

**DWP About changing Disability Living Allowance**

# Questions

**RECEIVED**  
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## Question 1

What things stop disabled people joining in with other people and living full, active and independent lives?

The need for support to go out

## Question 2

What parts of Disability Living Allowance do you think we should keep?

Mobility component

Care component

### Question 3

What extra things do disabled people need to spend money on?

Personal support to do the things the rest of us take for granted  
Extra heating; special foods eg Coeliac Disease  
Transport - often need to use taxis -

### Question 4

The new benefit will have 2 amounts for each of the 2 parts of the benefit. Do you think this will make the benefit easier to understand and also easier for us to run?

Do you think just having the 2 amounts for each part will cause any problems?

possibly

### Question 5

Do you think some health conditions or disabilities should allow people to get an amount of the benefit automatically?

Or do you think that all claims should be based on the needs of the person asking for the benefit?

Having an automatic right to a benefit eg.  
mobility allowance for a blind or partially-sighted  
person surely must reduce administration  
costs?

### Question 6

How can we make sure that disabled people who most need the new benefit can get it?

What activities or actions are the most important to live an independent life?

By making it as simple as possible

Depends on the individual disability. For someone  
with a severe learning disability personal  
support is the most essential thing

## Question 7

How can we make sure that the new benefit takes into account the way a person's health condition can change?

Difficult - option for review every three years

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## Question 8

When a person makes a claim to the new benefit, should we take account of any aids or adaptations that they use?

What aids and adaptations should we take into account?

Should we only take aids and adaptations into account if the person already uses them? Or should we take aids and adaptations into account that a person could use and get hold of easily?

Yes BUT equipment and adaptations  
are no substitute for personal support  
where it is needed eg. for people with  
a learning disability

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### Question 9

How could we make the way a person asks for benefit better.  
For example

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- How could we tell people about the new benefit so that they know what the benefit is for and who is likely to get the benefit?

This form is good. Clear and easy to understand - use as a model for new claim form. Also ILF forms are very good.  
TV/radio/press/leaflets/

### Question 10

Who are the best people to tell us about the needs of the person asking for benefit?

What information will we need to make it clear what the person can and cannot do?

Disabled people themselves  
Organisations who work with disabled people  
eg. Mencap, SCOPE, MS Society etc.  
Carers often do not want to recognise the extent of the disability of their loved ones

16 and so do not always give the full picture.

## Question 11

An important part of the new benefit may be talking face to face with an independent person about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

What good things and bad things may this bring?

Is there any time when it would not be right to say that a person had to meet an independent person face to face, either in the person's own home or somewhere else?

Sounds as if it is going to be a very costly exercise

When someone is very ill it would be unsensitive to insist upon a face to face meeting.

## Question 12

What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it?

Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability? Yes it should.

Assessments cost money! I would suggest every 5 years would be enough for regular reviews. Could people be asked to sign that there had been no change and then occasional spot checks to ensure honesty.

## Question 13

The new benefit will be easier for people to understand, so we will expect people to tell us when things change in their lives.

How can we get people to tell us about the changes in their lives?

Annual questionnaire to prompt people to report changes

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## Question 14

What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?

Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

Help to complete form - otherwise they will underreport effects of their disability  
Advice about the type of things you are looking for - perhaps some examples will help.

## Question 15

How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?

Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost? Yes if they want to.

In Kuldrees they do not pay for equipment and adaptations are means tested.



## Question 16

What are the main differences we should think about when we are dealing with claims for children instead of adults?

In terms of physical disability the difference is that for children you are generally dealing with the parent and to some extent their needs; with adults with a physical disability it will be the individual's needs. In learning disability it is still often the carer you will be dealing with.

## Question 17

How important or useful has Disability Living Allowance been in getting people to use other services or to get other benefits?

What can we do to make things better?

At the moment people who get Disability Living Allowance automatically get help from other benefits and services, like the Blue Badge scheme and the Warm Front scheme.

What would it mean to disabled people if they did not automatically get help from these other benefits or services?

DLA is a useful passport to other things - cuts down the amount of assessments a person has to go through and reduces costs.

20 if this was not automatic, people may not want to face more assessment and so not get what they need.

## Question 18

What information about the disabled person could we share with other services or government departments to stop the disabled person having to tell lots of people the same thing?

What their needs are. There should be  
one assessment which can be used  
for everything.

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### Question 19

How would our ideas for the new benefit affect different equality groups? For example, the equality groups looking at disability, age, race, gender, **sexual orientation** and religion and belief.

#### Sexual orientation

This is about whether a person is

- heterosexual – sexually attracted to people of the other sex.
- lesbian – a woman who is sexually attracted to women.
- gay – a man who is sexually attracted to men.
- bisexual – sexually attracted to men and women.
- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women

I cannot see how a new benefit will  
impact on any of these groups

### Question 20

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

What about carers? Any change in  
DLA for someone with major support needs  
has tremendous impact on family carers