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From: [REDACTED]
 To: <consultation.dlareform@dwp.gsi.gov.uk>
 Sent: 16 December 2010 14:40
 Subject: DLA reform
 Dear Sir/Madam

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 21 DEC 2010

I would like to make a few brief points:

1) Question 3 about costs of disability. Whereas I think it makes sense to look at use of aids in assessing level of costs incurred, it can vary depending on facilities available. For instance, someone may be mobile with a wheelchair, but if they do not live near an accessible tube or bus, they may not be able to get around, and would have to use taxis, whereas someone with accessible facilities would be able to use public transport. Would you take account of these differences when looking at the extra costs for an individual disabled person?

Question 4. The current 2 rates of mobility component are extremely confusing. It is essential that if a similar type of lower rate mobility allowance is to continue, then it must be clearly defined. I was under the impression that LRmob was originally for people who were mobile, (eg with a learning disability), but could not be allowed out and about unaccompanied. It has now become a very mixed up interpretation of whether anyone with a mental disorder "needs" or "prefers" someone to be with them. I think 2 rates of care component would be straight forward.

Question 8. I think it is reasonable to expect people to make use of aids, and these should be applied for, if they do not already have them. The problem is the variability of Social Services and Health Services provision. Perhaps a list should be drawn up of basic items to be expected?

Question 11. There will be some people for whom a face to face meeting is unnecessary, e.g. someone with a severe mental and physical disability where a health or social services worker can verify this.

Question 16. I do not think a PIP should be required to be used for aids and adaptations. These should be provided by Social Services or Health Services. It would complicate the system to introduce this element.

I hope these few comments are helpful. Good luck with the reforms!

Tel: [REDACTED]
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