

## DLA Reforms Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Rec'd 583  
15/2/11

### Question 1

What are the problems or barriers that prevent disabled people participating in society and leading independent, full and active lives?

mobility - easy accessible meeting venues...

### Notes:

The new benefit will continue to have:

- No means test and not taxable; it doesn't matter whether you are in full/part time employment or unable to work
- People will be able to spend the money the way they want to and will not be held to account
- Fast track for terminal illness

### Question 2

Is there anything else about DLA that should stay the same?

Because of financial problems facing the country everybody has to sacrifice something. I suppose to cut on all benefits will help to ease the situation.

### Question 3

What are the main extra costs that disabled people face?

inflation.  
DLA could be inflation linked

#### Question 4

The new benefit will have two rates for each component:

- Will having two rates per component make the benefit easier to understand and administer, while ensuring appropriate levels of support?
- What, if any, disadvantages or problems could having two rates per component cause?

..... instead of 11 ..... reduce to 3 Levels  
..... Lower, middle High Rates .....  
..... Advantage - easy to understand .....  
..... less disputes - appeals .....  
.....

#### Notes:

The new payments will only be made after a qualifying period. It is likely that a person would have had to have a condition for 6 months before becoming eligible for an assessment and the condition would be expected to last for a further 6 months (so 12 months in total).

The consultation is looking at the difficulties some people have with assessments when they have a fluctuating conditions that can worsen at times.

People with terminal illnesses will still be fast tracked through the assessment process and may in some cases still be automatically entitled to claim.

Currently, DLA is paid due to the condition or impairment and not based on how it might affect a person. The reforms will amend this to ensure the assessment takes into account the impact the condition has on an individual.

#### Question 5

Should some health conditions or impairments mean an automatic entitlement to the benefit, or should all claims be based on the needs and circumstances of the individual applying?

..... Depend on needs after assessment .....  
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### Notes:

At the moment, if you enter hospital or a care home, the entitlement to the care component stops after 28 days.

Good { The reforms propose that the mobility component should also be discontinued unless a person pays for their own care. It is planned to make this change in 2012.

### Question 6

How do we prioritise support to those people least able to live full and active lives? Which activities are most essential for everyday life?

..... social ..... physical ..... psychological .....  
..... information - what is happening around .....  
..... in dependence .....  
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### Notes:

The DLA assessment looks at what a person cannot do and not what they could do if given more support. It is a very negative view of a person's life.

Future assessments will be based on a broader, more objective measurement of the impact of a person's health conditions or impairment on everyday activities.

### Question 7

How can we best ensure that the new assessment appropriately takes account of variable and fluctuating conditions?

..... Can only hope, wait and see that the .....  
..... changes proposed are for the better .....  
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**Notes:**

At the moment only aids such as prosthetic (false) limbs are taken into account when making an assessment.

In the future, the assessment will look at other aids such as wheelchairs and take into account how these aids are used successfully.

**Question 8**

Should the assessment of a disabled person's ability take into account any aids and adaptations they use?

- What aids and adaptations should be included?
- Should the assessment only take into account aids and adaptations where the person already has them or should we consider those that the person might be eligible for and can easily obtain?

..... maintenance of apparatus provided .....

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**Notes:**

Disabled people have said the claim form for DLA is too long and complex is looks at their impairments and health conditions in a negative way.

**Question 9**

How could we improve the process of applying for the benefit for individuals and make it a more positive experience? For example:

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- How can we improve information about the new benefit so that people are clear about what it is for and who is likely to qualify?

..... cut off the unnecessary / repetitive questions .....

..... make it easy to fill .....

..... more information by experts - may be a language .....

..... problem. Help with filling in forms .....

..... accompanied by some one to support .....

.....

**Notes:**

The assessment process will need face to face meetings with an independent healthcare professional (a doctor or occupational therapist). There will be an opportunity for extra evidence from your own GP or social worker.

People with a terminal illness or complex conditions may be excluded from these types of assessment.

**Question 10**

What supporting evidence will help provide a clear assessment of ability and who is best placed to provide this?

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..... G.P. very important, Social Services. ....  
..... Carer support service. ....  
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**Question 11**

An important part of the new process is likely to be a face-to-face discussion with a healthcare professional.

- What benefits or difficulties might this bring?
- Are there any circumstances in which it may be inappropriate to require a face-to-face meeting with a healthcare professional – either in an individual's own home or another location?

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..... Hope it will be better. ....  
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## Notes:

One of the major changes being considered will recognise a person's changing needs over time. A regular review of people using the new Personal Independence Payment will ensure a person's needs are being met appropriately.

These reviews might involve gathering evidence from various sources, including self-report forms, information from relevant professionals who support the individual and face to face or telephone discussions.

## Question 12

How should the reviews be carried out? For example:

- What evidence and/or criteria should be used to set the frequency of reviews?
- Should there be different types of review depending on the needs of the individual and their impairment/condition?

.....  
..... *change in condition or circumstances* .....  
.....  
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.....  
..... *depending on the need - for review period* .....  
..... *yearly or 3 yearly* .....  
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## Question 13

The system for Personal Independence Payment will be easier for individuals to understand, so we expect people to be able to identify and report changes in their needs. However, we know that some people do not currently keep the Department informed. How can we encourage people to report changes in circumstances?

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**Notes:**

It is possible that the assessment process will include an element of information, advice and guidance around the options available to them.

It may become necessary for this to become a compulsory part of the assessment process.

**Question 14**

What types of advice and information are people applying for Personal Independence Payment likely to need and would it be helpful to provide this as part of the benefit claiming process?

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**Question 15**

Could some form of requirement to access advice and support, where appropriate, help encourage the minority of claimants who might otherwise not take action? If so, what would be the key features of such a system, and what would need to be avoided?

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**Question 16**

How do people currently fund their aids and adaptations? Should there be an option to use PIP's to meet one-off cost?

..... yes .....

..... what about maintenance .....

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**Notes:**

It is recognised that disabled children and adult's needs can be very different.

**Question 17**

What are the key differences that we should take into account when assessing children?

..... *parents carers Social Services* .....  
..... *family background and size* .....  
.....  
.....

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**Notes:**

People receiving DLA at present are also sometimes eligible for other benefits that are means tested.

It is recognised that it is important for many people that they do not have to be reassessed for all benefits and this makes it easier for them to apply.

**Question 18**

How important or useful has DLA been at getting disabled people access to other services or entitlements? Are there things we can do to improve these passporting arrangements?

..... *Very important* .....  
..... *in some cases it has been well used* .....  
.....  
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**Question 19**

What would be the implications for disabled people and service providers if it was not possible for Personal Independence Payment to be used as a passport to other benefits and services?

..... *At present working nicely* .....  
.....  
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### Question 20

What different assessments for disability benefits or services could be combined and what information about the disabled person could be shared to minimise bureaucracy and duplication?

needs experts assessment, advice  
one benefit instead of 2, 3 or 4 benefits

### Question 21

What impact could our proposals have on the different equality groups and what else should be considered in developing the policy?

### Question 22

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals in this public consultation?

Hope for the best to happen

Thanks

### Optional

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....