

Public consultation

Disability Living Allowance reform

Quick summary

Maria Miller, the Minister for Disabled People, has asked disabled people and disability organisations to join the debate about reforming Disability Living Allowance.

She set out her proposals for change in the public consultation paper, *Disability Living Allowance reform*. This was published on 6 December 2010.

As part of the changes to the welfare state, Disability Living Allowance needs to fit better with the needs of disabled people today and the extra costs they might face.

At the heart of the proposals in the consultation is the creation of a new clearer, more targeted benefit – Personal Independence Payment. The new benefit will be designed to help disabled people lead full and active independent lives and will have an objective assessment of individual need. Personal Independence Payment will continue to be non-means tested, will not depend on having paid National Insurance contributions and it will be available to people in and out of work.

Currently almost 3 million people receive this benefit at a forecasted cost of £12 billion in 2010/11. This is the Department's second most expensive working age benefit, and costs far more than was originally estimated.

The main areas for reform within the consultation are:

- **Simplification:** the current system has grown too complex and its purpose is misunderstood
- **Assessment:** the current assessment can be subjective and there is no systematic way of regularly checking that an award remains correct
- **Fairness:** awards can be inconsistent and unfair; we want to create a system that is transparent and fair

There will be a consultation period on these changes from 6 December 2010 until 14 February 2011.

The full paper is available online at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/dla-reform