



# Personal Independence Payment

How we take account of aids and appliances  
for daily living

---

Tell us what you think

December 2015



Easy Read

**DWP** Department for  
Work and Pensions

# Important

## Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word list at the back of the booklet.

# Contents

What this booklet is about .....	5
Aids and appliances and the daily living part of Personal Independence Payment.....	9
How the system works now .....	11
Option 1 .....	12
About Option 1.....	13
Option 2 .....	14
About Option 2.....	14
Option 3 .....	15
About Option 3.....	15
Option 4 .....	16
About Option 4.....	16
Option 5 .....	17
About Option 5.....	17
About the questions.....	18
How we will use the replies.....	19

## Personal Independence Payment – aids and appliances

---

Our view .....	20
The questions .....	20
Question 1.....	20
Question 2.....	21
Question 3.....	22
Question 4.....	23
Question 5.....	24
Question 6.....	25
Question 7.....	26
What happens next? .....	26
And finally, thank you.....	26
Word list .....	27

# What this booklet is about

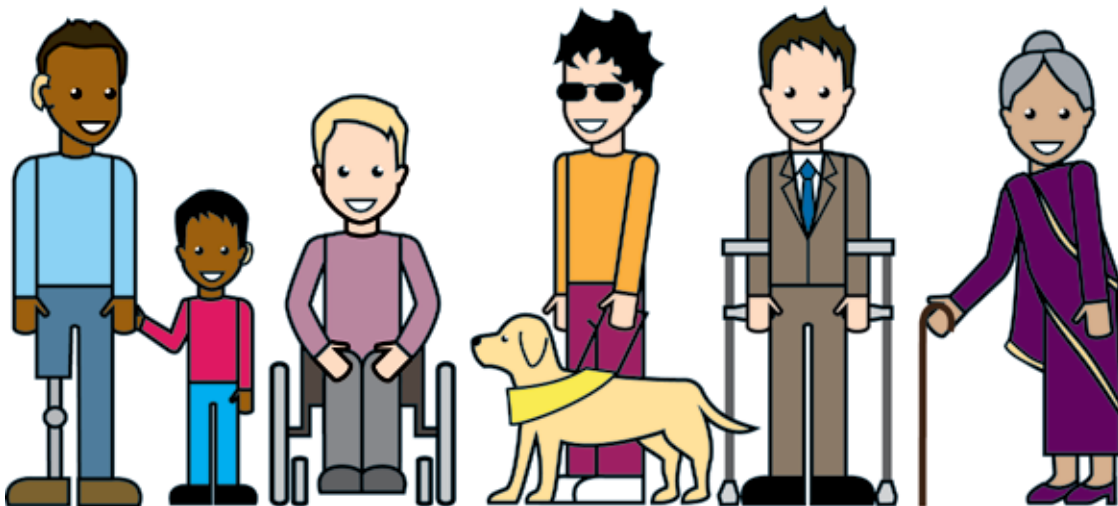
The last government changed **Disability Living Allowance** for people aged 16 to 64 years old to a benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**.

## Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled.

## Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled.



## Personal Independence Payment – aids and appliances

---

The Department for Work and Pensions works out how people get **Personal Independence Payment**. This is done using an **assessment**.

### Assessment

This is a method the Department for Work and Pensions use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**. It looks at 12 everyday activities, and points are given based on how well a person can or cannot do the activities.

10 of the activities are about daily living and 2 are about how well you can move. We are only looking at the 10 daily living activities.

Payment of **Personal Independence Payment** and how much a person receives depends on the number of points they get in the **assessment**.

The **Personal Independence Payment** also takes account of a person's need to use **aids and appliances** to carry out most of the activities in the **assessment**. This was not done for **Disability Living Allowance**.

### Aids or appliances

**Aids** help a person do something. For example if someone is walking or reading, their **aid** may be a walking stick or a magnifier.

**Appliances** are things that give a person something they are missing. For example, a false arm or leg.

For most activities, using an **aid or appliance** scores 2 points. This is the lowest level. This is because many **aids and appliances** are used a lot. They are usually easy to use and do not cost a lot of money.

Also, people who use **aids and appliances** usually have lower **barriers** than people who cannot carry out the 10 daily living activities at all or who need help from other people to carry out the 10 daily living activities.

## Barriers

These are things that stop disabled people living like other people. For example, finding it hard to bend or stand.

A lot of people are being given the daily living part of the **Personal Independence Payment** just because they may do better using **aids and appliances** for some of the 10 daily living activities used in the **assessment**.



## Personal Independence Payment – aids and appliances

---

Some judges have decided that things like beds and chairs are **aids and appliances**. This makes it hard for us to work out the extra costs people have because of their disability.

Because of these things we have decided to have a **consultation** about how **aids and appliances** are taken into account when we work out if a person can get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**. We are not looking at the mobility part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

### Consulting or consultation

This is when the government asks people what they think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.





# Aids and appliances and the daily living part of Personal Independence Payment

In April 2014, 11 people out of every 100 scored all their points using **aids and appliances** and were given the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

In September 2015, 35 people out of every 100 scored all their points using **aids and appliances** and were given the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

This has mainly increased because more people are using **aids and appliances** for these things.

- Preparing food.
- Washing and bathing.
- Dressing and undressing.
- Managing incontinence and using the toilet.

Around 75 out of every 100 people who score all their points by using **aids and appliances** only get the lowest number of points needed to get the standard rate of the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

## Personal Independence Payment – aids and appliances

---

We looked at 105 cases where people scored most or all of their daily living points because they used **aids and appliances**.

Only about 7 people were thought to have moderate needs and moderate extra costs. Most people only had low needs and low costs.

If people did need low-cost **aids and appliances** there would be the cost of buying the item. But in the cases we looked at there would be very little ongoing extra costs to do with daily living.

In 19 of the 105 cases we looked at, people did not seem to have any extra costs to do with daily living at all.

In many of the cases we looked at, it is likely that the **aids and appliances** for which points were given were low-cost items like electric tin openers or lightweight pans.

Some **aids and appliances** can be got for free from places like the National Health Service and Adult Social Care. These are items like perching stools and grab rails.

In some cases, even though people were helped by using an **aid or appliance**, they did not need the **aid or appliance**.

This means that in the cases we looked at where people scored all their points from using **aids or appliances**, a person's score does not really show if they have extra costs to do with their disability. But **Personal Independence Payment** was made to help people who have extra costs.

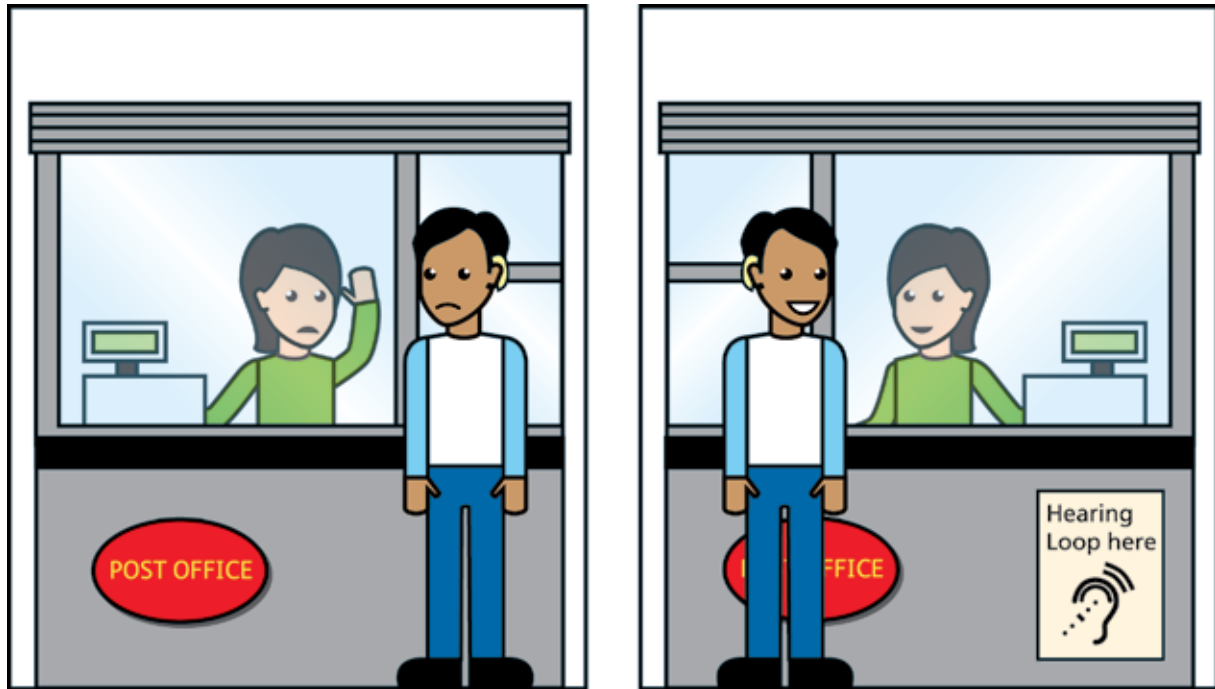
So we have decided to ask people if we should change the way we take **aids and appliances** into account when we work out the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

If we do make changes we have thought of 5 ways of doing this. We would like to know what people think about them.

If we do make changes, anyone who is given daily living points for **aids and appliances** could be affected. People who already get **Personal Independence Payment** would not be affected until it is time for them to have another **assessment**.

# How the system works now

A monthly payment is made to people who can get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.



In most activities 2 points are given for using **aids and appliances**.

This means a person can get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment** just because they score points for using **aids and appliances**.

## Option 1

We would make a lump sum payment to people who reach or go over the number of points they need to get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**. But scored all their points from using **aids and appliances**.

The amount of the lump sum payment could be less than the amount of money a person gets monthly over a period of time And it could be paid with vouchers.

The amount of the lump sum payment could be a set amount or it could change depending on people's different needs.

People getting the lump sum would not automatically get other benefits or premiums, like other people who get **Personal Independence Payment**. They would also be affected by the **Benefit Cap**.

### Benefit Cap

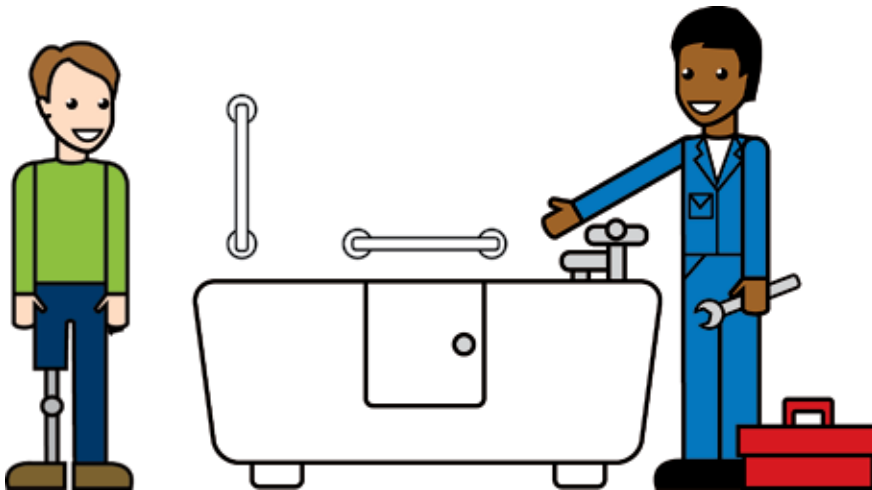
This is a limit on the total amount of benefits someone can claim. It does not apply to people who get **Personal Independence Payment**.

People who get at least some points for other parts of the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** would get paid at the weekly rate, in the same way they do now.

### About Option 1

Many people who score all of their points from using **aids and appliances** may have to make a low or moderate one-off payment to buy the **aids or appliances**. They would have small ongoing costs or no costs at all.

Option 1 would help people buy the **aids and appliances** they need straight away instead of making them save up their monthly payments.



If vouchers were used, this could help the Department for Work and Pensions to get better prices.

The lump sum payment could be made more than once as people may need to repair or replace their **aids and appliances**.

## Option 2

We would make a monthly payment to people who reach or go over the number of points they need to get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**. But score all their points from using **aids and appliances**.

The amount of the payment would be less than the weekly rate that is paid now.

People getting the lower rate would not automatically get other benefits or premiums, like other people who get **Personal Independence Payment**. They would also be affected by the **Benefit Cap**.

People who get at least some points for other parts of the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** would get paid at the weekly rate in the same way they do now.

### About Option 2

Option 2 is close to the way the system works now. People would get monthly payments. This would help people who have some ongoing costs or who would find it hard to look after their money if they had a lump sum payment.

This would be a set amount of money for everyone who got it. The lower rate of money would show that these people's costs are likely to be lower than others.

### Option 3

We would make a new rule that says that people must score some points in the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** that are not for **aids and appliances**.

This would mean that people do not get the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment** if they get all their points from using **aids and appliances**.

People who get at least some points for the other parts of the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** would get paid at the weekly rate in the same way they do now.



### About Option 3

Option 3 would mean only people with moderate to high ongoing costs would get the benefit.

For people who got it, it would be like the system now. They would get a monthly payment for the same amount each month. They could spend it on what they want.



## Option 4

We would change the meaning of **aids and appliances** for the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

**Aids or appliances** that are low cost or free, or that are often used by non-disabled people may not score points.

People who use **aids and appliances** that show they have extra costs because of their disability would get paid at the weekly rate in the same way they do now.

### About Option 4

Option 4 would mean that only people who use **aids and appliances** that show they have extra costs would get the benefit.

For people who got it, it would be like the system now. They would get a monthly payment for the same amount each month. They could spend it on what they want.

### Option 5

We would change the number of points that are given for using **aids and appliances** for some or all of the daily living activities. For most of the activities the points would change from 2 to 1.

People who score at least some of their points from using **aids and appliances** could stop getting the daily living part of **Personal Independence Payment**.

People who get all their points from other parts of the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** would get paid at the weekly rate in the same way they do now.



### About Option 5

Option 5 would mean that people cannot get the benefit unless they score enough points in other parts of the **Personal Independence Payment assessment**.

For people who can get this money, it would be like the system now. They would get a monthly payment for the same amount each month. They could spend it on what they want.

---

## About the questions

On the next pages there are some questions on 5 options that we would like you to give us your answers to.

If you need more space for your answers, please use a separate piece of paper.

This **consultation** starts on 10 December 2015 and will end on 29 January 2016.

Send your replies to

PIP Policy Team  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Ground Floor, Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Or you can email your reply to  
[pip.consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pip.consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

When you send us your answers please tell us if you are answering for yourself or if you are answering for a group or organisation.

If you are answering for a group or organisation please tell us who they are. And how you got their views.

We will let you know that we have had your reply. We may get in touch with you to ask about what you have said. If you do not want us to do this, please tell us when you send your reply to us.

# How we will use the replies

Information that you tell us about you, like your name and address, may need to be passed to other workers in the Department for Work and Pensions, so we can do the **consultation**.

The answers you give to the **consultation** may be put in a report, put on our website, or given to other people who ask for it. We will take out any information about you before we do this, so that people reading your answer will not know who wrote it.



## Our view

We have not yet decided whether or not to make any changes or, if we do, which of the 5 options we think is best.

# The questions

## Question 1

What do you think about the way the system works now?

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare the system now to Options 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- Getting a payment for the same amount of money each month.
- Saving money each month.
- Saving money to pay for **aids and appliances**.
- People being able to spend the benefit in the way they want to. But they may not be able to buy as much as they could with vouchers.

---

---

---

---

### Question 2

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare Option 1 to the way the system works now and to Options 2, 3, 4 and 5?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- People getting a lump sum payment which could be less than the amount the monthly payments would add up to over a period of time.
- Whether the lump sum should be a set amount of money or should change depending on what the person needs.
- People getting the lump sum not automatically getting other benefits or premiums like other people who get **Personal Independence Payment**. And, that it would not stop people being affected by the **Benefit Cap**.
- People being able to buy **aids and appliances** straight away.
- People getting vouchers which may mean we can get a better deal on **aids and appliances**.
- A payment being made more than once because **aids and appliances** may need to be mended or replaced?

---

---

---

---

---

## Question 3

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare Option 2 to the way the system works now and to Options 1, 3, 4 and 5?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- People getting a lower rate of benefit than is paid now.
- People getting a set amount of money.
- People getting the lump sum not automatically getting other benefits or premiums like other people who get **Personal Independence Payment**. And, that it would not stop people being affected by the **Benefit Cap**.
- People being able to spend the money on any item they need, but possibly being able to buy less than they could if they used vouchers.

---

---

---

---

### Question 4

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare Option 3 to the way the system works now and to Options 1, 2, 4 and 5?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- People who score all their points from **aids and appliances** not getting the benefit.
- There being a limit on the points for **aids and appliances**.

---

---

---

---

---



## Question 5

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare Option 4 to the way the system works now and to Options 1, 2, 3 and 5?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- Not taking account of **aids and appliances** that do not show if the person has extra costs because of their disability.
- Which **aids and appliances** you think show that a person has extra costs because of their disability.

---

---

---

---

### Question 6

What are the good things and the bad things when you compare Option 5 to the way the system works now and to Options 1, 2, 3 and 4?

We would like to know what you think about these things.

- Changing the number of points that are given for using **aids and appliances** for some or all of the daily living activities. For most of the activities the points would change from 2 to 1.
- Getting a set payment of money.
- People having to save to buy **aids and appliances**.
- People having to manage money monthly.
- People being able to spend the money on any item they need, but possibly being able to buy less than they could if they used vouchers.

---

---

---

---

Question 7

Do you have any other ideas about how the system could be changed?

Do you have anything else to say?

---

---

---

---

# What happens next?

When the **consultation** has finished we will look at all the replies that have been sent to us.

Before we decide what to do we will think about how any changes that we make will affect people.

We will also look at how many people are likely to get **Personal Independence Payment**.

We will then write a report saying what replies we had and what we have decided to do.

## And finally, thank you

Thank you for taking the time to look at this booklet and taking part in the **consultation**.

# Word list

## Assessment

This is a method the Department for Work and Pensions use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**. It looks at 12 everyday activities, and points are given based on how well a person can or cannot do the activities.

10 of the activities are about daily living and 2 are about how well you can move. We are only looking at the 10 daily living activities.....6

## Aids or appliances

**Aids** help a person do something. For example if someone is walking or reading, their **aid** may be a walking stick or a magnifier.

**Appliances** are things that give a person something they are missing. For example, a false arm or leg. ....6

## Barriers

These are things that stop disabled people living like other people. For example, finding it hard to bend or stand. ....7

### Benefit Cap

This is a limit on the total amount of benefits someone can claim. It does not apply to people who get **Personal Independence Payment** .....13

### Consulting or consultation

This is when the government asks people what they think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things ..... 8

### Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled .....5

### Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled .....5

© Crown copyright 2015

You may use the words in this booklet in any way you want to as long as you make sure you use them correctly.

The Open Government Licence covers the use of the words. The only thing you cannot use are the logos.

If you want to know a bit more about the Open Government Licence or if you need some help to understand what we have said, the website which tells you more about the Open Government Licence is

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence)

Or you can write to

The National Archives  
Kew  
London  
TW9 4DU

Or email your questions to [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

If you need more of these easy-read reports, please contact us. Our address is shown below. Easy-read reports are free.

If you want to look at the full report written in English, you can see it on our website at [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/484217/pip-consultation-on-aids-and-appliances.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484217/pip-consultation-on-aids-and-appliances.pdf)

A copy of this easy-read report is also on this website. We did not put the easy-read report on the website until one week after the consultation started. If this has made it difficult for you to respond in time please tell us using the contact details below.

Copies of the full report can be made available in other formats on request. Our contact details are shown below.

PIP Policy Team  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Ground Floor, Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Email: [pip.consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pip.consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Please contact us if you have any other problems getting the report.

© Crown Copyright 2015

Published by the Department for Work and Pensions

December 2015