

Analytical Evidence Pack - Interim

This is a summary of analysis to support the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper.

What you need to know

Where not already publicly available, analysis and figures referenced within the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working, are within this interim evidence pack – or will be produced and updated in due course.

A full evidence pack supporting the paper will be made available alongside accessible versions.

We have published this analysis ahead of the accessible versions to put detailed information about the matters subject to consultation in the public domain at the earliest opportunity. The production of accessible versions requires additional time, and the consultation period will not close until 12 weeks after these are released, so as to ensure all stakeholders have sufficient time to engage.

The data in this evidence pack comes from a range of sources that are referenced in the accompanying data tables. The new data presented here includes analysis from:

- 100% DWP administrative data of PIP claims
- 100% DWP administrative data of Work Capability Assessments
- HMRC administrative data
- Stat-Xplore

Data tables, which provide more details on the data and analysis presented here, are available online.

1. Executive Summary

- The number of people claiming incapacity and disability benefits has risen steadily for the last decade.
- Between May 2018 and May 2024 the caseload on the higher rates of UC health and ESA increased by just over 1 million.
- Almost half of the two million on UC health have been on the benefit for less than two years, but almost half of those on ESA at that time have been on the benefit for over ten years.
- Fewer than one in five claimants of PIP are in employment.
- Child DLA claimants have a relatively high success rate in receiving PIP, if they submitted a reassessment.

2. Updated decomposition of growth in the number of claimants of Universal Credit with Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, or in the Employment and Support Allowance Support Group

This is an update of the following ad hoc publication, to include updated 2024 data: [Decomposition of growth in the number of claimants of Universal Credit with Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, or in the Employment and Support Allowance Support Group - GOV.UK](#)

The analysis shows that between May 2018 and May 2024 the caseload on the higher rates of UC health and ESA increased by just over 1 million, of this:

128,000 is because UC rolls six benefits into one. People who were not eligible for ESA, but might have received another benefit - that UC is replacing, are now counted in UC health

96,000 is because of changes to state pension age

77,000 is because of demographic change, with the population getting older, on average

After taking out the effects of all these factors, the number claiming the higher rates of UC health and ESA increased by 741,000 over those 6 years – or 71% of the overall observed increase.

3. Employment of PIP claimants

Fewer than one in five claimants of PIP are in employment.

Chart 1: Proportion of PIP claimants employed at the end of the financial year

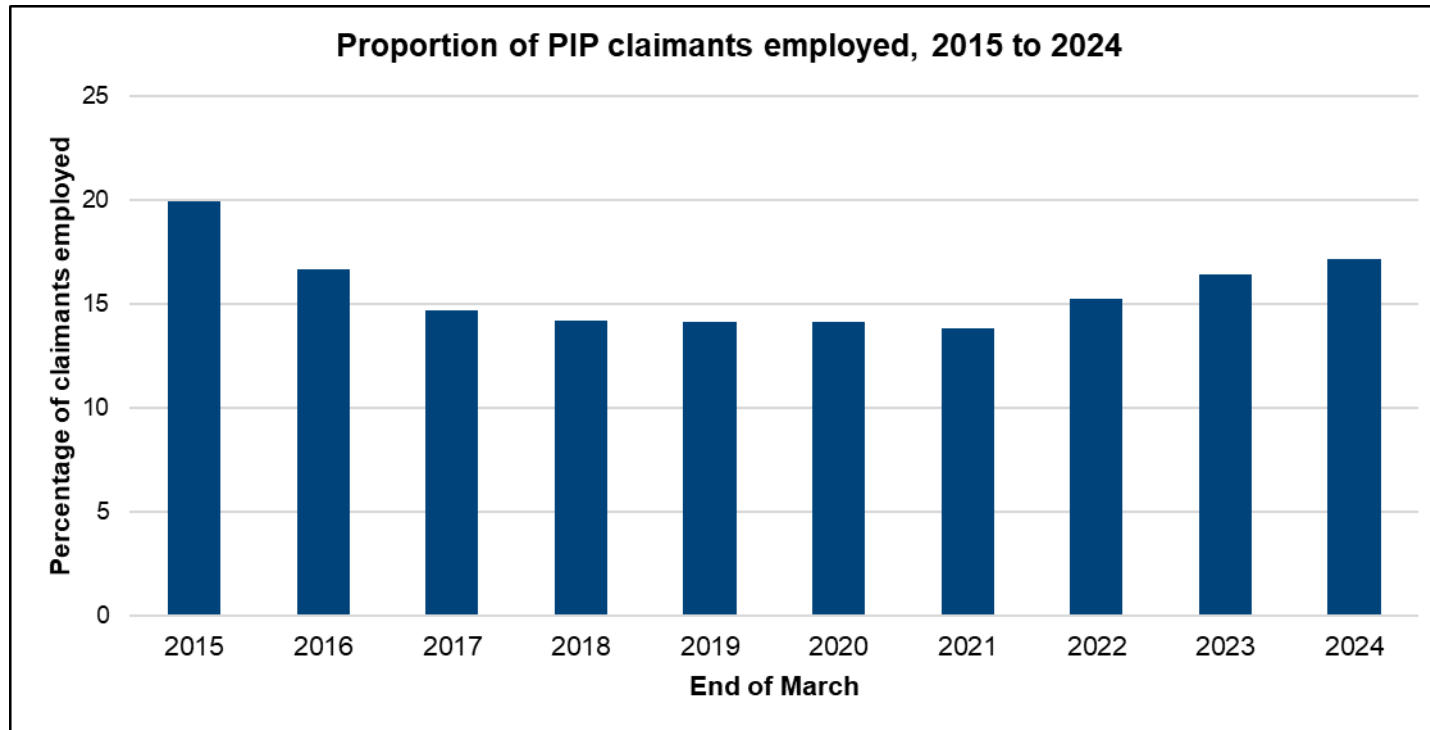


Chart 1 shows the proportion of the PIP caseload who are employed fell from 18 per cent in March 2015 to 13 per cent in March 2018. However, during this period a large number of Disability Living Allowance claimants were reassessed for PIP; these were longer-term claimants and therefore more likely to be severely disabled and therefore less likely to be employed.

The proportion of claimants who were in employment stabilised at around 13 per cent from March 2018 until March 2021.

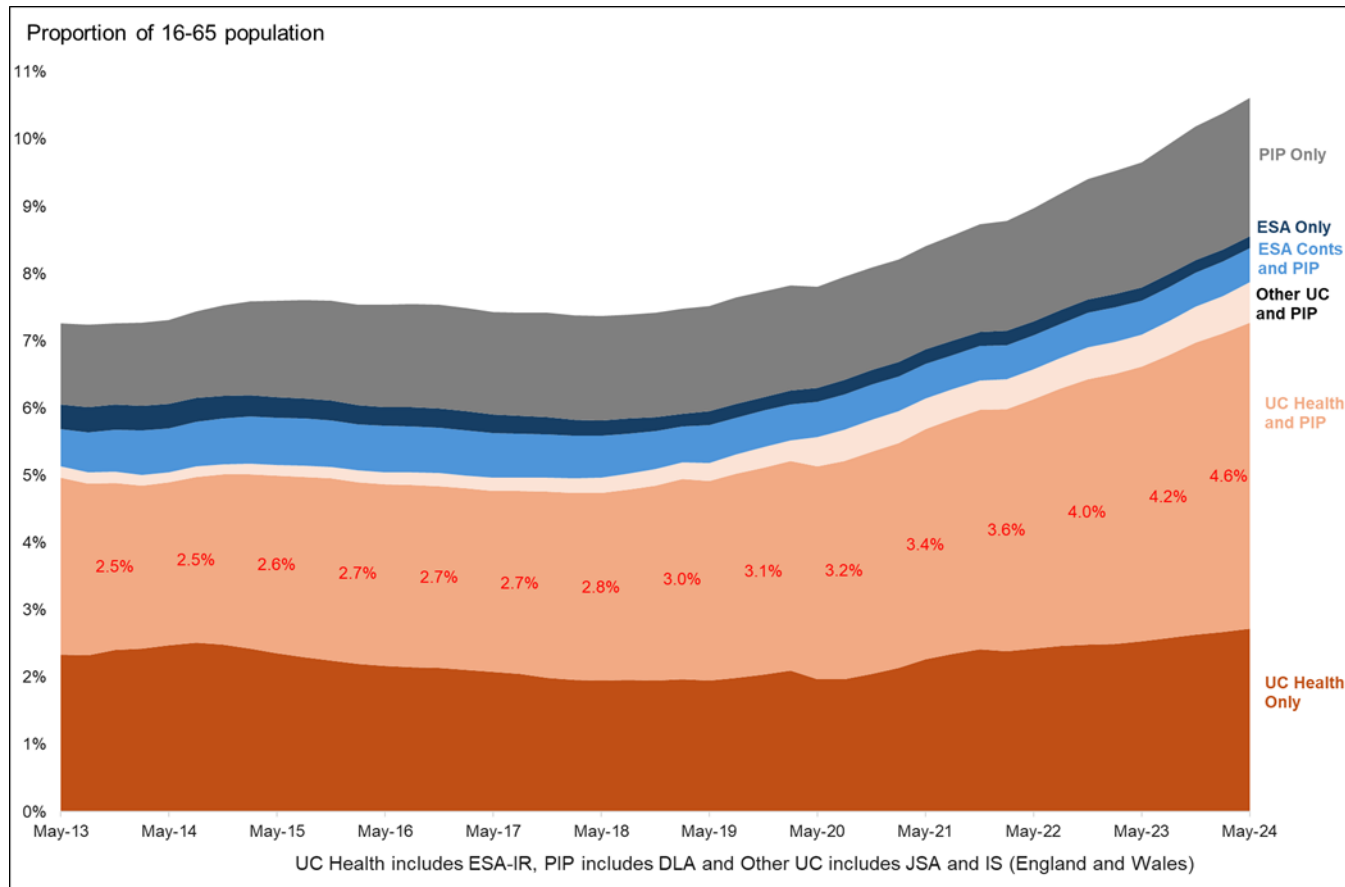
Since the COVID-19 pandemic the proportion has started to increase, from 13 per cent in March 2021 to 17 per cent in March 2024.

Source – Figures derived from DWP and HMRC administrative data

4. Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA

The number of people claiming incapacity and disability benefits has risen steadily for the last decade.

Chart 2: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA (England and Wales)



This chart shows the number of people receiving DLA, PIP, ESA, UC and JSA since May 2013 up to May 2024.

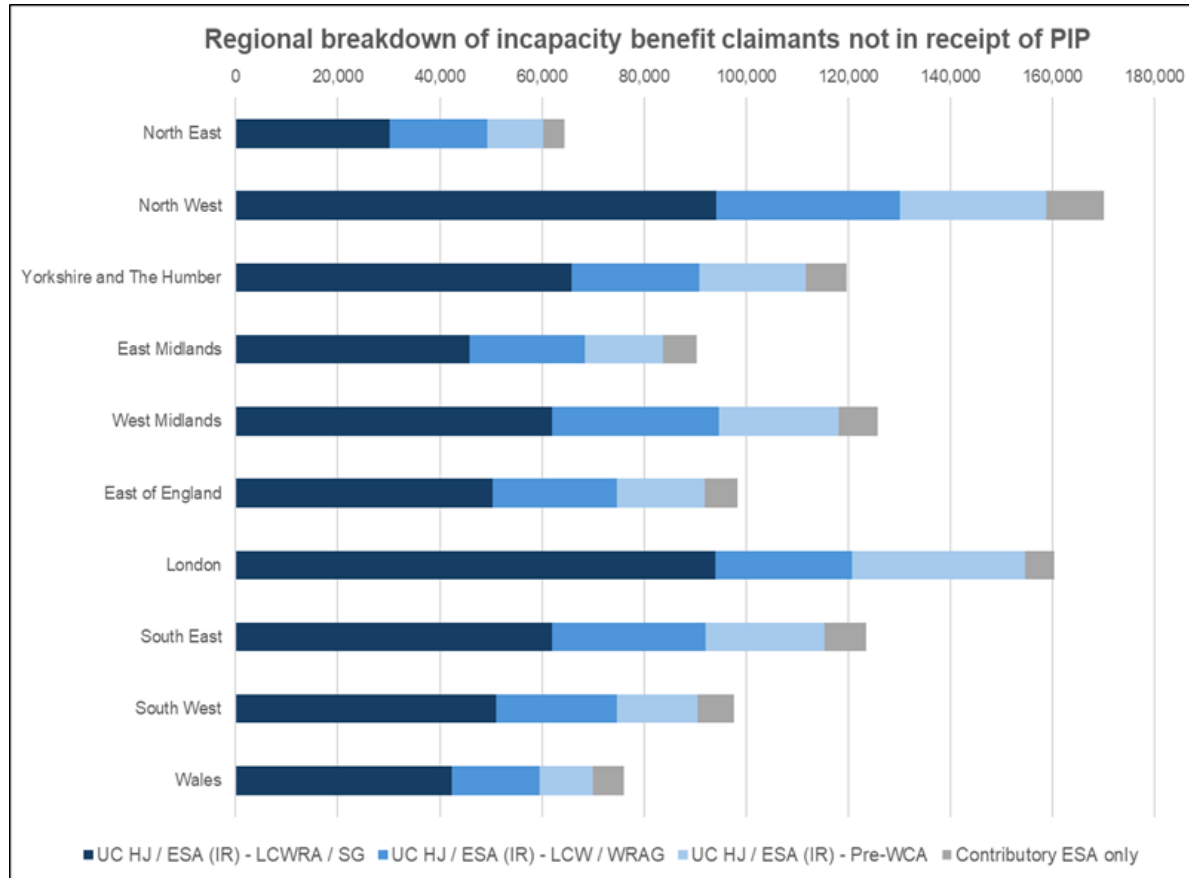
The number of working aged people receiving incapacity and disability benefits has increased from 2.7 million in 2013 to 4.1 million in 2024.

Caseload increases are primarily driven by PIP claims over the period, the proportion of 16-65 year olds on UC Health only or ESA stays consistent, whereas the prevalence of PIP only is close to doubling.

Percentages in red refer to the proportion of the population on both UC Health and PIP (as defined under the chart).

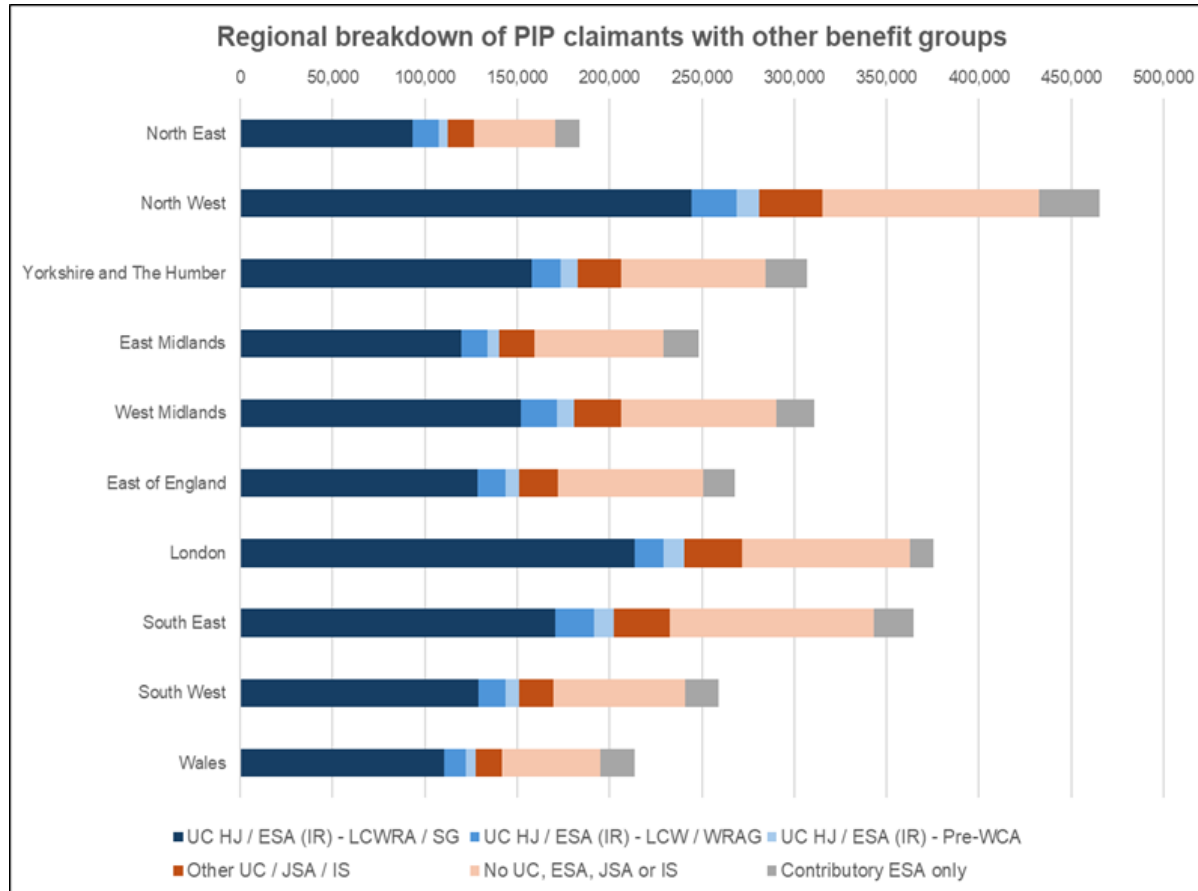
Source – DWP administrative data

Chart 3a: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by region, England and Wales – Regional breakdown of incapacity benefit claimants not in receipt of PIP



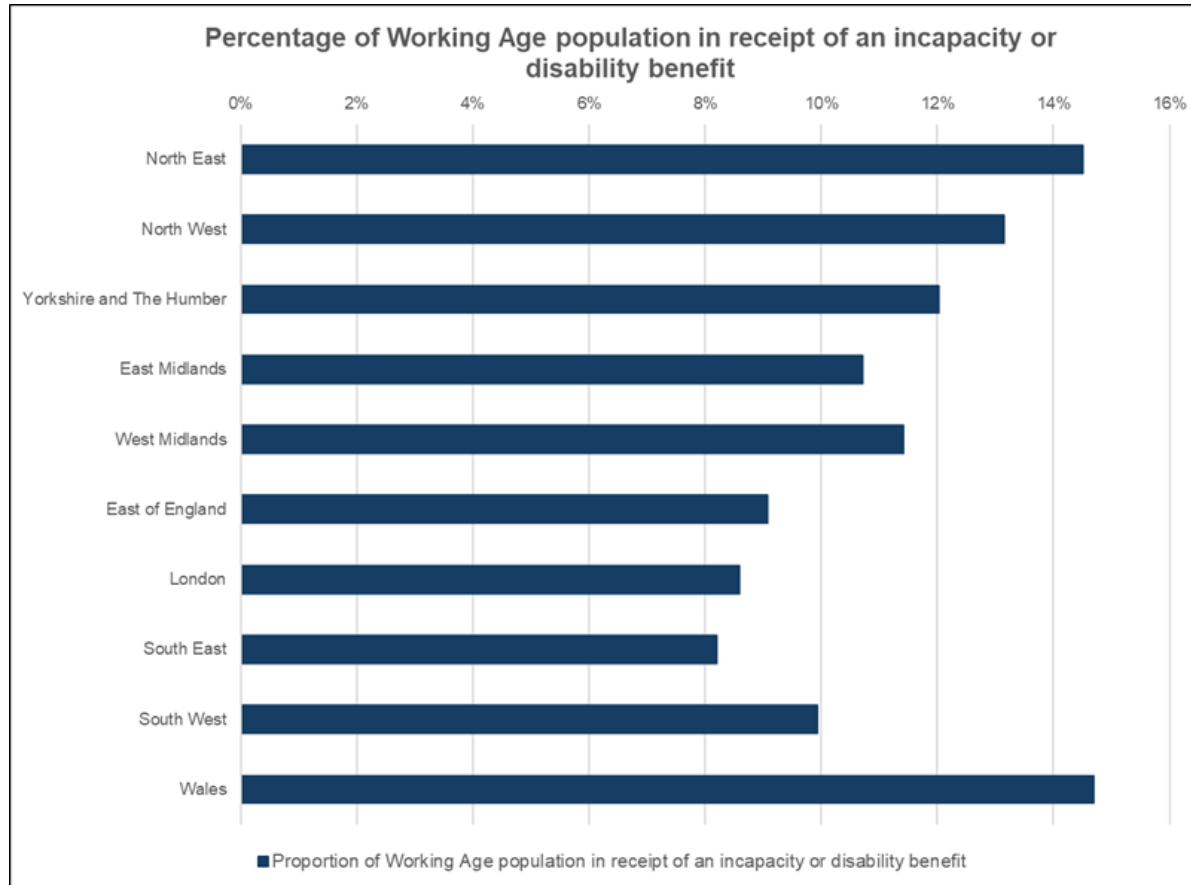
Source – DWP administrative data

Chart 3b: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by region, England and Wales – Regional breakdown of PIP claimants with other benefit groups



Source – DWP administrative data

Chart 4: Working Age Claimants of PIP or DLA and Universal Credit on the Health Journey or ESA, by region, England and Wales – Percentage of working age population in receipt of an incapacity or disability benefit

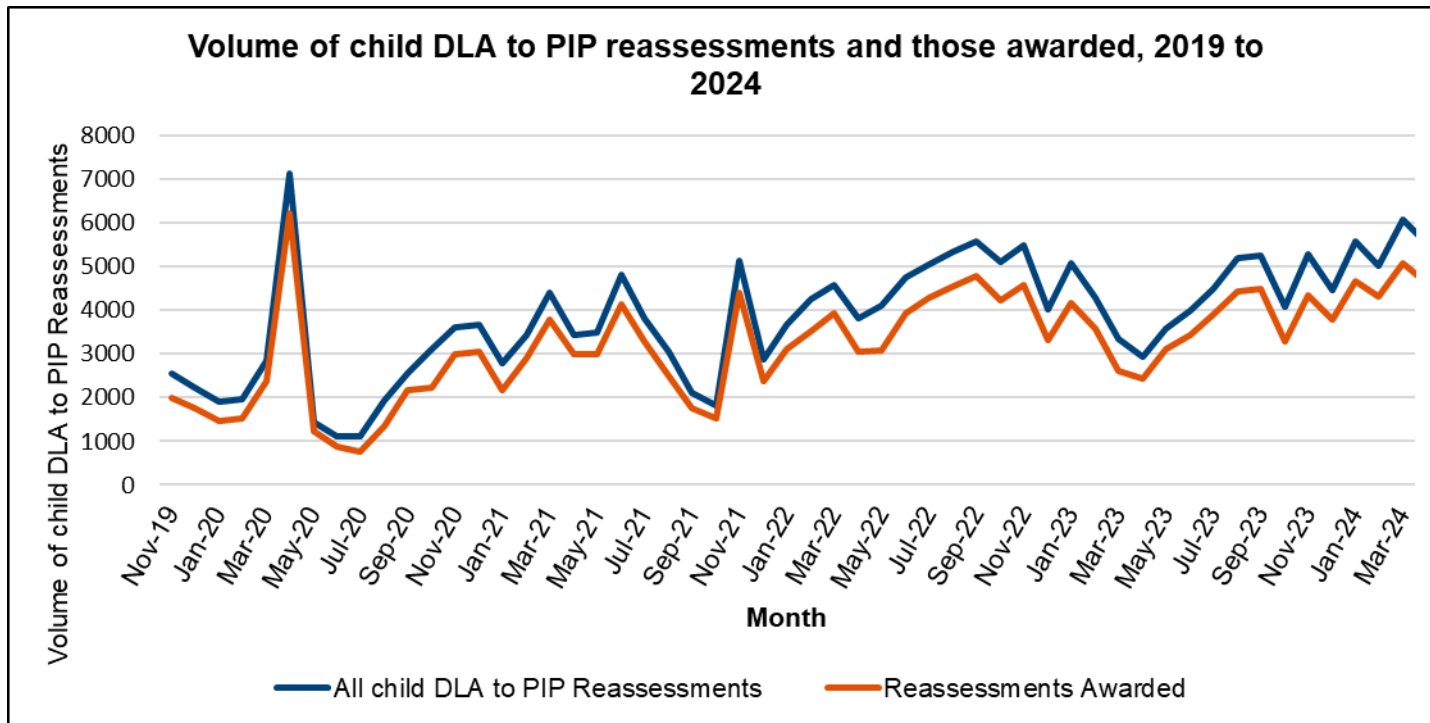


Source – DWP administrative data

5. Child DLA to PIP Reassessments

Child DLA claimants have a relatively high success rate in receiving PIP, if they submitted a reassessment.

Chart 5: Volume of child DLA to PIP Reassessments and the success rates



The chart shows the volume of child DLA to PIP reassessments cleared per month, and how many were awarded PIP. Figures only include child DLA claimants that submit a PIP reassessment. There are claimants who do not apply to PIP after their child DLA claim ends, but these group of claimants are not captured in the charts and tables.

Source – Figures derived from Stat-Xplore