



Department for Work & Pensions

These are the
new rules to help us support
Independent Living Fund users
through the changes



The future of the Independent Living Fund

What the government says

December 2012



Easy Read

Important

Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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What this booklet is about

The government has been asking people what they think about its plans to close the **Independent Living Fund** in 2015.

This is called a **consultation**. The **consultation** finished on 12 October 2012.

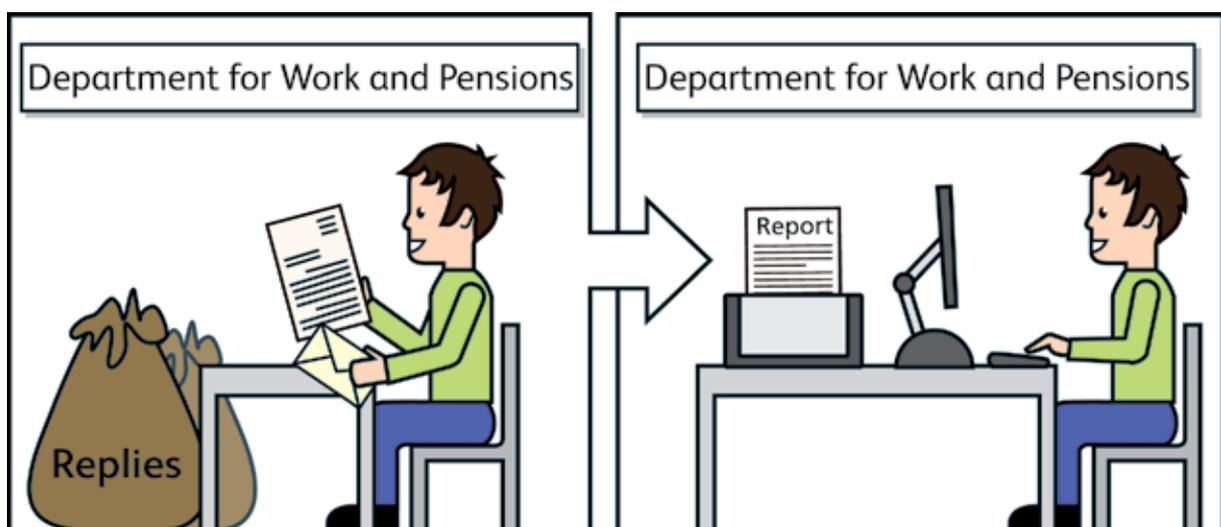
Independent Living Fund

This is one of the ways the government gives money to disabled people who need extra help at home.

Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about its plans.

The government has looked at all the replies to the **consultation**. This booklet tells you what the government says about the replies.



What the government says

The government has looked carefully at all the replies we got to the **consultation**.

Closing the Independent Living Fund

The government thinks that the **Independent Living Fund** should close in 2015. And in England, that local councils should look after **care and support**.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, their governments will decide who should look after **care and support** when the **Independent Living Fund** closes.

Care and support

Care and support are the services and other things that help people live full, independent, active and healthy lives.



How we work at the moment

We have got an **Independent Living Fund** and a **care and support** system at the moment.

This means that we do the same things more than once. It also made things harder to use for both the people who use the systems and local councils.



The main change in care and support for people who get help from the Independent Living Fund

The **care and support** needs of people who get help from the **Independent Living Fund** will be met from just 1 system.

We do not think it is right to keep supporting disabled people who were using the **Independent Living Fund** in this way when disabled people cannot join the **Independent Living Fund** any more.

If we do this it means we are treating disabled people with the same sort of needs differently.

The government wants to make sure that disabled people's needs are met using **direct payments** and **personal budgets**. These will be set up so they meet the needs of each person.

Direct payments

This is when a disabled person gets money so that they can pay for their own support.

Personal budgets

This tells a disabled person how much money they can spend on their **care and support** services. It also shows how it was worked out.



The government will keep helping those disabled people using the **Independent Living Fund** at the moment, until 2015.

We will make sure that the changes, from closing the **Independent Living Fund** to setting up **direct payments** and **personal budgets**, run smoothly and with no problems.

What will happen next

The **Independent Living Fund** will start to talk to people who need to know what they are going to do. In early 2013 they will tell everyone about their plans for how local councils will take over from them and start giving care and support to disabled people who used the **Independent Living Fund**.

People who use the **Independent Living Fund** and people who act for them will be asked to take part in this work.

The government, the **Independent Living Fund** and the people who give people **social care** will write a set of rules.



These rules will help local councils support the **Independent Living Fund** users when the changes are happening.

The **Independent Living Fund** has set up a plan called a transfer review plan. This plan will let disabled people who used the **Independent Living Fund** do these things.

- Talk to workers from the **Independent Living Fund** and the local council about their **care and support**.
- Get help and advice about how the changes to local council care will be run.

The government does not want local councils to put a set amount of money to one side to spend on disabled people's needs. This way of working does not work.

The government wants local councils to be able to deal with things quickly and to be able to meet the needs of different people.



Word list

Care and support

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Consultation

This is when the government asks what people think about its plans.4

Direct payments

This is when a disabled person gets money so that they can pay for their own support7

Independent Living Fund

This is one of the ways the government gives money to disabled people who need extra help at home4

Personal budget

This tells a disabled person how much money they can spend on their **care and support** services. It also shows how the personal budget was worked out7

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