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Public Consultation on Disability Living Allowance Reform  
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE

- 1) The existing form for Disability Living Allowance is difficult to fill in for people who have a mental health problem as the questions are directed mainly for people who have a physical disability. So there should be 2 separate forms for applying for PIP: one form for people having a physical disability and a different form for people who have a mental health problem.
  - 2) For many people having a mental health problem it would be a terrifying experience to have to have a face-to-face interview with a DWP doctor whom the individual does not know. This in turn could affect how nervous a disabled individual is during a face-to-face interview with a DWP doctor and could also act to prevent the disabled person from having a full and comprehensive discussion about his or her needs. It would be better for the disabled person to put things in writing.
  - 3) In my opinion for DWP to conduct enquiries about a disabled individual's circumstances over the telephone is going to result in inadequate information being given by the disabled individual's health professional. It is also the case that a telephone call can be terminated before everything has had a chance to be discussed. It would be better for a DWP doctor to have a face-to-face discussion/enquiry with the disabled individual's health professional(s) in person.
  - 4) To form a balanced judgement about being able to receive PIP it would be better for more than one healthcare professional who acts for the disabled person to be involved in the application process and to be interviewed by the DWP doctor.
  - 5) In many cases of people having a mental health problem it is the award of a sum of money on a regular basis that helps to keep that person in good mental health. Having DLA is a crutch for people to stay well. If DLA or PIP is withdrawn from a person this could result in that person relapsing into illness again. So the award of DLA or PIP actually helps to prevent hospital admissions.
  - 6) I do not think it is a good idea to have a review of PIP at any unspecified time: rather it would be preferable to have a review at a regular point in time, eg. 3 years as it is the case at present with DLA. If a disabled person thinks that their PIP can be reviewed at any time this will lead to chronic and acute anxiety and will affect the individual's mental health adversely.
  - 7) A disabled person is not going to suddenly become able-bodied either in body or mind on reaching the age of 65: so it is important that an award of money should be continued after the age of 65. Needs do not suddenly change on reaching the age of 65.
  - 8) It is important that PIP should be used to passport other benefits. This can make the difference between a disabled person having to count every penny or having one little luxury.
- [REDACTED]