



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Looking at Personal Independence Payment benefit. This is called **PIP** for short

Tell us what you think



Benefits **NEW**

Personal Independence Payment

The graphic features a collection of British currency including a 10-pound note, a 5-pound note, and several coins. Below the money, there is a photograph of two men; one is standing and the other is sitting in a blue motorized wheelchair. They appear to be in conversation, with the standing man's hand near the wheelchair.

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About PIP benefit

A **benefit** is money from the government.



You can often get benefits if you can not work or you have a disability.



PIP is a benefit that some people with a disability or health condition get.



The money is to help pay for extra things you need to help you because of your disability or health condition.



Things like:

- doing day to day things

or

- travelling and getting around.





You can ask for PIP if you are aged 16 to 66.

Why we are looking at PIP



We started giving people PIP more than 10 years ago.

A lot has changed since then.



More and more people need help from PIP every year.



More people are having problems with their mental health.



It costs government more money to give people benefits.



To be able to support people properly, we might need to do things differently.



We have decided it is time to look at PIP again. There are 4 ideas we want to look at a little bit more.



We know that PIP is really important to people.

Making changes to PIP might mean some people get less money and some people get more money. Some people might not get PIP at all.



We want to make sure PIP is fair and gives people the best support for their needs.



We want to make sure government uses money in the best way.

What we want to do



We want to find out if PIP still works well for people .

We need to make sure we:

- give the right support to the people who need it most.
- look at people's needs and what things they have to pay for because of their health condition or disability.



- support people to live as **independently** as possible

Independently means doing some things by yourself and some things with some support.





We are asking lots of people what they think about PIP.



We will look at what everyone tells us. It will help us to understand how people use PIP.

Idea 1: Changing how we do PIP assessments



We do an **assessment** to check if someone needs PIP.



The **assessment** looks at how your health condition or disability affects your day to day life.

It helps us to decide if someone needs PIP.

The assessment looks at:



- what things you can do for yourself and what things you need support with

and



- how your disability or health condition will affect you **long term**
Long term means for 12 months or longer.



You don't have to show us any **proof** of your disability or health condition.

Proof might be things like a letter from your doctor or social worker.



But it is always good to show us proof if you have it. It will help us to see how your health condition or disability affects you.



To do the assessment, we ask people to fill in a form and take part in a meeting.



We do a **review** of your PIP after a certain amount of time. This is a check to make sure you are getting the right level of support.



Some people have a good experience with their assessment.



But some people find the assessment stressful and long.



Some people think it does not include all of the different ways people might be affected by their disability.



We want to think about if assessments are the best way to work out who needs PIP.

What we want to do



We might look at changing how we work out who needs PIP.

We might not look at how a person's disability or health condition affects their day to day life.



We might look at what **diagnosis** they have got instead.

A **diagnosis** is when a doctor or other health staff say what disability or health condition you have.



This means people might not need to have an assessment or a review anymore.



We know that this will make more work for doctors and nurses.

They would have to write more letters to show people have a diagnosis.



We will look at different ways for people to get the proof they need.

Idea 2: Making changes to the PIP assessment we have now



The assessment for PIP looks at 12 different things. We call them **activities**.



It checks if you can do these activities by yourself or with some support.



Things like:

- cooking a meal.



- washing, getting dressed and going to the toilet.



- **communicating** with other people. **Communicating** is telling people what you want and how you feel.



- planning to go somewhere. This might be by taking the bus.



- standing and getting around.



We need to check and make sure we are giving support to people:

- with the highest needs

and



- who have a lot of extra costs because of their health condition or disability

3 things we want to do



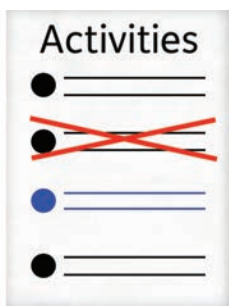
1. **Make sure the assessment is fair and looks at the right activities.**



It is a long time since we decided on the activities in the assessment.



We need to check that they are still the right activities to look at.



We might need to take some activities out or put some new ones in.



We also need to check if some of the activities look at the same thing.



2. Look at what extra costs people have because of their disability or health condition



People with a health condition or disability need different levels of support and help.



For example some people need things like a walking frame to get around.



Other people might need someone or something to tell them or remind them of what they need to do.



If someone needs support, we need to check if they have to pay more to live their day to day life than a person who does not have a health condition or disability.



3. Look at how long people are affected by their disability or health condition

To get PIP you have to be affected by your disability or health condition for a certain amount of time. This is:



- for 3 months before you can be paid for PIP

and

- for 9 months or more after you get PIP



Some people with a health condition might get better within 9 months.



Some people might not know how their disability will affect them long term.



We need to think about what is the right amount of time.

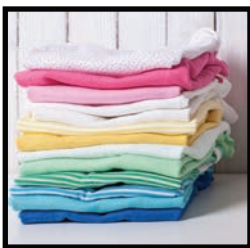
Idea 3: Changing how we pay PIP



People get PIP to help pay for the things they need because of their disability or health condition.

This could be things like:

- travel.
- walking sticks or frames.
- special equipment to help you at home. This might be equipment to help you breathe.
- extra cleaning for clothes and bedding.
- heating and electricity bills.





People can choose what they spend PIP on.



We want to find out the most important things that people spend it on.



We want to know if PIP is the best way to support people. Or if there are other things that might help.



Other countries give support in different ways. We have had a look at some of these things and thought about what we could do.

Other ways we could support people

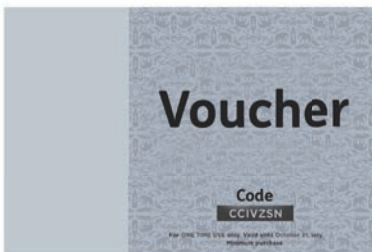


Having a list for people to look through

This would be a list of things like wheelchairs, ramps or shower chairs.



People could then choose what they need from the list.



Offering people a voucher instead of money

People could use the voucher to pay for things like equipment or services.



Paying people back

People could buy things they need themselves.

Then we would give them the money back.



A grant

A grant is money we could give people 1 time to help them buy something.

You don't need to pay the money back.



Other things to think about

Getting PIP can help some people to get other benefits.



These benefits might help with travel and getting around, or support for carers.



If we change how we give PIP, we need to think about how it might affect other benefits.

Idea 4: Working together with other organisations



People with the same disability or health condition might have different needs.



Some people who get PIP need more support with their health or care needs.



Some people might get some of the support they need from the NHS or the local council.



We want to think about working together more closely with local councils and the NHS.

This would help us to make best use of our money.



Lots of people have assessments from the NHS or the council. This is to see what care and support they need.



If we worked together with the NHS and local councils, people would need less assessments as well.

Tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about our ideas for looking at changes to PIP.



We will listen to what people tell us before we make any changes.



To tell us what you think about our ideas, you can fill in our easy read questionnaire.



You can fill in a paper copy or fill it in online.



If you fill in a paper copy, send it back to us at:

**Disability and Health Support
Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
Level 2
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA**



If you want to fill in the questionnaire online, go to our website:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/modernising-support-for-independent-living-the-health-and-disability-green-paper



The online questionnaire is not in easy read.



We need everyone's answers back by **Monday 22nd July 2024.**