with six children and a house to care for (my wife helps as much as she can on her good days) this is not really possible for the present and we depend on every penny we get in the form of DLA and CA.</p> <p>*Thank you for considering this situation.</p> <p>*Yours faithfully,</p>
EM857	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am sole carer for my disabled sister. I became her full time carer in 2004 after losing both parents. Until then i worked full time but in 2002 we lost my mum to a brain tumour and within 12 weeks we lost her. Then in 2004 we lost my dad to cancer and again within a few weeks of this diagnosis he died. Losing both parents so quickly had a big effect on me especially. Up until 2004 i had always worked. After leaving school worked at British Steel, Orgreave and then after being made redundant i wrote various letters and i then worked for a firm of solicitors. My mum's death affected me and i was not coping very well at all and then losing my dad affected me badly. I was having problems coping with work and i just could not function but the day my dad rang me at work saying he was going into hospital i knew i was losing him and my world fell apart. My doctor has been brilliant and she signed me off work because i was depressed. Nobody knows what it is like to be in this black hole i was going to work but i wasn't sleeping and trying to cope at work was hard and i just felt like running away.</p> <p>*My sister is disabled and she suffers from something called stiff person syndrome which is a neurological disease. She relies on me for every day needs. it is hard enough having to look after somebody without the constant strain of worrying about paying bills and keeping warm. When i was signed off work i was on incapacity benefit and then in about 2008 i was told that i did not qualify for it and so i i am only on the basic carers allowance of £53.90 a week. (You try living on this for a week?) So if the government takes any more off us it will be even harder for us to live basically. Our heatng has only been set at 16 alll winter but have now dropped it to 14 because of the size of the heating bill. This does not help my sister because she should be kept warm because of her condition.</p> <p>*We only just manage on what we get because we have not took the option of the mobility car because we could not manage without this bit of money. (We have an 8 year old car which my dad bought new) but if and when this car needs replacing we might have to use it)</p> <p>*so i am very concerned about changes the government may make. The government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits and therefore carers allowance must remain outside of the universal credit. We save the government money by looking after our relatives etc.</p>

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EM858	20/01/2011	Can the Government assure us that any reforms will result in increased real-term support for people with disabilities and their carers?
EM859	10/02/2011	<p>I have been a full time care for my husband who had a brain injury 5 years ago. He has a range of cognitive problems prior to this i worked as a social worker for adults with learning disabilities</p> <p>*I am concerned that a medical assessment would fail to adequately identify the problems of people with cognitive problems, and the support they require. My husband, rather like someone with early dementia appears to function well if I provide the routine and support but he would not be able to live safely or fully by himself. I fear a medical examination (from a Gp or a nurse), especially involving someone like him with good social skills would under estimate the support he requires. My husband requires a supportive companion for most aspects of daily living, to attend any appointments or access the community, which increases the costs of any activity.</p> <p>*Perhaps assessments should be completed by someone with a psychology background in these circumstances.</p> <p>*I am not opposes to people being re-assessed at regular intervals as circumstances do change and conditions do improve. However I think too frequently would be very distressing and counterproductive, but every 3- 5 years would be reasonable.</p> <p>*In my job as a social worker I knew how accessing DLA transformed people 's lives as they were able to pay for a companion to access activities.</p> <p>*I am also concerned that a carers allowance might be means tested, particularly if that resulted in a National Insurance payment not being made. I need some recognition for what I do.</p> <p>*Regards</p>
EM860	09/02/2011	<p>1. I am my husband's full-time carer and we are both very worried that he may lose his benefit - we rely on this to run our (rather old) car so that I can take him to hospital appointments etc. If this is lost we would then not be able to afford to use a taxi in its place and the bus is out of the question for him.</p> <p>*2. He has Dementia which is sometimes worse than others and is in and out of hospital frequently because of recurring TIAs and an ulcer in his stomach which refuses to heal. He has severe arthritis and finds it very difficult to move around, he cannot walk more than a few yards even using sticks.</p> <p>*3. Although I retired from the Welsh Assembly Government at the age of 67 (in 2009), I have been trying to work as and when needed part time for various Health agencies - unfortunately, I can no longer do this as my husband's health has deteriorated rapidly over the last 12 months - we therefore rely on his benefits to fill the gap left by my salary.</p> <p>*4. I cannot believe that this Government can consider making £1billion cuts to such desperately needed benefits. I thought this Government was going to be a more 'caring' organisation - why penalise people who have paid their taxes and National Insurance stamps all their lives? Means testing is a degrading experience - perhaps shortfalls could be made up by the Government not handing out so freely money to any foreigners who come to this country in the sure knowledge that they at least will be given all the benefits they wish for even though these have not been earned!</p>
EM861	24/02/2011	already included in organisational responses
EM862	09/02/2011	<p>I am looking after my daughter and my husband both of them are diagnosed with autism and learning difficulties.</p> <p>*I am worried that due to the changes in assessing the needs of both of them I may not be able to get a fair assessment due their moods during assessments. *Due to this improper way of assessment for them I will have a great impact on my cares allowance. This is the only means of paying my bills and my everyday transport costs.</p> <p>*I have never thought about looking after my health as this is impossible for me at this time. This will leave me no option but to place in care homes which will be more expensive in the long run for the state.</p>

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		<p>*I do not think that disabled people should be made to suffer when they have no way of defending themselves. Their daily living should not be compromised by the mistakes made by the banking system and therefore should not be made to pay for the consequences.</p> <p>*I believe that carers allowance should remain outside of the universal credit as Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p>
EM863	09/02/2011	<p>i have cared for my severely disabled daughter for forty years and will continue to do so. However when I reached retirement age carers allowance stopped, the 24hour care has continued .if my daughter was to go into care she would need 24hour nursing care ,why does the government treat us in such a manner it is so easy to sit behind a desk and come up with these measures I am sure there attitude towards the disabled would alter. Carers are the backbone and we should be treated as such we already save the government money .</p>
EM864	09/02/2011	<p>my name is [REDACTED] and I am 65 this year and I care for my son who has severe learning difficulties and have been for the last 25 years 24 hours a day, he is 34 this year and is unable to do anything for himself, as I am getting older I need more help with my son not less as you propose by cutting essential benefits that we need for day to day living. I myself get a carers allowance with is taken out of my pension credits so it is of no benefit to us. The present government promised to look after the most vulnerable but this does not look the case as you are targeting people who need the most help which is a very sad indictment of your promises</p>
EM865	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for my disabled husband [REDACTED]. I am fortunate enough at the moment to work full-time so I do not qualify for Carer's Allowance. However, I am very concerned about other carers losing Carer's Allowance because the person they care for might lose their benefits</p> <p>*I am also worried that my husband may lose his Motobility car which enables me to carry on working and not be a drain on precious resources at this difficult time.</p> <p>*I firmly believe that the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it would have for many disabled people and carers alike.</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carers Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution to the 'Big Society'.</p> <p>*Thank you for reading this</p>
EM866	09/02/2011	<p>I am extremely worried about the changes to DLA and therefore the possibility of losing Carer's Allowance. I care for my husband and two sons, who are all on the Autistic Spectrum. It is difficult at present to be awarded DLA if you have learning difficulties of a mental disability, but with the new assessment it will be virtually impossible. This would be a disaster for me and my family, and many others like us.</p> <p>*I have been forced to home educate my 12 year old because of inadequacies in the provision of services for children with special needs. He has Autism, Dyslexia, bowel problems, and mobility difficulties. I cannot work as my son needs 24 hour care and supervision, so my only income is the £53 a week I get as Carer's Allowance. My son's DLA has to pay for education supplies, special dietary needs, hospital appointments, as well as helping towards households expenses.</p> <p>*My older son has Asperger's Syndrome and also needs a lot of care. His DLA also has to go towards household expenses.</p> <p>*My husband also has Asperger's Syndrome and recently has had to go from full-time to part-time hours due to his disability. We would not be able to live on his income alone and the DLA he receives is vital as we do not know</p>

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		<p>if and when his next breakdown would come and mean either loss of earnings due to sickness or the loss of his job completely.</p> <p>*Carer's Allowance MUST stay out of the Universal Credit. Caring for disabled relatives, friends etc saves the economy £87 billion a year in caring expenses. Being a carer is a massive responsibility and a full-time commitment and we should not be included in the same group of people as the unemployed and those who use benefits as a lifestyle. Caring CANNOT be means tested and doing so would result in thousands of people descending into poverty.</p> <p>*Please keep DLA and Carer's Allowance available for ALL with disabilities</p>
EM867	09/02/2011	<p>I am very concerned by the proposals of this Government's forthcoming changes to Disability Living Allowance and the impact it has on Carers.</p> <p>* Our Son, [REDACTED] is profoundly disabled and is on the full rate of care and mobility at the moment. He is [REDACTED] years old and cannot communicate, as he cannot speak or use sign language. He is extremely mentally disabled and cannot function without 24hr care. We are worried by the implications of this medical assessment that has been suggested. Common sense tells us he should still be entitled to benefits, but the government are being very shady as to what will happen to carer's allowance.</p> <p>* If the idea is to make Carer's allowance part of the Universal Credit, it is unlikely Carers will get any recognition. If this means they are no longer financially able to care, there will be a massive fallout.</p> <p>*I feel Disability benefits should not be cut, as many disabled people are already suffering financial hardship or on the poverty line...to remove Carers' allowance for someone like me for instance would mean I would not be physically, mentally or financially able to look after our son anymore and be forced to make arrangements for him to go into residential care. I will point out however, someone who is as profoundly disabled as our son would cost the Government in the region of one half to three quarters of a million pounds per annum to go into supported living, as that is how much it costs for people already in supported living with similar difficulties. Multiply that by the huge amount of other carers in the same predicament and you will see that this saving isn't such the soft target the Government thinks it is.</p>
EM868	09/02/2011	<p>Changes to the DLA</p> <p>*I care for my wife and I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because my wife might lose her benefits</p> <p>*My wife has a condition that changes and a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times?</p> <p>*Without these allowances I would have trouble paying our basic bills, and affording to do anything for myself, and it could mean that caring was unaffordable for you and you couldn't carry on.</p> <p>*I do not believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like myself.</p> <p>*I also believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care we provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carer's by means-testing it, as this would leave some carer's without any recognition of their contribution.</p>
EM869	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for my Wife [REDACTED]. I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because the person I care for might lose their benefits.</p> <p>*I am worried because the person I care for is at risk of losing their DLA. Their condition changes and a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of their worst times.</p> <p>*Losing Carer's Allowance and DLA would be devastating: I would need to return to work and my wife would require "round the clock" care from the local authority. Additionally, I have been out of work for some time and would no longer be able to gain work in my chosen profession. This would mean that I would be lucky to earn minimum wage and would be unable to pay</p>

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		<p>many of our bills. We would not be able to afford to pay the rent on the house we inhabit which has been modified to meet my wife's needs.</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like me.</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p>
EM870	09/02/2011	<p>I am mum to a disabled daughter, [REDACTED], who has cerebral palsy, dyspraxia, dysarthria and learning difficulties. She's wonderful and gorgeous but she's very hard work. I'm very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance and because [REDACTED] might lose some of her benefits. We use this money to ensure that [REDACTED] has every opportunity to thrive. Some of it goes towards accommodation and travel to and from her placements at the National Institute of Conductive Education (NICE) in Birmingham and to lose this money would entail a real struggle for us to continue there.</p> <p>*I'm worried because my daughter might be at risk of losing some of her DLA (surely not all, but you never know). She has a condition that changes and a medical professional might assess her on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times, of which there are many every day. She has a learning disability that I'm worried she might not be assessed properly by someone who understands her condition and behaviours. In the past a social worker who observed her for a very short period (a few minutes) said that she was simply a 'normal child who can't talk' and it frightens me that a medical professional might declare the same and that this would be enough to mean that her DLA would be affected. Spend a couple of days with [REDACTED] and then write an assessment - you'd think we deserve every penny.</p> <p>*If we lose Carer's Allowance it would mean caring was more difficult for us. Currently we carry out physiotherapy, speech exercises and other programmes with [REDACTED] at home, as well as producing many of the materials to support these programmes ourselves. My husband has trained as a Makaton sign language tutor so that he can train [REDACTED] (and her family) as this is not available from the NHS and we spend a lot of time at home learning Makaton and on reinforcing this sign language. We have to pay for training and all Makaton materials ourselves, and they are expensive. We also pay to take her to NICE and need to be available to take her to all her appointments. If my husband, [REDACTED]'s registered carer, had to return to full-time work we could no longer go to NICE and we wouldn't have the time required to put into these programmes. I would also have to give up my work for the Parent Partnership service and for the [REDACTED] Volunteers in Partnership group, groups that support parents of disabled children. Stress levels would increase and our family life would suffer.</p> <p>*I don't believe that the Government should be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the awful consequences it would have for many disabled people and carers. Surely Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. We receive so little already. We save the UK £87 billion every year with the care we provide. It would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of our contribution.</p> <p>*Best regards, hoping you get this right,</p>
EM871	09/02/2011	<p>I am writing in response to the current consultant for DLA to move to the structure as outlined in your paper.</p> <p>*I currently care for my severely disabled son who has cerebral palsy and has done from birth.</p> <p>*To be honest he will always be reliant on me for his care, I suffer from Crohns disease and no not came DLA for myself. However, I am</p>

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		<p>concerned that due to your proposed implementations he could lose out on benefits that he rightly is entitled too.</p> <p>*I also receive carers allowance and I am under the impression that this will fall out of the criteria under the universal credit, in reality if my son was in care it would cost the government 800.00 a week to care for him, but in reality you think carers are only worth 53.90 even though we save the government hundreds and thousands of pounds.</p> <p>*I also want to make you aware that until July 2010 I held down a full time job working in a special needs school in [REDACTED], I travel from [REDACTED] east Sussex getting up at 3am to get to work and did this for 10 years if it wasn't for my own health worsening and the lack of understanding from a headteacher regarding my son, I would still be working, I became a full time carer in July 2010 and cannot understand the lack of support, emotional and financial from the government, I am all for the right people getting these benefits but I am against putting my son through some sort of circus to get it.</p>
EM872	09/02/2011	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about the changes the Government are proposing regarding the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and potentially the Carers Allowance as well.</p> <p>*I have a 13 year old son who has Autism who currently receives the DLA and I receive the Carers Allowance.</p> <p>*I feel that under the proposed rules about medical assessments, my son might lose this benefit as with all Autistic children, his disability affects him differently day-to-day and he might be assessed on a day when he is coping. I claim Carers Allowance to allow me to be available to visit or speak to his school when needed and to take my son to his medical appointments which I would not be able to do if I was working full-time.</p> <p>*The DLA pays for extra support for my son including Maths Tuition; Sport activities and medical care not covered by the NHS. My son's quality of life would be impacted with the loss of this benefit. Any cuts to disability benefits impacts the vulnerable which is morally wrong. The benefits allow them to engage in "normal" day-to-day activities which would otherwise be inaccessible.</p> <p>*I believe the Carers Allowance should be kept outside of the proposed Universal Credit because as Carers, people like myself save the country a lot of money because we do this out of love for our family, not specifically for the money, but this small benefit enables us to care for our family instead of the State. A Carer's contribution should be valued and not subjected to means-testing.</p> <p>*Yours sincerely,</p>
EM873	09/02/2011	<p>I am a carer of my son who has Downs Syndrome, I am concerned as to the future of the carers allowance which I receive and that I may in the future be at risk of losing it if my son isn't assessed properly when the government plans to put in place the changes to the benefit system. I am concerned that the people who will be assessing my son who has a learning disability will not assess him properly and just look at saving the government money.</p> <p>*Carers allowance is an important benefit to me it helps me in my caring role. I would find it difficult to manage paying my bills or doing any social activity without the carers allowance. I would find it difficult to continue to be a carer without the support of allowance.</p> <p>*The Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like myself. Carer's Allowance should remain outside of the Universal Credit.</p> <p>*Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*A concerned carer and parent</p>
EM874	09/02/2011	<p>As you will be aware the Government has announced proposals for the biggest changes to disability benefits since the creation of Disability Living</p>

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		<p>Allowance.</p> <p>*As a carer for my disabled wife who has MS, and also as a volunteer worker with the MS Society locally, I am very concerned that the proposed changes will impact on many people who are already in unfortunate circumstances.</p> <p>*I strongly believe that Carer's Allowance should remain outside of the planned "Universal Credit", particularly as carers like myself save the Government coffers</p> <p>*£87 BILLION a year.*I would ask you to note my comments.</p>
EM875	10/02/2011	<p>I am a carer who has had to give up working in the private sector to care for my son and my wife full time.</p> <p>* My son has epilepsy and severe learning difficulties from birth, in this day and age we would probably have sued the hospital for leaving my wife too long before delivering by caesarian although she had to have our first baby by this method, but 34 years ago we just got on with the hand that we had been dealt. *My wife has Parkinsons, Asthma, Bronchiectasis, Diabetes high blood pressure and has suffered a stroke last August, she has frequent chest infections leading to many emergency hospital admissions.</p> <p>*I can not leave them and care for 168 hours a week (slightly more than the 35 required for Carers Benefit) I do not begrudge them the care but this has cost us the well off future that we expected instead I have had to take my occupational pension early to supplement our income and we have had to spend our savings to move into a bungalow.</p> <p>*I am sure that the new proposals are putting people like us under stress not knowing if we will have an income in the future. I am not a scrounger I worked for 34 years before the caring became too much for my wife. I can not claim tax credits because Carers Benefit is not classed as earnings although I work a lot harder and take much more responsibility than most.My £53-90p a week helps save £87 Billion for the tax payer and this goes a long way to keeping the economy afloat.</p> <p>*Please can you take this into account when taking decisions that affect the lives of people not in a position to fight for their selves</p> <p>*Yours Sincerely</p>
EM876	09/02/2011	<p>I am the carer of my disabled stroke survivor wife, who relies upon an electric wheelchair for her mobility and suffers from a cognitive impairment.</p> <p>*I am in receipt of Carers Allowance and am concerned that carers such as myself are at risk of losing this payment which we rely upon if the person they care for loses DLA - a double whammy in our financial circumstances. She has a cognitive impairment and is always determined to put on a good show when she meets a new person, so I'm particularly concerned that she might be at risk on medical assessment.</p> <p>*I have lost my job in the past due to severe depression associated with the pressures of working in a demanding job and caring. The consequent financial pressure added to my difficulty of recovering from the depression and I was not signed fit to work until about a year after diagnosis. So I am concerned as to the impact on us of any loss of benefits and my ability to cope financially and mentally.</p> <p>*I am appalled that the Government should be considering making cuts of £1bn to disability benefits, particularly in view of the impact on some of the most financially disadvantaged people in society and their carers.</p> <p>*I'm also concerned that the Government must ensure that the Carer's allowance remains outside the Universal Credit. It's only £50 pw and Carers save the Government some £90 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away. I'm also concerned to see the threshold of £100 for earned income before loss of Carer's Allowance raised, as it's appalling to end up losing £50 pw as soon as earnings reach £100 - an extraordinarily high effective rate of tax.</p> <p>*Yours sincerely</p>
EM877	17/02/2011	<p>1. The barriers differ for different disabled people. My learning disabled autistic son would bar himself from society through lack of understanding if it were not for the constant care, structure and empowerment provided by his</p>

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		<p>school and family.</p> <p>* 2.The levels of allowance in relation to the cost of living</p> <p>*3. Care cost to keep my son safe, extra domestic costs</p> <p>*The earning potential of family carers</p> <p>*4. "The 'Mobility' component will be based on the individual's ability to get around, while the 'Daily Living' component will be based on ability to carry out other key activities necessary to participate in everyday life."</p> <p>*Caring for a disabled person is a holistic activity and doesn't readily break down into components. *Components may help administer the scheme but individuals \ cares will be concerned with what the allowance allows, what the PIP enables.</p> <p>*5.Should be based on needs</p> <p>*6.Staying safe, maintaining health, dignity and respect.</p> <p>*7.Where there is capacity - contracting ... ie we make this payment because your duties are..... with annual declarations</p> <p>*Where there is no capacity – contract with carers</p> <p>*10. Tie it up with personal budget (for social care) planning. GPs</p> <p>*11.This will be a difficult job</p> <p>*Some LD assessments will be difficult</p> <p>*Again tie up with social care assessments</p> <p>*13. Expect annual returns – offer extra facilitation when conditions and consequences are clearly chronic or life long</p>
EM878	10/02/2011	<p>Since my wife [REDACTED] suffered a stroke in 2001 I have been her main 24/7 unpaid carer. As she has limited mobility she requires assistance with almost all things you and I can achieve independently. Her higher level disability living allowance allows her to fund the care she needs which I and a three hour per day agency carer provide.</p> <p>*I am extremely worried that any loss of benefit proposed, in the Disability Living Allowance reform consultation, and/or 20% reduction in DLA funding will make our lives, and others like us, even more difficult not better. We therefore request that you register our opposition to these proposals and yet another infringement of our living standards and human rights</p>
EM879	09/02/2011	<p>I would like to make my views known regarding the consultation on disability living allowance. I am a full time carer for my twenty one year old son who has aspergers syndrome. I am very concerned about the proposals as my income comprises of carers allowance and a very small amount of income support. if my sons disability living allowance was reduced i would no longer receive my carers allowance. my son depends on me and so if my carers allowance was reduced how am i supposed to provide the care my son needs living on the meagre amount i receive at the moment if this is reduced . Have as do all carers a very stressful life often to the detriment of my own health .I do believe the government has to consider this very carefully or carers will seriously have to consider putting family members into care</p>
EM880	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for my daughter who has developmental delays. I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because my daughter may lose her benefits.</p> <p>*With her learning difficulties she can sometimes appear quite normal or come across as just 'shy'. She currently gets the higher rate of DLA for both Care and Mobility. For the Care she can do some things but generally badly and needs reminders and demonstrations on regular activities we may take for granted. She is incapable of washing her hair and also refuses to have it cut. She can spend upward of an hour in the toilet each visit. She is not safe near roads, is still incapable of using public transport on her own and is very vulnerable so does need a Carer with her at all times when she is out. In short, she could well be currently described as 'borderline'. My experience of medical 'professionals' doing such assessments is that they are rarely fully trained to understand all forms of disability and how it affects a person on a day to day basis. I have had them in the past say how, she is my daughter so I should surely accept a degree of responsibility in Caring for her. Or that,</p>

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		<p>perhaps she is just shy and if she was treated 'differently' maybe she would 'come out of herself'. Assessments which are, of course, totally wrong.</p> <p>*My daughter has a psychologist at present and even she cannot make any breakthrough or get any real understanding of my daughters thought processes.</p> <p>*If, under new proposals, she is denied the same level of benefit I could also lose the associated Carers Allowance, presuming that benefit is even kept. If I lose that I shall return to work because I would have to. The Carers allowance is all which enables me to remain at home when she needs me. Currently she is 19 and at college, with things are they are and the cuts, it looks as though she will leave the education system for good in June this year and be at home full time. If I returned to work there would be no one to care for my daughter. We would have to decide whether or not she could remain within the home of whether the changes in benefits force her to move into some form of sheltered housing with paid Carers.</p> <p>*It is understood that cuts need to be made across the board but the current hate campaign toward 'all' benefit claimants is not the way to go. What is being done is a hardening of public opinion against those on benefits encouraging them to believe that most if not all those claiming are, in some way, on the fiddle.</p> <p>*The majority, as the accurate statistics confirm, are quite genuine claims. So, people in a real need of support who shall have to, once again, justify themselves. Many will lose benefit as assessors seem to presume this to be a money saving campaign (which it is of course). That the only way to save £1 billion is to, at the very least, deny as many people as possible these disability benefits until they have at least appealed. Many, of course, will not appeal for the benefit they actually do qualify and a saving will be made. It is not a real saving though, somewhere down the line, those disabled people denied payment will need money from elsewhere in the government purse. Much of the responsibility falling on already hard pressed local authorities who will almost certainly also just deny payments until a crisis situation has arisen.</p> <p>*Currently, my benefit entitles my continued existence at home. It is not grand, it is a living well below the national average. The benefits also cover my daughter and her husband who are 17 & 18 and currently in further education. With a setup such as we have, I would be forced into work, I could not earn enough to support them in education so they would also have to work (or, more likely) not work. My daughter could be in expensive paid for housing. In short, the cost to the state could be far higher than any potential savings.</p> <p>*As a Carer I am part of a machine saving this country £87 billion each year. Carers Allowance should remain apart from other benefits and the government should acknowledge Carers are NOT the same as other benefit claimants. We are not on short term relief, we are not unemployed, we work very hard for a small remuneration. All parties recognised this in their pre-election TV debates and yet, your two parties are now choosing to focus on disability benefits which will almost certainly make our role even less practical and your anti claimant propaganda has made us a target of those who see benefit claimants as cheats and scroungers at a time when we remain in need of greater support.</p> <p>*Caring changes lives. I worked every working day of my life before I started my caring role in 1993. I could have been earning a significant amount now but for my caring. Why should I feel the pressure of change for something I have no control over?*</p> <p>Your plans are badly thought out and are a sledgehammer to crack a nut approach ignoring the reality of caring.</p> <p>*Regards</p>
EM881	09/02/2011	<p>Government's consultation on replacing Disability Living Allowance My name is [REDACTED] & had to take early retirement to become a full time Carer for my wife [REDACTED]. I am extremely concerned about losing my already reduced level Carer's Allowance because my wife will be at risk of</p>

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		<p>losing her DLA benefits under the current proposals.</p> <p>*I am therefore writing requesting that MP's of all parties, vehemently oppose the proposal in it's entirety.</p> <p>*My wife's paraplegia is constantly deteriorating and therefore her needs are continually changing. If she were to lose her DLA & I would also lose the Carer's Allowance & would have no alternative than to relinquish my role & put her into Social Services funded Residential Care Home. My Carer's Allowance @ £55.33per week equates to £0.33 per hour, as my wife requires full 24/7/365 care, including 2 hourly turning throughout the night. EVEN THE UNEMPLOYED SAT ON THEIR FAT A**** GET MORE BENEFITS. This country treats ILLEGAL Immigrants better than it's own. Not only is this fundamentally wrong it is also immoral.</p> <p>*Due to my wife's disability she has to travel to a specialist Consultant at the Spinal Injury Unit, Sheffield Northern General Hospital. This entails a round trip of 160miles per visit, so this coupled with the current very high Fuel costs, already well exceeds her Mobility Allowance.</p> <p>*With the impending changes to our local CTP no longer providing Equipment we will move into a negative income situation. This would create a situation we could not sustain & therefore I would have no alternative than to relinquish my Carer role & put her into a Social Services funded Residential Care Home.</p> <p>*I firmly believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it will have for disabled people and carers alike. Furthermore as I have paid NHI for all my working life, the proposed action is, in effect ROBBERY.</p> <p>*I also firmly believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save this country around £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong & in my opinion, immoral to take away either DLA from some Disabled or Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it.</p> <p>*The proposal will place many Carers without any support, financial hardship & no recognition of their contribution, leaving them little alternative but to relinquish their roles & putting other sourced services under even greater pressure.*</p> <p>Yours Faithfully</p>
EM882	10/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for a brother with mental health difficulties and who also has physical health difficulties and who is an older person.</p> <p>*At present I am fortunate to be able to work full time and my circumstances just about allow me with a lot of juggling to care for my brother at present.</p> <p>*However I am worried on behalf of many thousands of Carers caring for people with mental health problems about the government bringing independent assessments as mental health conditions are so difficult to explain and may not get properly assessed by a medical professional not aware of the full history.</p> <p>*Mental Health Carers sacrifice their lives and more often then not their own wellbeing to provide care and services which are not and which cannot be made available by the Government. The Government should not make cuts of one billion to disability benefits because majority of people with disabilities and their Carers are already underprivileged and already suffer from inequalities.</p> <p>*Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*It is a madness for the Government to reform every aspect of benefits in one swoop as this will lead to a very unhappy and financially and characteristically a poor society and nation.</p> <p>*Yours sincerely</p>

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EM883	09/02/2011	<p>1. I am the sole carer for my husband, [REDACTED] and am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because the person I care for might lose their benefits, i.e., his DLA.</p> <p>*2. The main reason I am worried is because he will need a new wheelchair in the next 6-12 months and the DLA will help pay for that. At the moment, [REDACTED] can self propel, but his arthritis is worse this year and we both fear that he will need to buy a motorised chair to get about in... The only way we could afford one, is with his DLA.</p> <p>*3. If I lost my carer's allowance, I'd have to try and find a full-time job, but then I'd have to find the money for a carer for [REDACTED] so we would probably be worse off than we are now. I don't have any respite care at all and have had 2 days away from my husband in the last 8 years. A holiday (short break) would be wonderful, although I imagine the odds of winning the lottery are marginally better.</p> <p>*4. I believe the Government should NOT be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like me.</p> <p>*5. I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*Yours sincerely,</p>
EM884	09/02/2011	<p>My Name is [REDACTED], i am a carer of two sons with severe mental illness for the past 15 years; i have great concern about the plan to abolish DLA for a universal credit. At present i am only entitled to carers allowance to cover all my living expenses and feel that carers allowance fall outside the universal credit. It has been greatly debated of how the medical assessment have failed claimants with mental illness and with this new reform many more will fail the assessment leaving them and their carers in distress. There is a failure to understand the unpredictability of the person suffering from such illness, their moods, behaviour, personal safety can only be monitored and recorded by their carers who provide round the care clock. Losing my only financial support at such a late stage of working life will be unbearable. I can't even think of the huge impact on my financial, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. Should i not be able to carry on caring, the burden will definitely fall on the local authority to provide replacement or residential care. I feel that the government should look at the cost of providing replacement care. Carers are providing the bulk of home based care in the community with little support and at great risk to their own health; breakdown of their own health will cancel out any chances of having a life of their own, the chance to work or engage in any other social activities. The government need to look at all the facts before making any drastic changes to the benefit system.</p>
EM885	09/02/2011	<p>I am registering with you my concerns re: cuts to Disability Living Allowance, I am a carer as well as providing services for families or whoever is infected/affected by HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>*As a carer first and foremost, my son has chronic manic psychosis, I go through a long process to initiate progress of even a minute thing, so for me I do not want this to be made worse and end up going back to square one, my concern is that he needs his DLA, pressure in even the slightest of way could upset the applecart. Financially I could never be able to sustain his needs, causing pressure for us both in a big way. The medical professionals might assess him on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times? therefore I am terribly worried he might not be assessed properly by a medical professional?).</p> <p>*I do not claim carers allowance and I would be worried about paying my basic bills, or affording to do anything for myself, therefore not only my son would go down hill I am afraid I would end up under the mental health caused by the pressure of not being able to make ends meet, at present we</p>

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		<p>get by only just can you imagine if I had to meet all of his needs as well as my own, and the worry of my son deteriorating under pressure.</p> <p>*Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their huge role they provide, the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like myself. <i>Take Care</i></p>
EM886	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and i care for severely disabled 15 year old son that has Cerebral Palsy, is wheel chair bound, incontinent and requires 24 hour care.*It is with great disappointment that the government is planning changes to DLA and Carers allowance that may have devastating consequences for carers and disabled people on limited incomes.</p> <p>*I have cared for my son for 15 years and struggled financially for the majority of that time and saved the government hundreds of thousands of pounds over</p> <p>*this period that would have had to have been paid if my son was put into care.</p> <p>*If the government goes ahead and squeezes families that have no choice to look after disabled people further i think they may find that more children and adults</p> <p>*end up being forced into care homes. The government needs to think long and hard about this and instead of targeting the vulnerable or carers that basically loose</p> <p>*their life to care they should be looking after them and investing in them.</p> <p>*Think of carer's as saving the government huge amounts of money as they do for little reward, targeting them as a source of recouping monies will be a massive</p> <p>*false economy.</p> <p>*Carer's allowance should remain outside the proposed Universal credit system and although there are people claiming DLA that shouldn't be any new system should</p> <p>*retain the sensitivity of the current system. Severely disabled should not be subjected to red tape and constant assessment from both government and costly independent bodies that will serve little purpose if the condition is permanent, cost the government money and make these disabled people feel like second class citizens without a choice and at the mercy of a system based on financial saving rather than humane care.</p>
EM887	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED]. I am a carer for my wife who suffers from chronic ill health, before I became her carer, she was spending up to 3 weeks out of each month in hospital, many times spending days at a time in Intensive care. I am now her registered carer and can administer life-saving drugs instantly when they are needed at home, because of the speed and irregularity her medical condition affects her, only having 100% care will give her any sort of value to her life.I am afraid that due to the cuts, my wife may lose her DLA, or have it reduced. In turn this will affect her ability to have A full time carer, this will then put more pressure on the NHS as they will have to care for her, when her attacks are Severe.</p> <p>*If my wife loses her DLA and I in turn lose my Carers Allowance, I would not be able to carry on caring for my wife.</p> <p>*I understand that cuts to all services are required to reduce the county's deficit. However this could be easily rectified by imposing insurance regulations on visitors into the country. When my family travel abroad they all have to purchase travel insurance. I have personally heard that people from overseas purposely travel into UK to receive FREE NHS treatment in our hospitals. Once treatment is complete, they stay for a few weeks then go back home. If this treatment were paid for at source, it would greatly reduce the stress on NHS, and all savings would be made without putting pressure on already stressful lives.</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal</p>

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		<p>Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution. My contribution to looking after my wife is much greater than the payment a week I receive, I am physically working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 168 hours a week. This works out to around 29-30p per hour. We cope! Could and would anyone YOU know work for this payment.</p> <p>* I feel that the only option is for the Government to understand, that DLA and Carers Allowance are not a choice, they are purely a way to make ends meet.</p>
EM888	11/02/2011	<p>To whom it may concern.</p> <p>*I am a 60 year old mother and I care for my 23 year old daughter [REDACTED]. The government have no idea what they are doing. Carers provide a valuable, important and undervalued service. Not only to the people they care for but for the government also. If the people we care for were put in care homes then the government would be spending billions more.</p> <p>*My daughter has a learning disability and no real diagnosis can be made. She has her good days but what if a medical was undertaken on a good day then the medical professional wouldn't have an accurate picture of what goes on day by day. Surely it doesn't matter how many medicals were undertaken. The best person in the world who knows the real overall picture is the person who care for them. The new proposals will not give anyone with a disability whether physical or mental a chance.</p> <p>*Losing carers allowance would make life very difficult for all carers. Our carer allowance isn't used for partying, holidays or anything frivolous. But it has to be used for everyday living. It would be devastating to lose it. Life is hard as a carer as much as we love the person we care for. It is hard not only financially but mentally and physically. What will happen if a lot of the DLA and Carers Allowance is stopped. It won't be the government that suffers but the most vulnerable people in the world. The ones with the disabilities. Life is hard for them as well as the carers. Surely they should be looked after and cherished.</p> <p>*No cuts of any kind should be made to very vulnerable people or the carers who take their responsibility very seriously. It should be one area that the government should put more money in not take it out. It is always the vulnerable that suffer when devastating cuts are made. How will the person with the disability and their carers manage? Our lives shouldn't be just about managing but enjoyed and its about time something positive be done not just cut money from the vulnerable and their carers.</p> <p>*Isn't it about time that the government whether labour, conservative or liberal recognise carers for what they really are; dedicated, underpaid and unrecognised hard workers. We as carers save the government of this country billions of pounds every year but we have to fight to try and get any money or recognition.</p> <p>*Carers allowance has to stay. Not be means tested and has to stay outside of the universal credit. Anyone can sit at a desk and decide what money to cut from different budgets. But out in the real world of carers it's hard and a fight everyday to stay strong and sane. Isn't it time that we are recognised for the dedication and hard work that we do and be paid a decent wage. I am not just another voter, I am a parent, a carer and I am disgusted at the way this government intends to treat the vulnerable and their carers. Please wake up and do the right thing. This country has enough fat cats. Its the ordinary people who suffer and the vulnerable even more. It will be going back to the Victorian times. What next the workhouse??</p>
EM889	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] i am a full time carer for my wife [REDACTED], she has been diagnosed with Bi Polar Disorder since late 1998, she has been sectioned under the mental health act on two occasions which resulted in prolonged stays in hospital. Over the years she has had many relapses and has been told that her condition is incurable, but due to the involvement of the Intensive Home Treatment Team and my involvement as a carer she we have</p>

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		<p>developed a strategy where she can be treated at home, this has prevented her from being admitted to the psychiatric wards at a cost of around £500 per day.</p> <p>*Since 1998 i have tried to continue working but over the years i have had to reduce the hours i work due to her condition getting worse, carers allowance and her DLA are now our only means of income, i am very worried that any cuts to benefits will make our financial situation impossible, my wifes condition requires me to give continual care as her short term memory is very poor, i have to allocate her medication throughout the day, monitor her mental health as when she is starting to relapse she has a tendency to wander out of the house becoming a danger to herself and others, she forgets to turn the cooker off or doesn't light the gas rings, if she is left alone she gets very stressed and anxious which has brought on relapses in the past, she can appear quite well but signs of relapse can appear within hours, as a carer and being a mental health support worker i can spot changes in her mood and notify her care coordinator immediately, with prompt responses from her medical team this has prevented her from being hospitalized at a huge cost to the NHS.</p> <p>*As i am only able to claim carers because she receives the higher rates of DLA any changes to these benefits would have a disastrous affect on both our lives and health.</p> <p>*With regard to a medical assesment, it would be impossible to come to a judgement on the basis of one interview, as the state of a persons mental health can fluctuate on a daily basis, as i have worked as a mental health support worker for nearly 8 years in the community i am extremley worried about these proposals and the devastating effect it will have on peoples lives.</p> <p>*Carers in this country survive on these minimal benefits, but save the NHS billions every year, i think it is morally wrong to target the most vulnerable people in society and the people that provide care with virtually no recognition from the government as it is.</p>
EM890	10/02/2011	<p>I am writing to share my concerns about this DLA consultation. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a full time carer for my husband who is a stroke victim. I am concerned about losing my Carers Allowance because my husband may lose his benefits. He has limited mobility and uses a motability vehicle which we find an absolute must for his quality of life and we are concerned about losing this facility. We are concerned about the possibility of my husband losing his Disability Allowance and the stress this would cause as we have already had to pursue appeals in the past to achieve his present entitlement which caused us great difficulty both emotionally and financially. This was caused by medical professionals not taking into account how my husband can be on his worse day and the problems we both encounter due to his right side weakness, mobility and speech problems which affect all areas of communication. Due to seizures he also needs constant attendance. We are concerned that the medical professionals may repeat the previous problems and this causes us both much anxiety.</p> <p>*I am also concerned about the impact losing Carers Allowance would have for us managing financially. It presently helps me to pay the bills and also allows me the opportunity for a bit of respite to enable me to maintain a reasonable healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>*I feel that the government should not be making cuts of £1 billion pounds to disability benefits because it will certainly have devastating effects to carers such as myself who do seem to be the forgotten members of society.</p> <p>*I also feel that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. We Carer's already save the UK £87 billion every year with the care we provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution to society.</p>
EM891	10/02/2011	<p>I am a mother of an autistic boy [REDACTED] and I am very concerned about potential changes to the DLA and thus affecting the Care's Allowance as</p>

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		<p>well. *The reason why I am worried is because an assessment of my child by professionals as a one-off sometimes will not give the right picture of [REDACTED]. On a good day, [REDACTED] may appear to be very 'normal' and compliant but on other days, his disability is not easy to manage at all. As he is also non-verbal, he cannot express needs and why he is distressed. As an example, we tried to apply for a blue badge but was unsuccessful as he did not 'qualify' but things are getting progressively unmanageable as he now cannot be strapped into a pushchair and he is getting physically stronger and when he is distressed when we are out and about, we need to calm him down as quickly as possible and having somewhere to park will lessen his waiting time and distress. It is not easy to explain and apply for these benefits (like the blue badge) and I am very concerned that benefits like DLA and CA may be reduced or even taken away.</p> <p>*Let me give you a little background information – I use to work and pay 40% tax on my income but things at home got progressively demanding with a child who is autistic. His needs cannot be 'read' easily except by me as he is non-verbal and it is only by caring and spending time with him, I understand what he is really trying to say. I have given up my career to look after my son and financially, my family is much worse off. The benefits we get from both Carers Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are used to purchase things to help Matthew learn (computer, accessories and software), Occupational Therapy toys to calm him at home, for other therapies beneficial to [REDACTED] which are not provided through the NHS and going to Special Needs play areas to let him enjoy outings like any other child. I hardly spend extra things on myself and have ring-fenced most of my CA for providing more help for my son.</p> <p>*Carers Allowance should and must remain outside the realm of the Universal Credit as carers like me have given up so much to be a carer and are entitled to be given some financial recognition (– it is good not to have to 'make-do' most of the time and I can go for the occasional haircut without feeling guilty about the expenses.)</p> <p>*These benefits have lightened our financial load and has in a way made [REDACTED]'s life and our family life a little easier. I strongly feel that David Cameron and his government should not make the £1billion cut on disability benefits as it would have such a devastating impact on families like us. It is even wrong to means-test it as all disabled persons and their carers should and must be entitled to have a decent financial standing and be given some recognition of contribution. Every disabled person and their carer should have an equal standing in society and their benefits should not be means-tested (if not, do we then means-test people for purchasing food and other daily essential items?)*When it gets tough, thoughts for handing over the caring situation to social services do come into mind and if that happens to more and more families, it could only mean:-</p> <p>*breaking-up of more families</p> <p>*quality of life of these families are lowered due to more financial stress</p> <p>*costing the Government more than it is saving!</p> <p>*Yours sincerely</p>
EM892	10/02/2011	<p>Thank you for this consultation. I have copied and pasted the model questions which pertain to this from a web site that supports carers in the UK, and have my own input in reply to them:</p> <p>*Say who you are and who you care for and that you are very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because the person you care for might lose their benefits</p> <p>*Explain why you are worried (Do you think the person you care for is at risk of losing their DLA? Do they have a condition that changes and a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times? Do you care for someone with a mental health condition or a learning disability which you are worried might not be assessed properly by a medical professional?).</p> <p>*Explain what impact losing Carer's Allowance would have on you (would you be worried about paying your basic bills, or affording to do</p>

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		<p>anything for yourself, or would it mean caring was unaffordable for you and you couldn't carry on.</p> <p>*State that you believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like you.</p> <p>*Say that it you believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*I am [REDACTED], caring for my husband, who is quite severely disabled and who is currently being subjected to the humiliation and indignity of being 'investigated' for allegedly claiming untruthfully. He has of course re-applied for the DLA benefit because his condition has not miraculously or otherwise improved!!!!</p> <p>*Further, as a direct result of this genuine predicament of his, I am also struggling to exist in the status quo of spending well over 35 hours a week doing things which need to be done for my husband and which he cannot do himself - and am constantly trying hard to find work which fits around this commitment but to no avail as what few jobs there are are snatched up before I even apply. Plus I have few skills and absolutely no real hope of bettering these. Courses always cost money - which is the reason I want the skills in the first place - to generate that rare commodity!</p> <p>*However the government plans their "money-saving exercise", they could end up, I believe, worse off because instead of caring for or providing for one human being denied the dignity of work through ill health, they will be picking up the pieces of shattered lives of the rest of the family who are trying to cope with the fall-out from their penny-pinching short-sightedness. I know what I am talking about: I spent 3 years in care when my mother had a breakdown due to total absence of help when my brother's severe learning disability progressed. He and I both ended up in "care" despite her and my father's very best efforts, and I hope that I am able to input into this debate constructively as a result. Despite the then policy of splitting up families, my family survived and I later raised my own. Married to a man who cannot work does not mean I am a waste of space: with the right attitude I am now living in a way where we both help those in my family who need it and probably save the government more money than I could possibly earn! Our daughter is a qualified teacher, currently doing supply work. Losing Carers Allowance would cost the country a lot more money than the meagre £53 a week per human being it currently costs them, as against probably hundreds of pounds a week in psychiatric or other full-time care (if my husband did not stand by me and somehow manage on the lowered income) - I am realistic when I say it would be difficult to visualise coping with that scenario - and my Christian faith prevents me from going down the other path which would probably be crime. I understand prisons are full anyway - someone told me today it is a crime now to put a bin bag out in addition to the provided wheelie bin(!). I am one individual, but believe (and know!) that there are millions of other people in similar predicaments whose value is totally ignored despite their working for a fraction of the National Minimum Wage for what amounts to more hours than a bus driver is legally allowed to earn in a day.</p> <p>*For these reasons, Carers Allowance Must be Additional to Universal Credit, otherwise the Government may as well go back into the pages of Charles Dickens' famous but tragic novels (which had their basis in the reality of our shameful historical past).</p>
EM893	09/02/2011	<p>I am [REDACTED]. I am the mother of [REDACTED], who is ten and has Down syndrome and autism. I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because my son might lose his benefits.</p> <p>*I am worried that my son might lose his DLA if the way he is assessed does not sufficiently recognise the complexities of his conditions. I am keenly aware that even the Consultant Paediatrician who oversees his medical care</p>

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		<p>does not have a full grasp of the complexities of both conditions, so am very concerned that it might not be possible to have enough experts to fully assess all applicants.</p> <p>*If I couldn't claim carers allowance we, as a family, would fall even further into poverty and might not be afford our current utilities.</p> <p>*The governments proposed cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits would risk devastating consequences to family's of disabled children. Throwing us into despair and also reducing our self respect and mental health by becoming even less valued that we are now. Not to mention the consequences for our disadvantaged underestimated and undervalued children, leaving them less able and supported to forge a place in society where they can learn, teach and contribute.</p> <p>*I believe that Carers Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. I understand that carers save the UK £87 billion each year with the care they provide and it would be devastating to the confidence of carers to means test it - we are sorely undervalued as it is, suffering huge health issues from not only the strain of caring, but of also bearing the responsibility for our cared for in our complicated, uncaring national health service. It would also leave some carers with absolutely no recognition of their role.</p> <p>*Please heed the experience of disabled people and their carers.</p>
EM894	09/02/2011	<p>I am [REDACTED] and I care for my 89 yr old, disabled and partially-sighted mother. I am very concerned about how this consultation will affect the most vulnerable in our society. The most important concern I have is that the benefits my mother receives continue without the need for medical examination. Her GP can give verification of her condition and because she is so frail she cannot cope with medical examinations or interviews. I deal with all her paperwork and organise all her care as she is incapable of doing this.</p> <p>*I work full-time and I am not eligible for financial assistance as a carer. But, if I were to be given some financial support, I would be able to reduce my working hours so that could spend more time caring for my mother as her health is deteriorating. At the moment, I care for my mother after work every day and on weekends and I am finding that it is taking its toll on my own health as I am now [REDACTED] yrs old. Not enough financial support is given to the Carers of people who receive DLA. Instead of cutting back, the government should be increasing this allowance as they are saving the country billions of pounds in unpaid care work. The Government should be not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers. I think that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit.</p>
EM895	09/02/2011	<p>I am employed to provide advice, information & support to unpaid carers in Salford. I am very concerned about my clients losing entitlement to Carers Allowance because the person they care for may lose their disability benefit.</p> <p>*Many of my clients are carers of people who have fluctuating conditions, mental health problems or learning disabilities and I am concerned that these cases may not be accurately assessed by a medical professional.</p> <p>*Without Carers Allowance many of my clients will either not be able to carry on doing their caring role, or will experience hardship. Carers Allowance helps to compensate carers in a small way for the support they provide and my clients use it to pay for basic necessities like travel expenses, utility bills and other household expenditure.</p> <p>*Based on my experience I do not believe that the Government should be making cuts to disability benefits because of the devastating effect it will have on disabled people and carers.</p> <p>*Carers Allowance must remain outside the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p>
EM896	10/02/2011	<p>As the main carer of a young adult with severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour I am concerned at any proposed changes to the</p>

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		<p>assessment system for DLA and other benefits.</p> <p>*My young adult already receives DLA at a lower rate than all her peers with the same genetic condition and I would not wish the rate of DLA to be reduced further. Any cuts which the government proposes to make to those people like my daughter who are severely disabled would be totally unfair, life is difficult enough for such people, so to lose anything from the amount of money they already receive would be detrimental to their life, as it may well be that people have to stop doing activities that enrich their quality of life.</p> <p>*The assessment procedure must take into account all the physical and mental disabilities which are suffered by the disabled person. Medical professionals must be used to carry out assessments, not unsuitably trained-up agency workers.</p> <p>*On a personal basis the loss of Carers Allowance would have a big impact on myself as although I work the three days a week that my disabled daughter accesses daycare, I cannot extend my working hours, so could not make up the amount of the allowance. I calculate that I am given 2p per hour per week for the amount of time I spend in my caring role - far less than the minimum wage that a paid carer would be given! Means testing the benefit would be unfair to carers, none of us has asked to be put in this role so why should we be penalised for it financially. It would be preferable if Carers Allowance remained outside of the proposed Universal Credit.</p>
EM897	10/02/2011	<p>Hello</p> <p>*When is enough a enough I say no more cuts to carer's we already save the UK 87 billion per year.</p> <p>*I am worried about the increasing cost of heating fuel both heating and petrol. I get no help i.e. mobility allowance re age bar over 65 can't claim. All I ask is that I get a reduction in my Road tax that would help me. My father is 94 WWII vet and is dependent on my vehicle for all transport needs. (we are Rural based)</p> <p>*If my care's allowance is cut the impact would make it unaffordable for me to carry on. Not being able to care for one's loved ones would make suicide. How would it make you feel?</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carer's by means-testing it, as this would leave some carer's without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*My father has to pay tax and I am taxed on my carers allowance. This is morally wrong when Bankers and local council leaders and some officers salaries are over £100.000 pa.</p> <p>*I believe that we are not too far away from The Egypt Crises ! in this country. The Government must be careful for what is wishes for i.e. The Big Society i.e. people power if the Government keeps cutting away at the poorest we shall see mass people power. History in the UK has shown this before when the people become weaker re an unfair society the people become stronger.</p> <p>*Please think on.....1% cut on my income makes difference 1% cut of £100,000 pa salaries is not noticeable.</p>
EM898	10/02/2011	<p>I am a very concerned carer looking after my wife who suffers from a degenerative illness. Between my wife's DLA , my Carer's allowance and the small amount of earnings I receive we can manage. Any loss of income from any source will cause a massive change in our circumstances.</p> <p>*The loss of even a percentage DLA, or my carer's allowance will mean we loose the eligibility to have a Council Tax rebate. This means I will have to work more hours to earn more to pay the Tax, therefore having less time at home to care for my wife and as a consequence having to ask the same Council for drop in carer's to take my place, the prospect of which we both dread as we have always tried to be as independent as we can.</p> <p>*My wife would also become house bound on her own with limited capability</p>

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		<p>to fend for herself till I arrived home from work.</p> <p>*The thought of reform to a Universal Credit and the pitfalls that will inevitably, as consequence occur, has brought about a fear in a specific group that need re assurance and stability, not uncertainty and insecurity. So far I have not heard or read anything from the proposals that would make me any more hopeful.</p> <p>*In my humble opinion Care's Allowance should be looked at as a benefit to the State, and not a drain on it, and carer's helped more ,not less.</p>
EM899	02/02/2011	<p>I am a single parent and full-time Carer with two Profoundly Autistic Sons, one high functioning, one very low functioning. I receive DLA at the Highest rate for both boys.</p> <p>*I came out of the Private sector to become a full-time Carer several years ago. I am still astounded by the waste and beaucracy which obstructs the lives of all Carers on a Daily Basis.</p> <p>*There are huge savings to be made, below I have listed a few suggestions which in my experience would improve the lives of Carers and the Disabled, whilst reducing beaucracy and saving the Government a considerable amount of money.</p> <p>*1/ Separate the Special Needs Community AWAY FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR WORKS AND PENSIONS, the two are incompatible and only harm each others positions.</p> <p>*We need to create an enlarged CARE MINISTRY for the genuine Long-term Disabled and their Carers, focusing on keeping Families together where possible, whilst maximising the Independence of the Disabled Individual.</p> <p>*The current system is unfit for purpose. As soon as a Government brings in a drive to reduce Unemployment and get people back to work, the opposition invariably accuses them of targeting the Disabled, who can get caught unwittingly in the system. By creating an enlarged Care Ministry, the Department for Work and Pensions can fulfill it's very remit and help get those able to work back into full employment. In turn an enlarged Care Ministry could focus on the Disabled and their Carers, bringing in specific departments to help maximise the lives of each Special Needs Family, whilst reducing costs.</p> <p>*2/ Central Government needs to recognise the increase in Autism Levels, <i>in just 20 years it has gone from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 67 in the southeast of England.</i> Autism Spectrum Conditions now accounts for 78% all Special Needs and this is expected to rise.</p> <p>*3/ Another element which champions the need for a separate enlarged Care Ministry is the manner in which People with Disabilities and their Carers still have to report to their Local Job Centre every 3-6 months. If your case came under a new enlarged Care Ministry then you <i>"should be exempt from this embarrassing and insensitive fiasco"</i>. Under the current system you have to sit down and justify the fact that your childs condition hasn't changed, to an archaic system which is set-up to assess people with common ailments or injuries. When you have to sit there month after month, explaining that <i>'No my profoundly Autistic hasn't learnt to talk this month, or my Downs Child hasn't got better, as reams of forms are completed is humiliating and incredibly depressing !!!', However this fiasco only occurs because as Carers we come under the Department for Work and Pensions and MUST follow a protocol which was not designed for Special Needs Families.</i> The Situation is even worse for Special Needs Families where they do not have a Diagnosis. A Friend of mine has a beautiful daughter, who has Global Physical and Cognitive Delays, yet the Specialists cannot label her with a condition. Therefore my Friend has to go the Job Centre every 3-4 weeks, not surprisingly she is in a virtual constant state of depression.</p> <p>* Finally think of it from this perspective. Job Centre Staff spend 100's of thousands of hours EVERY YEAR assessing and filling in forms for Carers, whose situation will never change, wasting valuable time which could be used to find real jobs for people who go to Job Centres looking for work !!!, Not only would this reduce Unemployment, but also the associated costs</p>

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		<p>of benefits for those who would otherwise be in a job.</p> <p>* 4/ However the Biggest change which is required in DLA is the Mobility Element. At present you can only receive the Highest Rate of Mobility if you either need assistance walking or are in a wheel chair. <u>THIS IS WRONG AND IS ACTUALLY CAUSING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISTIC CONDITIONS TO BE KILLED AND INJURED EVERY MONTH !!!</u>, *AS THEIR PARENTS CANNOT PARK IN DISABLED BAYS IN SHOPPING OR TOWN CENTRES, NECESSITATING THEM TO TRY AND MANAGE DANGEROUS ROADS, WITH STRONG POWERFUL ADOLESCENTS, WITH LOTS OF ENERGY AND <u>ZERO ROAD SENSE !!!</u>, *THE DLA DESPERATELY NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT PEOPLE WITH AUTISM CAN VERY OFTEN BE <u>"OVER-MOBILE"</u> THEY HAVE NO ROAD SENSE AND ARE LIABLE TO JUST RUN ACROSS ANY ROAD, <u>YET AT PRESENT ARE DENIED THE HIGHEST RATE OF DLA, THE GOVERNMENT MUST RECOGNISE THE CONCEPT OF "OVER-MOBILITY" EVERY WEEK YOU PREVARACATE INVARIABLY MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE KILLED AND INJURED ON BRITAINS ROADS. ALL TRAGEDIES WHICH COULD BE AVOIDED. THIS VITAL CHANGE IN LEGISLATION WILL ENABLE CARERS TO PARK IN DISABLED BAYS AND TO PURCHASE SUITABLE MOTABILITY VEHICLES, *</u> <u>" I BEG OF YOU, IF YOU TAKE NOTHING ELSE FROM MY EMAIL, THEN PLEASE PUSH FOR THIS ONE URGENT CHANGE !!!"</u></p> <p>*I wish you luck with the changes, the hard work always falls on the Civil Servants and it is never an easy job to change legislation.</p> <p>*I would only be too happy to volunteer my services on any Committee or Panel as an Expert Carer, with a knowledge of the business world.</p> <p>*Yours Sincerely</p>
EM900	09/02/2011	<p>I am an unpaid Carer and care for my husband who has a physical disability.</p> <p>*The Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits.</p> <p>*I am worried about this as from a personal view I can say how difficult it is to get any sort of help including the following:</p> <p>*We have been on the waiting list for years to get a specialised hospital bed:We had to fund an electric wheelchair ourselves as my husband was only offered a manual one and he is unable to propel it and I have back problems and cannot push him: We do not qualify to have the bathroom adapted for a disabled person.</p> <p>*These are a few of the problems my husband and I have to deal with and we are just one of thousands facing problems every day. The consultation mentions protecting people, and a fair system, but with cuts in funding things will only get worse. Council funds have been cut and this is also going to have a detrimental affect on disabled people and their carers.</p> <p>*When I became an OAP and received my pension my Carers Allowance immediately stopped. I would not like this to happen to all Carers. We deserve better and Carers Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take Carers Allowance from some Carers by means testing it as this would leave some Carers without any recognition for their contribution</p>
EM901	15/02/2011	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>*I care for my wife who has a progressive neurological illness called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.</p> <p>*I totally agree that the process of awarding DLA should be reviewed, simplified, -- it is obvious to me that there are still many people who deserve to get DLA who are not even aware of its existence.</p> <p>*The age restriction of 65 should be immediately removed – the current practice discriminates against any Senior citizen who becomes disabled or seriously ill and who if under 65 would be entitled to DLA . As a result they are disadvantaged . For example the mobility benefit is not available and</p>

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		<p>they are therefore unable to get Motability cars etc . To withdraw a benefit on the basis of age is a serious act of discrimination.</p> <p>*This particularly applies to people with progressive illnesses – if the illness progresses to the point that DLA is awarded before 65 that's fine. However if the illness has been diagnosed before 65 but doesn't progress to the same point until after 65 , they cannot get the benefits of DLA even though their medical condition is the same. This must be rectified.</p> <p>*Assessment systems should be tightened and procedures put in place to identify fraudulent claimants and withdraw any benefits they are receiving.</p> <p>*Benefits currently paid to genuine recipients should not be downgraded or reduced.</p> <p>*I trust you will take my concerns into consideration in your review process</p>
EM902	09/02/2011	<p>I am very worried lest my husband, who has had bipolar for 17 years is at risk of losing their DLA. He has a condition that changes and a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times? He has a mental health condition or a learning disability which I am worried might not be assessed properly by a medical professional.</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like you.</p> <p>*I also believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution</p>
EM903	17/02/2011	<p>To whom it may concern, My wife was awarded DLA for life after a serious stroke left her paralyzed down her left side, will there be a change to the DLA she currently receives, would it be possible under the reforms to increase the carers allowance, I care for my 24/7 and currently get I believe £23 92p, this is very low compared to what it would cost for a full time paid carer, also it pales into insignificance what it would cost if she was put into a care home, I rely do feel that the governments over the year have not taken into account the amount of work is involved looking after someone 24 hours of the day 7 days a week year in and year out, as a carer I do feel that the government should look at the value carers as a whole give to those in need of care and what carers save the government, yours sincerely, [REDACTED]</p>
EM904	11/02/2011	<p>1) Say who you are and who you care for and that you are very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because the person you care for might lose their benefits.</p> <p>*I am a FT Carer for My Wife who has many disabilities</p> <p>*2) Explain why you are worried (Do you think the person you care for is at risk of losing their DLA? Do they have a condition that changes and a medical professional might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times? Do you care for someone with a mental health condition or a learning disability which you are worried might not be assessed properly by a medical professional?).</p> <p>*My wife gets DLA and has severe mental health problems as well as physical problem and I help her FULL Time</p> <p>*3) Explain what impact losing Carer's Allowance would have on you (would you be worried about paying your basic bills, or affording to do anything for yourself, or would it mean caring was unaffordable for you and you couldn't carry on.</p> <p>*Losing my benefit or my wife losing her benefit would impact me GREATLY ...</p> <p>*4) State that you believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like you.</p> <p>*We Carers save the Government over £87 BILLION a yr and they want to cut us off look at the FACTS ...</p> <p>*5) Say that it you believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the</p>

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		<p>Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*Exactly like what I have stated in question 4</p>
EM905	11/02/2011	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>*I have recently received a communication from Carers UK about Disability Living Allowance reform and have included my personal experience of being a full time carer.</p> <p>*I care for my husband who has Muscular Dystrophy, other health problems and has had a heart attack. He and many other people with disabilities and their carers are very worried about Government plans to reform Disability Living Allowance. This allowance is needed to take some of the pressure off mounting prices for everything and any extra help required. The DLA allows disabled people to have a Motability car, the only bit of independence for some, on a personal note this car is a lifeline as my husband cannot get on and off public transport, so the loss of this vehicle would mean he would be isolated at home, thus lowering even more his self esteem and a feeling of still being able to do something for himself. Would the Motability Scheme still be available if DLA was discontinued?</p> <p>*Life in general is a struggle for disabled people and for their carers who have to watch day in, day out, their loved ones coping with great pain etc.. My husband's disability causes him to falls, without warning, so I am on edge every day and cannot relax, I don't sleep well because I am waiting to have to get up urgently and call for an ambulance which I have done in the past.</p> <p>*The Carers Allowance is a great help to me as it is the only income I receive as I had to give up my job to care for my husband full time, although it is taken out of my husband's Pension Credit, it still feels as if I am making a contribution to the household budget. I have read that Carers save the country £87 billion a year, if my husband, or any other disabled person had to go to a Residential Home or Nursing Home, it would cost near to £1000 a month, so I think Carers Allowance is a cheaper option for the Government.</p> <p>*I realise reforms are needed, but being disabled can incur a lot of extra expenditure, mobility aids, adaptations to the home etc and the DLA helps them have more independence and have a better quality of life.</p> <p>*Would there still be an Allowance for carers if Disability Living Allowance was scrapped?</p> <p>*Regards,</p>
EM906	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] I care for my daughter who has Down's Syndrome . I am extremely concerned about the Governments consultation document regarding the changes being made to benefits for people with disabilities and their carers. I am worried that my daughter may lose her benefits and subsequently my carers allowance.</p> <p>*My daughter has Down's Syndrome, severe learning disability. This will not change it is a life long condition. I gave up a well paid job in order to care for my daughter . The carers allowance goes towards household bills, loss of these allowances would cause us hardship and extra stress.</p> <p>*I strongly disagree with the Government making cuts of £1 billion to disability because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and their carers. Many families will hit crisis which will be more costly to manage for the Government. I believe carers allowance must remain outside of the universal credit.</p>
EM907	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED], I am a carer to my mother who has both physical and mental health problems. I have cared for her for over twenty years.</p> <p>*I am also a management committee member for Carers' Wales. I am very concerned about the carers whom we help as they fear losing their Carers' Allowance because the person they care for may lose their benefits.</p> <p>*Carers are often exhausted after many years of caring, those from lower socio economic backgrounds in particular often do not have the ability to articulate themselves to support the person they care for who is at risk of</p>

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		<p>losing their DLA?</p> <p>*There is a bias towards physical disabilities in the new incapacity reviews. This is a cause for concern as I have heard of situations where people with mental health diagnosis or a learning disability have not been properly assessed by medical professionals. N.B. mental health care in Wales has much less spent on it than in England, and CPA is often not used appropriately, which means that people with mental illhealth frequently don't receive adequate support, which would enable them to have representation at such reviews. e.g. a cpn, support worker or social worker.</p> <p>*I am fortunate enough to work, however, I am very aware of the difficulties that would be faced by many carers if they lost their carer's allowance. Carers have told me that they would be worried about paying basic bills, or affording to do anything for themselves. For many it would mean caring was unaffordable for them and they couldn't carry on.</p> <p>*The country was in a worse state at the end of the 2nd World War, and the NHS came out of that. The government should not make the cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the adverse consequences it would have for disabled people and for carers.</p> <p>*It is imperative that the carer's allowance remain outside of the Universal credit. 96% of care in Wales is provided by unpaid carers! Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*It is wrong that pensioners or students can't claim carers allowance. If someone is carer, they really ought to be able to claim it.</p>
EM908	11/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am the main carer for my mother [REDACTED] who suffers with MS. Two weeks ago I finished my employment in a nursing home, to become my mom's full time carer as sadly her condition is worsening. At present I am trying to begin claiming carers allowance, and after hearing the new plans for personal independence payments I am concerned about my mother losing her DLA benefit, resulting in me being unable to claim carers allowance. If this became the case I would again have to seek work, in order to pay basic bills and general daily living, meaning I was unable to care for my mother. I believe that the government should not be making cuts to disability benefits and can imagine the devastating consequences it could have on sufferers and their carers. I hope that whilst I can care for my mother I am helping save the money it would cost for someone else to fill this role, I believe that carers allowance should remain outside of the universal credit. I myself am just one small part of the role carers play in today's world but hope all our opinions together can make a difference.</p>
EM909	11/02/2011	<p>I would just like to point out how hard it will be if our allowances are cut.</p> <p>*I am a 56 year old female looking after my husband of 59 who was struck down with myositis (muscle weakness illness) and cancer last year and is not able to walk or stand. I look after him most of the time except for 15 minutes of carers who get him out of bed while I am at work 6 hours a day. My benefit pays for our food as the NHS pay is not enough to support both of us and pay the bills. I am very grateful for the amount of carer's allowance I receive. *Thank you for your time to allow me to point out these matters.</p>
EM910	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] I cared for my father before he passed away. I am concerned about people like myself losing Carer's Allowance because any person they care for might lose their benefits</p> <p>*I am worried people will not be able to care for the person they care for as they are at risk of losing their DLA? The impact of losing Carer's Allowance would worry any person (they would be worried about paying basic bills, or affording to do anything for themselves, or would it mean caring was unaffordable for them and they couldn't carry on.</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like you.</p>

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		*I believe that the Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit.
EM911	10/02/2011	<p>My husband and I have cared for my daughter for 34 years and until recently she has lived with us at home. She has autism, a learning disability, slight right sided hemiplegia and a language disorder. Her language disorder means that she can appear to understand but doesn't and it masks the fact that she has a high level of disability, in fact in many ways my 2yr 9month granddaughter functions at a higher level than my daughter. Our daughter's disabilities are not visible and neither are they immediately apparent. We are hugely concerned that a medical professional will almost certainly incorrectly assess and overestimate her level of disability - we have seen this happen repeatedly.</p> <p>*We are very concerned, and angry, that the Government is planning to alter DLA and the impact it will have on many vulnerable people's lives. My daughter's disabilities mean that coping with day to day life is hard for her and consequently she needs a lot of support from us. The daily stress and strain is huge for us without adding further worry and stress about money - she would be blissfully unaware if she was penniless and under threat of eviction. You should not be making these cuts to the most vulnerable people in society but I suppose it is because they are the least well equipped to protect themselves or fight back - in our book that is the essence of bullying.</p> <p>*Furthermore we think it is essential that Carer's Allowance stays outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution and in severe financial hardship.</p>
EM912	09/02/2011	<p>I understand there is a consultation to replace the Disability Living Allowance with a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) which will have a new method for assessment. It is interesting to note how poorly publicised this has been, but not really surprising.</p> <p>*I am the mother of a child with autism and significant learning difficulty.</p> <p>*Neither of these are curable & both will significantly affect his whole life - due to the nature and severity of his disability he will always need someone to care for him.</p> <p>*I am extremely worried about the proposals because</p> <p>*a) they have been poorly publicised which leads me to believe the outcome will be detrimental to most</p> <p>*b) a review of this nature - especially during the current financial climate - leads me to believe there is a likelihood most will lose this benefit or receive much reduced benefit</p> <p>*c) the PIPs are to include an "independent medical assessment" when autism is an incredibly difficult thing to assess in one short visit, by someone who does not know the disabled person well, even if they are specialists in this disability (and logic dictates that it is not likely the "independent" assessor will in fact be an autism specialist).</p> <p>*Our son is 9 years old & his difficulties can lead to extreme frustration.</p> <p>*The DLA is essential for us to repair damage to our home e.g. the large hole he made in our kitchen wall, as well as to replace damaged items for others e.g. the smashed plant pots next door that he broke by throwing bricks over the wall. We also use the funding to help with the extra costs incurred for child care - we could not leave our son with a child minder who has other children because he needs one to one specialist attention.</p> <p>*We have been lucky enough to find a special needs child care facility locally, but this is obviously more expensive than standard child care.</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and their carers. We are just one small drop in the ocean I know, but these cuts and decisions will affect thousands of the most vulnerable people in our society.</p> <p>*Carers Allowance must remain outside of Universal Credit. Carers save the</p>

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		<p>UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away carers allowance from some carers by means testing it as this would leave some carers without recognition of their contribution.</p> <p>*Besides, if this happened and they were forced to give up work so that they did qualify on the means test - surely that would be detrimental, as society would lose their skilled contribution in the work place & they would become a cost to the benefits system instead of contributing via a productive role and paying taxes. Seems like a false economy to me.</p>
EM913	10/02/2011	<p>I write to you as the 28 year old carer of my father who has terminal lung cancer. I read with some alarm about the proposed changes in Disability Living Allowance.</p> <p>*I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance (which I can only claim if my father gets DLA) because I have had to give up my job in order to care for my father. Carer's Allowance is the only income I get. I would like to be able to work-at least in a part time capacity-but I was recently informed that the contract that Bury Council has with Crossroads, the organisation that provides carers with respite care, has been terminated. This leaves me and my family in an impossible position and means that I will be unable to work. I feel at 28 that my life has been put on hold.</p> <p>*I find it incredible that the Government proposes to cut £1 billion of disability benefits when provisions for carers are already stretched to the limit.</p> <p>*It is my belief that removal of Carer's Allowance is a false economy. Under the current legislation, carers save the economy many billions of pounds. However, without the means to continue caring for Dad at home, we may be forced to put him into a home at a cost to the economy of much more than the £53 a week Carer's Allowance that I currently receive.</p> <p>*As you'll be aware, the Government's consultation on the DLA proposals closes on Monday 14 February. Please consider this e-mail and the needs of the many thousands of carers across the UK when you vote on this matter</p>
EM914	09/02/2011	<p>I am [REDACTED], full time carer for my husband [REDACTED]. I am over 60yrs of age and was distressed to find that, in spite of remaining eligible to receive Carer's Allowance, payments ceased on my birthday regardless of the fact that our circumstances had not improved, in fact by July of that year my husband had an additional life-changing, potentially life-limiting, diagnosis. I am very concerned about these proposed changes that may result in other carers losing Carer's Allowance because the person they care for might lose their benefits. I believe the whole issue regarding practical and financial support for carers should be addressed as a priority and separately from the proposed Universal Credit. I also strongly believe that this allowance should be paid to all eligible carers regardless of their age - my caring role has not ended by becoming 60! In fact it becomes more difficult as the years pass because one's own abilities and strengths are liable to be reducing whilst age-related health issues can increase. Being a carer of a loved-one is a privilege - however, it can be isolating, is a huge responsibility, and is financially and emotionally draining.</p> <p>*I am concerned about my husband's DLA (PIP) being affected by the assessment system. It should be an improvement on the present, demoralising, complicated written system, however, he has multiple conditions and needs, some of which vary not only daily, but frequently by the hour so a brief visit by an assessor may completely miss the worst of times. Assurances and proper guidelines need to be firmly in place to ensure that these proposed assessors are 'up to speed' on a large variety of conditions or that individual specialists each make separate visits (costly and stressful). There is an additional concern for me in respect of these assessments - the stress incurred every time we see a doctor, nurse, assessor (we have previously attended two miserable tribunals) ensures anything up to a week recovering, repairing emotional damage after every such occasion. I'm sure this is the same for all genuine claimants and their carers.</p> <p>*I am shocked to learn of the intended cuts of £1billion to disability benefits. I</p>

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		<p>fully understand the need to make the finances of this country work but this cut would be a false economy. Surely the more practical and financial support that disabled folk and their carers receive the fewer people will be requiring expensive full-time residential support and the health of tired, stressed carers could be improved leaving them more able to continue their caring role and reducing local medical costs.</p> <p>*Making life tougher for genuine DLA (PIP) claimants won't stop the fraudsters - they don't care what they say and claim!</p>
EM915	09/02/2011	<p>I am very concerned about the proposed changes to DLA and the planned reductions in benefits. Not only is this because it seems likely that many disadvantaged people already living on the margin economically could lose their benefits, but particularly as it doesn't seem the implications for Carers have been properly explored.</p> <p>*DLA is important for many carers, as they can only claim Carer's Allowance if they are caring for someone who gets the middle or higher rate care component of DLA. The Government has not given detailed consideration of carers within its proposals. It seems no assessment has been published on how the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment or the £1 billion reduction in the DLA budget would affect Carer's Allowance claimants. This could be devastating for families as they could lose disability and carers benefits simultaneously, leading to a potentially catastrophic loss of income for people already struggling to cope.</p> <p>*Carers look after people who would otherwise have to be looked after by the state, at an estimated saving to the state of over £80 billion per annum across the UK. (<i>Department of Health: Departmental Report 2007, The Stationary Office, May 2007</i>) Financial support for Carers is already at a very low level (less than the basic state pension rate). Reducing support for Carers is likely to lead increasing demands on other parts of the Health & Social Security budgets and at a higher cost, thus leading to cuts in support to Carers actually costing money in the longer run. This is before you consider the morality of reducing the income of people who are already struggling economically, particularly at a time when tax rates for large corporates are being reduced and bankers who are receiving 'bonuses' of £100Ks or more are only able to do so as a result of an enormous amount of state support.</p> <p>*Whilst there may be many good reasons to review DLA, the introduction of a new system should not be to the disadvantage of people already on the margins and nor should any budget cuts affect those who are already struggling to cope. As Maria Miller, MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Disabled People says herself in her forward to 'Disability Living Allowance reform – Executive summary', 'It is only right that support should be targeted at those disabled people <u>who face the greatest challenges to leading independent lives</u>'.</p>
EM916	09/02/2011	<p>Dear Sirs - My name is [REDACTED], and I am [REDACTED] years old. I am a full time carer for my mother, [REDACTED], who is [REDACTED], and has severe scoliosis, in addition to a twisted pelvis, which causes her great pain. She is unable to walk unaided, and requires help with washing, dressing, toileting, cooking, in fact all basic functions that the rest of us take for granted. Should the government proceed with changes to the current DLA system, then many of those who rely on this payment may lose out altogether. My mother is proud and her DLA payment allows her some independance, as she has a mobility car, and therefore can drive to the shops so long as I am with her. If she loses this, then she will become a prisoner in her own home. I had to give up work to look after my mother, something that I do not regret, however, if she loses her DLA payment, then I would lose my carers allowance, which is my only form of income. I believe that the carers allowance should remain outside of the proposed universal credit. The government should not be considering a £1 billion cut to disability benefits and DLA. I appreciate that the country needs to make savings, but these could be made elsewhere. For example, cut MP's allowances. Ensure that those who should be paying</p>

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		tax do so, and start looking after those who need help, instead of constantly letting more and more people into the country who then bleed the economy dry. Stop wasting money on projects that are putting the country further into debt ie the olympics. As the father of a disabled child, the prime minister should know the cost of looking after someone who is in the most need.
EM917	12/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am the mother and carer of [REDACTED] who has a learning disability. I am frantic with worry that [REDACTED] may lose his DLA entitlement and that I do not know what will happen to the Carer's Allowance I receive.</p> <p>*Because of the nature of [REDACTED]'s disability any assessment of his needs is fraught with difficulty and requires a specialist understanding of his complex needs and abilities. [REDACTED] has had stringent medical, psychological and educational assessments throughout his life often requiring specially qualified practitioners to accurately assess the nature of his disability and the care he requires. I am concerned, therefore, that it will be impossible for a generalised form of assessment to adequately assess his needs or level of disability.</p> <p>*As the main carer for [REDACTED] I rely on Carer's Allowance to pay for the extra burden of looking after an adult with his level of disability, such as paying for special dietary requirements; travel costs for [REDACTED] to attend special courses and activities as well as paying for the activities themselves. My husband (who is a pensioner and has health problems) and I have virtually no respite care and, perhaps mistakenly, chose not to be a burden on Social Services, and we pay for all of [REDACTED]'s needs from his DLA and my Carer's Allowance. We struggle hugely even with these benefits and the effect of their loss would be devastating to [REDACTED], my husband and myself.</p> <p>*I would hope that Carer's Allowance will remain outside the scope of the Universal Credit system because I sense that, in talking with other carers we, as a group, will not be able to carry out the caring responsibilities we have up to date if the means of support for us and the people we care for is withdrawn.</p> <p>*Please consider carefully any changes to the support for carers and the people we care for, otherwise I fear there will be untold damage and despair for households and communities across the country.</p>
EM918	24/01/2011	<p>AT PRESENT I AM A CARER FOR MY WIFE WHO SUFFERS FROM EPILEPSY WITH NO WARNING SHE ALSO HAS MOBILITY PROBLEMS SHE AT PRESENT HAS HIGH RATE CARE, HIGH RATE MOBILITY , MY WIFE WAS AWARDED AN INDEFINITE AWARD,</p> <p>*I HEARD ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION FROM THE BROKEN OT BRITAIN WEB SITE, BUT HAVE NOT HAD ANY LETTERS FROM YOURSELVES REGARDING THIS MATTER,</p> <p>*AFTER ALL THIS CONSULTATION SHOULD BE ABOUT MY WIFE AND MANY LIKE HER , I HAVE ALSO HEARD THE CONSULTATION ENDS FEB14, DON'T SEE HOW MANY DISABLED PEOPLE COULD GET INVOLVED IN THIS CONSULTATION IF THE INFORMATION IS NOT OUT THERE AND IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME,</p> <p>*MY CONCERNS AT THIS TIME IS WHY RETEST PEOPLE LIKE MY WIFE WHO HAVE PROVED TO YOURSELVES HER CONDITION WILL NOT GET ANY BETTER SO WHY RETEST HER AGAIN</p> <p>*SHE WAS GIVEN THE HIGHEST AWARD SO CANT SEE WHY SHE HAS TO BE RETESTED , ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF IS NOT IN MY WIFE'S INTERESTS, THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS NEW ALLOWANCE IN MY OPINION IS TO MAKE IT HARDER FOR THE DISABLED AND VULNERABLE OF THIS COUNTRY , WE DEPEND ON DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE, SO WHY CHANGE IT TO A MORE UNFAIR SYSTEM , THIS IS NOT A CONSULTATION BUT A CUT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY ,,</p> <p>*I READ THAT THE NEW RATES WILL BE HIGH AND LOW RATE ,, WHY NO MIDDLE RATE OF CARE ,, OR IS THIS MORE EVIDENCE OF CUTS*IF MY WIFE WAS TO LOSE HER ALLOWANCE WHEN YOU START</p>

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		YOUR RETESTING , I WOULD LOSE MY CARERS ALLOWANCE ,, AS AT PRESENT I CARE FOR MY WIFE 24HRS A DAY SEVEN DAYS A WEEK*SO TO LOSE MY ALLOWANCE I WOULD BE FORCED TO FIND EMPLOYMENT AND I WOULD NOT LEAVE MY WIFE VUNRABLE, UNLIKE WHAT YOUR CONSULTATION SHAM WILL DO*PLEASE RECONSIDER THE ACTIONS YOU INTEND TO TAKE ,, YOU MIGHT BE VULNERABLE ONE DAY,,
EM919	14/02/2011	<p>As a man who has looked after my wife who has been confined to a wheelchair for a number of years now, I am worried when there is the possibility of changing the DLA. Although I live in Scotland where there is free care there is an important an significant flaw in the system. My wife should retire at 60 but she is trying to carry on for a bit longer as free care does not begin until 65. She has worked all of her life and would, if she was able, continue as long as possible to be a useful member of society. We are burdened with the cost of providing her with care which is costing all of our disposable income. We have both been engaged in science for most of our lives and so have not accumulated a great sum for out retirement, but this will be rapidly reduced if circumstances change.</p> <p>*The DLA is a lifeline to us which relieves some of the worry from our very stressful lives! Carers save the country an estimated £87,000,000,000 each year, a small amount when you consider how much the banks have cost the country. It seems that carers are paying the price for the government bail-out for the banks, and the bankers are back to paying themselves bigger bonuses than ever. It would be interesting if the bankers were on our income and trying to manage.</p> <p>*I urge you to consider the potential misery which could result from changes in the DLA.</p>
EM920	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for my husband who has COPD and my elderly father who suffers with arthritis and emphysema. I am very concerned about losing Carer's Allowance because the person I care for might lose their benefits</p> <p>*I am worried because I have been here before with Incapacity Benefit. Reviewing benefits is just an euphemism designed to cut or eradicate benefits leaving claimants destitute. My husband has been in continuous employment throughout his working life. Sadly for the past few years he has been unable to work due to COPD and was able to claim IB. As his condition worsened he was summoned for a review designed to stop his benefit. He is now in receipt of the middle rate DLA. He is unable to walk upstairs or uphill or ore than a few yards without breathing difficulties. He uses 3 different inhalers a day plus other medication. He also has other problems such as epilepsy, Barrett syndrome, arthritis and is deaf. My father was a miner for most of his life and as he progresses through his retirement the ravages of his employment have taken their toll. After a succession of mining injuries, years of working in damp, dark and dusty conditions he is plagued by breathing problems and has difficulty dressing himself and looking after his house. He lives 80 miles away. Experience has taught us that the intended review is designed to cut or stop benefits.</p> <p>*If I lose the benefit (I only receive 50% of CA) I would need to find employment. There is a paucity of jobs in North Wales, and none that pay a reasonable wage unless you consider teaching or social work.. I would therefore need to consider moving to another area such as Cardiff or London where rented and purchased property is more expensive.. As houses do not sell here I could not afford to finance two households, meaning I would need to seek a room in a multiple occupancy building leaving my husband alone in our home in North Wales at the risk of making him homeless and losing our family home.. To remove me from the area, the State would need to provide 24 hour care for my husband, several hours care daily for my father and I would also need help dressing, bathing and undressing since I too suffer with arthritis and lymphoedema. We have already contributed more than our 10% share to the economy having lost</p>

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		<p>£50 worth of support for our mortgage, added to which the extra VAT making diesel for our motability car more expensive and the cost of luxuries prohibitive, but the cost of food has risen dramatically over the past 12 months.. People with COPD require the home to be heated to a certain temperature. Any further loss of income will mean that we will be forced to decide between purchasing nutritious food or heating our home. This in an area where 1 in 3 people over the age of 50 admitted to hospital are malnourished.! If we lose our DLA we will face the prospect of losing our car making it impossible for my husband to leave the house or have any quality of life.</p> <p>*My story is not unique. There are many people who have a worse story to tell. These are the State's unsung heroes and save the Treasury millions each year.. We already fund the NHS with our very low paid and very long hours with no holiday, respite or retirement! During the election the present government promised that the sick and disabled would be looked after and that they would look at giving carers a better deal. They have reneged on that and thereby lost our trust.</p> <p>*Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution and cost the State far more in the long run for reasons I have already stated.</p>
EM921	18/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and I care for my daughter and my husband full time and I am on carers allowance. I cannot work as most of the time I am at hospital appointments, doctors, checking medication is taken correctly and in between this shopping and keeping the house in order. The money I receive of carers allowance I use towards shopping, bills and transport to and from hospitals, doctors etc. I am very concerned about losing carers allowance because the person I care for might lose their benefits. Also I would struggle to keep up with my everyday expenses and this would have an affect on all the family.</p> <p>*My husband has rheumatoid arthritis which he takes regular medication for and some days he is better than others. His condition changes quite a lot so if a medical professional assessed him on a good day they might fail to take into account his worse times. Also my daughter is diabetic and her diabetes levels can be difficult to keep under control so she has times when she is better than others. She can feel very down and upset and has mood swings and gets angry and feels different to other people of her age. She does not always want to draw attention to her condition as she wants to be like any other teenager of her age.</p> <p>*I have been caring for a number of years which has affected my health as I get very tired and feel very down. I have had a nervous breakdown in the past and I do not get much time to myself and I take antidepressants daily. I would love to be able to work again but there are not enough hours left in the day for this and my caring role. At times it is difficult to cope but you carry on as normal.</p> <p>*If Carers Allowance was stopped I would be very worried about paying my basic bills or affording to do anything for myself and family and I don't know how I would carry on with the pressure and worry of trying to juggle monies to keep our heads above board. I feel that if the Government start making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits it could have a devastating effect on disabled people and their carers.</p> <p>*I believe that Carers Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carers save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carers Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution.</p>
EM922	09/02/2011	<p>My Name is [REDACTED]. I am [REDACTED] years old and I care for and share a home with an [REDACTED] year old gentleman ([REDACTED]) who suffers from Asthma, Macular Degeneration and Parkinson's disease. He hasn't been able to look</p>

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		<p>after himself for several years now and can no longer cope on his own. I am very concerned about him losing Carer's Allowance because from what I have heard it would appear that he is now at risk of losing his benefits. I do not know how he would be able to manage if this were to happen. I certainly couldn't continue in my present role in those circumstances.</p> <p>*As you may understand, with Parkinson's Disease, some days are better than others but generally [REDACTED] in not able to do anything for himself and he is slowly deteriorating in every way. His condition changes daily and a medical professional might assess him on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times, many of which are during the night. Apart from his physical condition he also has some dementia which I feel is mainly caused by the medication he is taking, The Parkinson's is now affecting his speech and he has been receiving speech therapy but there is little change for the better and the deterioration continues.</p> <p>*Losing Carer's allowance would affect the way we are now managing. It is such a struggle with the cost of fuel, the maintenance of a vehicle, driving him to medical appointments and to the disabled groups which he attends. That would become even more of a problem than it is already. I do not know how we would be able to cope, not to mention the costs of keeping the house warm and in good order.</p> <p>*It would certainly be devastating if the Government should make the cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits and the consequences that it could have for disabled people and Carer's like ourselves. I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. I understand that we Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care we provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some Carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some Carers without any recognition of their contribution. Life is very hard and relentless.</p> <p>*I hope you will reconsider that this would be a major disaster for us.</p>
EM923	09/02/2011	<p>Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am very concerned about the possibility of losing Carer's Allowance because the person I care for might lose their benefits</p> <p>*I provide 24hr care for my wife who has PPMS (Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis) and because of the unpredictability of her day to day symptoms as well as unpredictability of the rate of degenerative effects over time, I am worried that an assessor might assess them on a good day and fail to take account of the worse times</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people and carers like you . Within 3 years of my wife's diagnosis her deterioration was such that she needed 24hr care and I was forced to give up employment to care for her. As carers allowance and her DLA do not equate to 2 full-time salaries, first I used up all my savings and finally I went bankrupt, we are already living at subsistence level, removal of any benefit income from DLA/SDA or Carers Allowance would mean I would be unable to care</p> <p>*I believe that Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit. Carer's save the UK £87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carer's Allowance from some carers by means-testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution</p> <p>*I thank you for consulting us on this issue and look forward to hearing that this plan has been dropped as a result of overwhelming opposition</p>
EM924	11/02/2011	<p>DLA is paid for many different types of disability. That disability in which I am concerned with is that of adults with a learning disability (previously termed mental disability). Basically it means that a child with this disability will grow up to be a child irrespective of age and will need care throughout their lives generally provided by their parent/s until the strain of that caring takes its toll.</p> <p>*The amount of DLA now paid is a pittance both to the carers (there is no minimal wage for carers) and to the Government but it helps families to</p>

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		<p>function to some extent but nowhere to the level taken for granted by the vast majority of families throughout the UK.</p> <p>*To even consider reducing the amount is an insult to all those carers who lose their lives in that caring. Overheads are much higher for families who have to care and very often the income is much restricted because of that caring.*Add to this the vicious reduction in services (never very good at best) and the extra strain put on families can only result in more family breakdowns, more illness and more despair.</p> <p>*Unless you have had to care all day, every day and night for 20, 30, 40 years and more you can have no understanding of the strain. If you progress this decision to change DLA for something else then you add to that strain particularly if the main aim is to reduce that money.</p> <p>*In a decent and humane society the old and infirm should expect to be cared for as and when necessary. I see little of that in today's society and it would seem that much of that results from Government and Local Council attitudes to those that appear to be nothing more than a nuisance.</p> <p>*Change rules if you must but understand that the carers of those with a learning disability save the Government billions yearly and if your legislation results in more carers giving up then the cost will be much greater, financially and in lives.</p> <p>*For once listen and be aware.</p>
EM925	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and i care for my wife [REDACTED] who with arthritis in every joint and spondelosis in the spine is on maximum DLA. My worry is that if the new changes to a, DLA and b, Carers Allowance we would find it very hard indeed to carry on as we are. My Carers Allowence pays for some of the necessties to live like gas, electricity, and water.</p> <p>*If my Carers Allowance was taken away and my wifes DLA also or reduced then we would be in dire straits as my wifes disability is never going to get better, without the DLA we would also lose our motability car and she would never get out of the house. We believe that the Government making cuts to disability benefits could have devastating consequences on people like us. Carers Allowance should stay outside the universal credit as i care for my wife 24 hours a day 7 days a week it would cost lots more to supply professional carers to look after her and a lot of us dont even get a break because we know that they trust us and dont like outside help.</p>
EM926	09/02/2011	<p>My name is [REDACTED] and as a Carer for my wife I rely on Carers Allowance/Benefit to top up the income I've lost by being there 24/7 for her. Already, the amount of benefit is something of an insult, given the savings this, and previous Governments, make each year from our "voluntary" help.</p> <p>*Were my wife to lose her DLA because of some over exuberate clerk, we would be in deep financial trouble: My wife is unable to work because of her disability, so losing the benefit she currently receives would be a calamity. If I were to lose CA, because of the afore mentioned decision, then that would be the proverbial "double whammy". Who would pay our bills then?</p> <p>*The Government certainly needs to make cuts to claw back the billions of debt that we are in but should it be taking it from those that need it? That isn't the reason a majority of the voting public asked them to take over the administration of this Nation: We expected them to make cuts in unnecessary expenditure but it would seem that it's "the little guy" who suffers every time. Not fair!*There's concern too about taking CA into consideration with the "universal credit". No, no, no. This benefit, which save the UK £87 billion each year, must remain intact.</p>
EM927	09/02/2011	<p>I am [REDACTED] and I care for my Son [REDACTED]. I am extremely concerned about losing Carers allowance , because my Son might lose his Benefits.</p> <p>*I am Worried as I feel [REDACTED] is at risk of losing his DLA, his condition is such that changes and a medical proffessional might assess him on a good day and fail to take account of his worse days. He has a mental health condition and learning disabilities, which I am worried might not be assessed properly by a medical proffessional.</p>

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		<p>*Losing Carers Allowance would have a serious impact on me. I would be worried about paying basic bills, or affording to do anything for myself, caring for my son would become unaffordable and I wouldn't be able to carry on with it.</p> <p>*I believe the Government should not be making cuts of £ 1 billion to Disability benefits, because of the devastating consequences it could have for disabled people like my Son and Carers like me.</p> <p>*I believe that Carers Allowance must remain outside of the universal credit. Carers save the UK £ 87 billion every year with the care they provide and it would be wrong to take away Carers Allowance from some carers by means testing it, as this would leave some carers without any recognition of their contribution</p>
EM928	14/02/2011	<p>I'm responding to the DLA Consultation as the more I read about benefit reform, the more anxious I am becoming.</p> <p>*I am a [REDACTED] year old divorced mother of 3. My eldest son is [REDACTED] and I have two daughters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who live at home. My [REDACTED] year old was diagnosed at birth with Trisomy 18, a chromosome abnormality resulting in profound and multiple disabilities. She has defied all the odds and is currently going through the transition process to adult services as she will finish school in July this year. I do not think I have ever had such a stressful time in my life.</p> <p>*My local authority have been appalling in their management of this transition and I have spent so much time dealing with paperwork and researching my options and legal entitlements that my self-employed income has declined and our family is almost totally dependent on the tax credits and benefits that my daughter brings into the home for us to survive.</p> <p>*There is no question that my daughter will remain living at home when she finishes school. Full time residential is not in her best interests and not something I will consider.</p> <p>*What I do, however, have to consider is whether to send her to term time residential college for 3 years or endeavour to find a local placement at a day centre supported by carers. Her best interests would be served by going to college but as I will lose every penny of tax credits and child benefit in September this year my income will plunge to zero - yet I will still have to try and afford a mortgage and house bills to maintain our home which has been heavily adapted to cater for my daughter's needs. Her DLA and mobility allowance and my Carers Allowance I believe would be stopped during term time under your proposals yet I have a Motability wheelchair adapted vehicle for which I fundraised and paid a £9000 deposit, and which my daughter's weekly mobility allowance goes to Motability towards payment of the running costs.</p> <p>*If my daughter is lucky (and I do mean lucky, living where we do) and a local placement is found for her then I would hope that her DLA higher rate and mobility higher rate would still apply. However, under your proposals to reform the allowances just what would she be entitled to? There is no doubt that she is profoundly disabled and should therefore qualify for the maximum. But even the maximum DLA and mobility are not enough to support a young adult and the Carer's allowance at £53.90 a week is a total insult to someone who has given up their career to care 24/7 for someone so completely dependent. *Whatever way we proceed I am going to have to try and find a full-time job or we will lose our home. But I am 52 and have not had a "proper" job since 1987. I have done voluntary charity work and self-employed work for friends that have fitted around my caring duties.</p> <p>*So there is every possibility that in September I will have zero income.</p> <p>*If my daughter attends term time college I will need to find a job that allows me not to work during the college holidays (school jobs are like gold dust) but I will also lose our motability car under your proposals which leaves me living where there is no public transport and therefore unable to access work, shops or social activities. Which in turn means I cannot earn an income so your cuts in mobility allowance are a false economy as I will have to claim a full set of benefits which will far outweigh the single mobility allowance. And</p>

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		<p>how would I be able to collect and return her to college with no accessible vehicle? Under your proposals she and I would be house bound for the 14 weeks of college holidays with no transport to access even the supermarket.</p> <p>*If she attends a local day centre or similar and finishes at 4pm each day I will need a package of care on top of the placement so that she can have carers until I get home from work.</p> <p>*Surely it is time for the government to be looking at what more they can be doing for families who have such a severely disabled person within their midst rather than removing financial support and fair access to services. The removal of benefits would appear to me not to be in keeping with the Equality Act of 2010</p> <p>*We are all aware that there are many people in the UK claiming disability benefits that they are not entitled to. However, it is not right to punish those who have a genuine need by enforcing an across the board removal of vital benefits.</p> <p>*Children and adults with profound disabilities and their exhausted and impoverished carers should be a priority and the Government should not be making cuts of £1 billion to disability benefits because of the devastating consequences it could have for these disabled people and their carers like myself</p> <p>*Carers save the UK £87 billion every year already with the care we provide and it is not fair or just for this one section of society to be responsible for any more savings. To the contrary, the Government should be looking at ways of diverting more funds to support this extremely vulnerable section of society. Carer's Allowance must remain outside of the Universal Credit and it should be increased for those who are dealign with extreme disability and for whom it is their only means of income due to their caring role.</p>
EM929		<p>PLEASE DO NOT ABOLISH DLA AND REPLACE IT WITH PIP.</p> <p>I have severe Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), a neurological disease that affects multiple systems of the body, and I am severely disabled. There is no known cure for my disease. Severe ME brings profound cognitive problems as well as functional disabilities, severe ongoing malaise that is amplified on even minor exertion, and many other complex symptoms that can make life a torment.</p> <p>Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is an essential payment that people with severe ME rely upon to help meet their care and mobility needs. There are no compelling grounds to abolish it. The suggestion that the DWP can justifiably slash the welfare budget under the banner of replacing DLA with a system of 'Personal Independence Payments' (PIP) that is 'simpler' and 'fairer' is fundamentally flawed and disingenuous. It would appear that many people who face additional costs of living as a result of having a long term disabling disorder will no longer qualify for help when DLA is replaced with PIP. The predictable impact of the PIP system on people with prolonged ill health and disabilities will be enormously detrimental and unacceptable.</p> <p>There are also potential adverse knock on consequences. If a person loses their benefits under PIP, then their carer may loose Carer's Allowance, then making it impossible to pay basic bills and to carry on caring.</p> <p>The administrative costs of replacing DLA with the new system will be hugely expensive and a poor use of taxpayer's money.</p> <p>The Ministerial foreword to the consultation paper states: <i>"We are steadfast in our support for the principles of DLA, as a non-means-tested cash benefit contributing to the cash costs incurred by disabled people."</i> If this support is to progress beyond lip service then the government require to radically rethink their legislative plans for a new system.</p>

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		<p>I ask you not to abandon the Disability Living Allowance and replace it with Personal Independence Payment. The government's plans amount to the introduction of an inferior, unreasonable and unfair system. The introduction of PIP may act to reduce the budget deficit but unlike DLA it will not meet the needs of people who are chronically sick or disabled.</p>
EM930		<p>Please take a moment to read the following copy letter sent by the Douglas Bader Foundation to the Prime Minister, which accurately outlines the concerns of the LimbLoss Community to the proposed changes to the DLA benefit system.</p> <p>http://douglasbaderfoundation.com/2011/02/06/urgent-attention-all-amputees-proposed-changes-to-dla/ the letter is half way down the link.</p> <p>I've been researching this Consultation Document on behalf of The Douglas Bader Foundation and feel it is a flawed process.</p> <p>The data used to put the proposed changes together is already, in many cases 6 years out of date and doesn't include all areas of permanent disability.</p> <p>The reference to the additional consideration that will be made to the use of Aids and Adaptations when assessing a person's ability to mobilise (including the use of prosthetics) makes too many assumptions - for an amputee every day is different as their stump volume is forever changing - a socket that fits well one day is hopeless the next so how can you fairly assess that condition?</p> <p>The end of automatic entitlement for wheelchair users and double amputees is frankly alarming.</p> <p>Who are the healthcare professionals and disabled people who have been advising on the content of the objective assessments? - I'm actively involved with this community and have yet to find any who have been approached for their views</p> <p>The questions are also "leading" questions and assume that the respondent agrees with the paragraph to which they are attached - too many to address here but I'm happy to go into detail in another communication if necessary.</p> <p>By responding to this Consultation Document, amputees and other disabled people are being forced through a process which is based on assumptions that need to be rigorously challenged.</p> <p>May I request that the consultation period be extended and that you meet with the Heads of the Charities who know first hand what life is really like for the people they serve - then you'll have a balanced view to take forward to the "Decision Makers". I have copied in these contacts for reference.</p>
EM931		<p>I am a caseworker for the Royal British Legion and wish to respond to the DLA consultation document.</p> <p>DLA is a significant factor in the lives of many disabled people and</p>

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		<p>enables them to participate in society in a way which would be impossible without the independence it brings. Both the mobility and care components are valuable and confer dignity to the recipient in that they are able to exercise choices and independence to a degree which may be impossible without it.</p> <p>DLA is not merely a benefit for those who are unable to work. The reported aim to reduce the number of recipients by 20% seems harsh and punitive. Each recipient has had to provide full medical disclosure to receive their award. Whilst some may manage to qualify by overstating or misrepresenting their condition, that is no justification for treating the majority as if they too fell into that category.</p> <p>I think that if there are to be changes and a new benefit introduced, that existing DLA recipients should continue to receive benefit under the DLA rules as at present, and that the new benefit should apply to new claimants</p> <p>With regard to the main proposals, I wish to comment as follows.</p> <p>The doubling of the prior qualification period would have little impact upon the majority of applicants. There may need to be some by-pass provision in the case of stroke or serious injury.</p> <p>The greater account of aids and adaptations which is proposed is something which cannot be objectively quantified. Clearly for example, someone with an artificial leg cannot be said to walk normally regardless of how well they adapt.</p> <p>I note the provision proposed for those who are terminally ill, and for 'passporting' people to further benefits.</p> <p>There should be no periodic review of 'life awards'. Disabled people often have undergone several medical examinations. The process does not respect the individual, neither does it give certainty and security to people who have conditions which are unlikely to change or improve.</p> <p>Given that disabled people will have a medical history with their GP or specialist/consultant, there is no need to involve an 'independent healthcare professional' of lesser qualification, unless there is some substantial and significant doubt about the evidence which could be provided by their own medical professionals.</p> <p>I trust that this will be added to the consultation process.</p>
EM932		<p>I am afraid we only had a short time to consult on this.</p> <p>Disability Living Allowance – Proposed Changes</p> <p>I am responding to the DWP Consultation Exercise as the Chairman of the South West Veterans & Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Whilst we fully understanding the need for some change, we have the</p>

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		<p>following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We note that it is proposed to remove DLA (Mobility) from those residing in Care Homes. Many have the ability to get out of the Homes on a daily basis and will rely on the Allowance to either fund a Motability vehicles or a scooter. The loss of this allowance, in many cases, will mean that they lose the essential ability to get out off the Home. It should not be removed. □ We note that people must experience conditions for six months before and be expected to continue to experience conditions for a further six months in order to qualify for the new benefit (including people likely to want to transfer from DLA). Whilst the need for ensuring the condition exists for a period is accepted and also that the conditions are serious enough, certain categories should retain the automatic entitlement eg double amputees, paraplegics, tetraplegics and certified blind. These condition impact from Day one and they should retain the current entitlement. • Medicals. We are concerned over the some the medicals carried out are too cursory with target times for completion eg 20 minutes. It is essential that Medicals are carried out properly otherwise there will be lack of confidence in the system. <p>We note that the DWP Minister for Disabled People, Maria Miller MP, confirmed in December 2010 that the Government plans include a 20% cut in DLA expenditure. To make these targets prior to the introduction of any change does not give people confidence that the exercise will be a level playing field.</p>
EM933		<p>As a wounded veteran on a war pension I feel that the DLA model is the wrong benefit for disabled service men and woman as unlike the war pension benefit can be removed from DLA clients. Which is no way to treat disabled veterans</p>
EM934		<p>i am a disabled ex serviceman with a complex degenerative condition and associated other conditions. whilst i appreciate the need for reform i believe this should focus on the actual getting of DLA and incapacity benefit at source.</p> <p>i live with a chronic pain condition that was diagnosed by a specialist has been treated for many years by my GP and have lost employment under a frustration of contract as a result of being classed as incapable of work indeed the DWP's own doctor at assessment supported this. I have paid into the tax system and worked for defence of my country, i have always worked until my disability and would ask anyone with a sound mind " what fool would give up a 30+ thousand pound salary for benefit given any choice".</p> <p>what angers me is the obvious cheating of the existing system which is exploited by many, examples shown in the tabloids were pitiful, headache, tummy ache, sprained joints etc whatever happened to needing a proper disability or reason for long term debility and why</p>

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		<p>were the doctors defending this not called to account? where is common sense?</p> <p>i for one when i applied for my DLA upon the advice of my GP was initially refused until the welfare rights worker locally took up my case and appealed even though i had a full medical backing of numerous consultants. At the same time a young youth came in to a working links office boasting he didnt need a job as he was getting DLA as a result of damaging his wrist whilst assaulting someone, this having been arranged by his parole/case worker. He was not old enough to have paid tax or national insurance and had never served his country yet here he was being given a direct access to sitting all day watching Jeremy Kyle drinking and smoking whilst planning his next attack.</p> <p>since becoming disabled and reliant on other people and their kindness and support i have had my eyes opened. the disabled in our society are looked at from a lofty perch by many as though we are a sub species. And the reform changes are ill informed rushed and only serve to punish the genuinely vulnerable of our society. Many people struggle with the basics because life is hard on benefit and an illness with rising costs and services even with DLA its not enough in many cases. We see so much that needs to get done yet only have ourselves to do it or pay someone else to do it for us. support for many since being diagnosed with a chronic condition is minimal, public services are insufficient and not up to the task and many are left vulnerable. we attempt daily activities the well take for granted only for them to frustrate our medical conditions and make them worse.</p> <p>may i suggest the following actions are considered before a campaign of reform is launched at the vulnerable of our society.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. withdrawal from EU 2. Yes to being a trade partner but no to forced compliance with barmy rules not all the member countries comply with. 3. An end to unlimited EU migrants coming to the UK with sole purpose of living from welfare as its so much better than what they live on at home 4. introduction of a requirement to have been a full contributing uk citizen for five years prior to any commencement or entitlement of benefit 5. In the case of our own school kids (benefit generation) the requirement to work for the local authority, street cleaning, help to organisations and elderly etc to earn their benefit weekly as they have not paid into the public chest in terms of tax and NI 6. the appointment and introduction of medically qualified people as decision makers on the DLA applications not as at present where they dont have a clue what our conditions mean daily. 7. if the incapacity or debility is a result of crime or self inflicted then benefit is not paid. crime should not pay regardless! 8. finally the ability to be treated with respect and understanding for the genuine amongst us who have chronic long term degenerative conditions made worse by stress. we should not

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		<p>have to worry when our illness is only going to deteriorate that the authorities force check after check periodically waisting our time and tax payers money when multiple medical proffesionals have stated the condition is degenerative chronic and not likely to change.</p> <p>these and many more keystones of reform need to be considered before the most vulnerable in our society are targetted just because its easy to do so.</p>
EM935		<p>The Government is determined to continue with 'reforms' and drastic reductions of welfare benefits for the disabled community, despite concerned opposition for the speed of the introduction and the serious concerns expressed by national welfare agencies such as Citizens Advice and the Disability Alliance. The Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) reform consultation document is inviting input from welfare agencies, and individuals, and responses to questions regarding the consideration of needs verses costs at a time when the country has serious deficit concerns and the goal is to reduce DLA claimants by 20%.</p> <p>I am a chronically disabled veteran and a <u>retired health professional</u>. This response is written on behalf of the millions of chronically sick and genuinely disabled individuals who can't represent themselves, their experiences or their anxieties and is especially on behalf of those disabled people now living in care homes who have recently learned that their DLA mobility funding is to be removed by this government, without any consideration for the devastation that will mean as this small but essential level of personal independence is withdrawn from hundreds of thousands who can't fight for themselves. This is a shameful decision and confirms that the government's only priority is the reduction of the welfare budget and clearly not the welfare of the disabled victims of this diabolical and shocking decision. Many people will now become trapped in their care homes and those with a Motability car will have to return the car, thus totally removing their limited independence at the same time. Not everyone wants to take the care home's community bus to the local bingo hall for an 'outing' and this decision is yet another example of able bodied politicians, many of them millionaires, making assumptions about a vast subject area they clearly know nothing about by presuming that disabled people, resident in a care home, have no need for independent transport; be it a Motability car or the funds to use taxis. It's an utter disgrace and is demonstrating the high level of dangerous disability ignorance within the government.</p> <p>Concern must be expressed for the pages of government rhetoric contained within the consultation document, that offers limited information whilst claiming concern for the disabled population, yet demonstrating that the only real priority is a budget reduction. Cause for serious concern must be expressed reading the opening comments by the Minister for the Disabled who, clearly, is very confused about the purpose of DLA. It is totally unrelated to employment, and some of the Minister's comments are unrelated to this consultation. DLA is simply a small contribution towards the often</p>

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		<p>significant extra costs incurred by the disabled population to permit participation within society and, obviously, that participation within society has just been callously removed for those disabled people resident in the nation's care homes. Whilst the award of DLA may indeed support the opportunity to access paid employment for some people, nevertheless, the Minister's comments as an integral part of this consultation are disturbing and totally misguided. Indeed, if the award of DLA is to be drastically reduced, or removed, the likely outcome for many is a much greater demand on the public purse as the loss of DLA, for the many employed disabled people, will actually remove their transport and, consequently, remove all possibility of accessing their workplace given that they are physically unable to access public transport or is it presumed that all residents in care homes don't work? Wrong!</p> <p>There appears to be an assumption that all care homes are identical when, in reality, there is a great variation. Group homes, for profoundly disabled young people, are also known as care homes where it is not at all uncommon for the residents to enjoy working outside the care home, usually on a part-time basis. I personally know of three young people, resident in group homes, who all hold down paid employment and who all access their work via their Motability cars, funded by the very DLA mobility funding that this government have just removed. All three will lose their jobs because of this diabolical decision, yet no MP nor any DWP staff member appears willing to explain how this is "improving their independence", as stated in these 'reforms'.</p> <p>Given the rapid introduction of the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) to replace the former Incapacity Benefit (IB), and the trauma that created using the fatally flawed Work Capability Assessment (WCA)(4), welfare workers were hopeful that the proposed DLA Reform, to a new benefit identified as the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), would be delayed until the identified serious problems with the WCA had been resolved. However, the DWP were unmoved and insist on pushing ahead with these poorly considered reforms that will adversely impact on the lives of in excess of three million disabled people. All claimed government concern is demonstrably insincere and their understanding of chronic illness, or profound disability, does appear to be limited to people who are in a persistent vegetative state.</p> <p>The reform suggestion is that the transfer of DLA to the new PIP benefit will no longer use the standard criteria for care and mobility needs to judge suitability, and it is proposed that the PIP assessment will instead consider the applicant's ability to complete certain tasks. This may not be unreasonable if it were not for the fact that it is to be carried out by the 'independent healthcare professionals'(HCP) now employed by Atos Healthcare to conduct all DLA assessments, and the DWP £100 million per annum contract with Atos Healthcare has been extended by 3 years, to 2015, to permit additional assessments to be completed by the same questionable contractor that has already caused serious trauma to many.(3) (3b) (4)</p> <p>However, the obvious catastrophic and totally overlooked limitation of the entire assessment system is that, for anyone being assessed, it is</p>

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		<p>simply a small snap shot into a day in their life, and makes no allowances for the extremes of variations inherent in many serious conditions. Therefore, any identified ability to perform certain tasks when assessed <u>does not imply</u> that they are always capable of completing that task and, given many identified conditions, this should be obvious to any competent doctor, but is totally ignored by Atos Healthcare HCP staff. WHY?</p> <p>Apart from proving traumatic for the majority of people required to take the Atos Healthcare “assessment”, the utterly indefensible aspect is that the final benefit decisions are being carried out by <u>totally unqualified junior civil servants</u> using a “rubber stamp” to confirm anything identified by the Atos Healthcare HCP. These junior civil servants are totally incapable of considering the detailed medical evidence provided by GPs and Consultants, whose opinions will be overlooked as the ‘Decision Maker’ simply agrees with anything reported by the private contractor’s HCP, as identified at Appeal Tribunals where almost 50% of all appeals are successful.(1) (2) (4) (5) The dangers of this <u>dangerously unacceptable system</u> were identified in the recent Harrington WCA review(1) and confirmed in the recent report by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee.(2) It is surely reckless for the government to now insist on imposing the PIP onto the disabled population unless and until the identified very serious problems acknowledged with the ESA assessments have first been resolved to the satisfaction of everyone involved and not just the DWP. It would also be helpful if the government actually implemented the suggested recommendations from the annual reports from the President of the Appeal Tribunals, which have systematically been ignored by successive governments over the past <u>10 years</u>.(2) (4)</p> <p>For example, in his annual report in 2008, His Honour Judge Robert Martin, when President of the Appeals Tribunal, revealed that the numbers of Appeals had increased from 217,000 to 229,000. His Honour was insistent about the fact that “..the same problems and errors are repeated every year, with no sign that anyone takes any notice of feedback from tribunals.”(4)(5) For the past decade Judge Martin’s consecutive annual reports constantly identified serious problems with the Atos</p> <p>(1) The Harrington WCA Independent Review, www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-review-2010.pdf (2) Decision making and appeals in the benefit system. Second Report of Session 2009 – 10 – the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmworpen/313/313.pdf (3) The Broken of Britain, www.thebrokenofbritain.proboards.com/index.cgi and (3b) www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qagXyuEZae (4) Atos Healthcare or Disability Denial Factories: www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosveterans.html and (4b) www.gov.uk/docs/tpca.pdf (evidence of meeting with DWP, Unum Provident & Atos Healthcare)</p>

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		<p>(5) President's Report 2007-08 - HH Judge Robert Martin Report by President of the Appeals Tribunal on the standard of decision- making by the Secretary of State www.appeals-service.gov.uk/Documents/SSCSA_PresRep07-08FINAL.pdf</p> <p>Healthcare medical assessments, with medical decisions that appeared "totally unrelated to reality" and these concerns were repeated in interview with the Work & Pensions Committee. (2) (4) (5)</p> <p>One of the main barriers that prevent disabled people participating fully in society is the patronising attitude of the majority of the able bodied population, as demonstrated in the consultation document, making sweeping assumptions about a subject the authors quite obviously know nothing about. Given that the welfare costs are the only DWP priority, it is beyond breathtaking that the saving of £100 million per annum is obvious to everyone working in welfare, except the DWP. It has yet to be reasoned why previous governments introduced Atos Healthcare at exorbitant costs to the public purse when, clearly, all that was needed was <u>fully qualified medical administrators</u> to consider the detailed evidence from the patient/claimant, GPs and Consultants who, by definition, are clinical experts. Using highly skilled medical administrators would remove the necessity for everyone to be assessed in person and, quite clearly, most of this enforced assessment can be a paperwork exercise for those with a profound condition with no hope of possible improvement. Administrators could be distributed around the country at GP surgeries, for ultimate patient convenience, as opposed to the present reality with extremely ill people expected to travel excessive distances to Atos Healthcare assessment centres because no-one told them they could ask for a domiciliary visit with a doctor visiting them at home. Needless to say, that possibility is never forthcoming from the company either. No patient/claimant would need to be traumatised by distant travel to be confronted by an inhuman, unapproachable stranger whose only concern is in completing the paperwork as fast as possible and with the 'Decision Makers' invariably reaching the wrong conclusion as recently demonstrated by the absurd claims that in excess of 90% of IB claimants were really fit for work. NO they are not but, with a fatally flawed assessment system using unqualified junior staff, anything is possible. In my <u>medically qualified professional opinion</u>, the present system with Atos Healthcare is a form of government approved medical tyranny, is a copy of the system used in America by Unum Provident, with the patients/claimants being treated with cold indifference and certainly no evidence of concern or compassion, as testified by countless disturbing testimonies via the Internet.(3) (3b) Someone should advise the DWP that Unum Provident are actually <u>banned in 7 states</u> in America having been identified as running <u>"disability denial factories"</u>; so why are the DWP copying this system that caused such trauma in America and are still consulting with Unum Provident today?(4) (4b)</p> <p>Of course, as soon as DLA has been replaced with the PIP, together with the IB being renamed as ESA, this will mean that all reference to</p>

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		<p>incapacity or disability has been removed, suggesting that we no longer have any disabled people in this country. So, someone needs to explain how any chronically sick or disabled invalid, who cannot possibly engage in paid employment, can be awarded a benefit entitled Employment Support Allowance when employment will never be a viable possibility? How can DLA become a Personal <u>Independence</u> Payment when independence is being systematically withdrawn from all disabled people who happen to reside in a care home? Quite clearly this consultation is a paperwork exercise. The government will have already made its decisions but need to look like they are going through the motions of consulting with professionals and people from the disabled community.</p> <p>The suggestion that all recipients of the new PIP are to endure repeated assessments, regardless of medical history or permanence of any profound disability, clearly demonstrates that the DWP have given no consideration to the needless costs to the public purse and is going from one extreme to the other. This will cause needless inconvenience and distress to chronically sick or profoundly disabled people, whose</p> <p>(2) Decision making and appeals in the benefit system. Second Report of Session 2009 – 10 – the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee</p> <p>www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmworpen/313/313.pdf</p> <p>(3) The Broken of Britain, www.thebrokenofbritain.proboards.com/index.cgi - an example of distress and (3b) www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qagXyuEZae</p> <p>(4) Atos Healthcare or Disability Denial Factories: www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosveterans.html and (4b) www.gov.uk/docs/tpca.pdf (evidence of meeting with DWP, Unum Provident & Atos Healthcare)</p> <p>(5) President's Report 2007-08 - HH Judge Robert Martin Report by President of the Appeals Tribunal on the standard of decision- making by the Secretary of State www.appeals-service.gov.uk/Documents/SSCSA_PresRep07-08FINAL.pdf</p> <p>conditions can never improve and is a total waste of limited resources. In the past the DLA, in its present form, permitted assessments to be 'permanent' and that's because many serious illnesses and chronic disabilities are actually permanent and can only deteriorate further over time. Once again, this proposal is the act of a desperate government planning to limit funds to a disabled community least able to protest, coupled with thinly veiled threats of benefit removal, which is a lifeline to countless numbers, and these proposals have meant that invalids throughout the UK are now feeling intimidated by their own government. If the proposed system is agreed then there must be an 'opt out' clause for those with a permanent condition, to be completed by a GP, to resist needless distress for the long-term chronically sick and/or disabled</p>

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		<p>patient/claimant to be needlessly reassessed and also to preserve the public purse.</p> <p>There are almost as many different and profound disabilities and chronic health conditions as there are civil servants and it is an absurd expectation to invite a definition. Medical knowledge would help. The suggestion that the disabled population may find the application forms complicated and struggle to complete them, without any qualifying evidence, is another example of unacceptable suggestions that disabled people may also have limited intelligence when, in reality, the application is not difficult to comprehend for anyone with average or above average intelligence. What the consultation appears to confuse is not an inability to comprehend the application but an anxiety when ill and/or profoundly disabled people are faced with an application document in excess of 50 pages long, which could be seen as intimidating. Given the findings of the Harrington review,(1) coupled with the constant reference to 'benefit cheats' by the press, the media and the government, when all evidence is that less than 0.5% of all DLA claims were bogus, causes unnecessary anxiety for people who already cope with daily struggles just to survive. Certainly, the distressing experiences, as reported by those who have visited an Atos Healthcare assessment centre, does appear to mean that the staff presume that all applicants are guilty until proven innocent, contrary to the accepted understanding of the caring professions as a whole, with care being sadly missing from all assessments.(3) (3b) (4)</p> <p>Given that the Harrington review has already identified and confirmed that all identifying evidence provided by applicants will be totally overlooked by the unqualified Decision Makers,(1) (4) there seems little point in inviting details of the type of qualifying evidence to be provided for the PIP assessment unless the qualifications of the 'Decision Makers' are greatly improved. However, the appointment of qualified medical administrators would mean that evidence from GPs and Consultants, who actually know the patient and have treated them, would be valuable only with Decision Makers who are qualified to comprehend it. Other evidence from allied health professionals, such as Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, would also be significant, presuming their findings could be interpreted correctly and that also needs the skills of qualified medical administrators and not junior civil servants.</p> <p>It is cause for concern to learn that this hastily composed reform risks removing vital benefit due to the totally flawed assessment system. There seems little comprehension that, for many of us, the DLA funding is used to support the costs of aids and appliances, together with running costs, that permits the disabled community to lead a more proactive life. Tens machines can offer a lot of relief but the batteries aren't cheap, support medicine such as chiropractic and osteopathy helps many but is only available privately and, then again, these proposed assessments are simply a brief glance into the life of the chronically sick and/or disabled and that only offers a snapshot of what for many people is a vastly variable condition. There is little evidence that variable conditions have even been considered for this consultation. Many of the working disabled are only able to retain</p>

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		<p>paid employment by using aids and equipment, usually supported by their DLA income. Many employed disabled people are limited to low paying jobs so, the removal of the DLA would quite probably lead to an increase demand on the public purse as, without access to funding for the aids, appliances and treatments, these people would no doubt be unable to continue working, which the government claim is the main justification for this reform nightmare.</p> <p>(1) The Harrington WCA Review: www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wca-review-2010.pdf</p> <p>(3) The Broken of Britain, www.thebrokenofbritain.proboards.com/index.cgi - an example of distress</p> <p>and (3b) www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qagXyuEZae</p> <p>(4) Atos Healthcare or Disability Denial Factories: www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosveterans.html</p> <p>These disability reviews are nothing if not a bureaucratic wilderness. Unnecessary bureaucracy invites mistakes, and the victim of the multiple administrative errors is invariably the patient/claimant. NONE of us are customers! Every effort must be made to reduce bureaucracy and unnecessary assessments by a system that has caused more distress and anxiety than any other in the history of the nation, and it is nothing to celebrate. Therefore, common sense should prevail at some point, not least as it will dramatically decrease costs. The claimed point of the process is to assess fitness for work and levels of disability. Therefore, having established that a patient/claimant/victim is entitled to claim ESA there is no point whatsoever to force yet another needless assessment in order to confirm entitlement to PIP. All assessment data should be readily available so that, once eligibility is confirmed then approval for other disability claims should be guaranteed, and should be nothing more than a paperwork exercise by suitably qualified administrators.</p> <p>The introduction of an American designed medical assessment system, depending on a computer programme instead of a detailed medical examination, has introduced trauma into medical assessments for the first time ever in the history of the country, leaving the chronically sick and disabled population living in fear. The government's reluctance to accepting any evidence from welfare agencies as to the dangers and unnecessary hostility of this system falls on deaf ears, with the DWP's only priority being a cost reduction.</p> <p>“...never underestimate the power of persistence.” Nelson Mandela</p> <p>“Don't believe anything unless it is first denied.” John Pilger</p> <p>“ The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke</p>