



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Timms Review Co-chair Update Letter August 2026

**Easy
Read**



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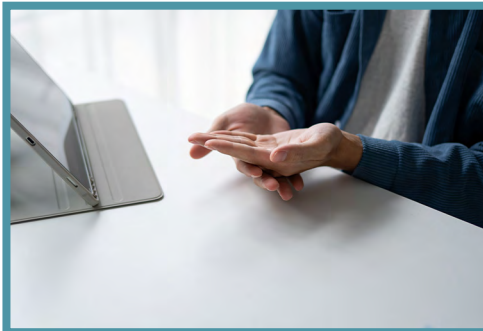
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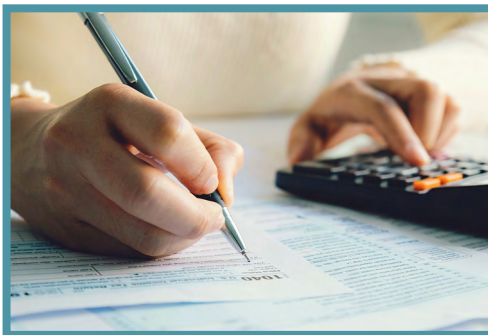
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Introduction



Dear all,

We are the co-chairs of the Timms Review:

- Sharon Brennan
- Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE
- Sir Stephen Timms



Department
for Work &
Pensions

The Timms Review is about a benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**. This is called **PIP** for short.



We are writing to give an update about the Review.

What this letter explains



This letter gives an update about the Interim Report and what will happen next.

For more Easy Read information about PIP, go to www.gov.uk

Search for **Easy Read PIP**.

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Interim Report



Thank you to everyone who has read and shared the Interim Report.



Over the past year, thousands of people have helped the Review.



People have shared their:

- experience
- knowledge
- ideas.



Some people shared very personal experiences with us.

Thank you for trusting the Review with this information.



The Interim Report was an important step in our work.

It brought together what people have told us so far.



The Interim Report explained:

- evidence that is helping us think about PIP
- how disabled people have helped to shape the Review from the beginning.



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Department
for Work &
Pensions

Policy paper

The Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment: interim report

Updated 15 July 2025

This was published under the 2024 to 2026 Starmer Labour government

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Foreword from the co-chairs on behalf of the steering group

Disability can impact any one of us at any stage in our lives whether through illness or health conditions, accident or ageing. Almost 1 in 4 people of working age have a disability.^{[\(Statistics 1\)](#)}

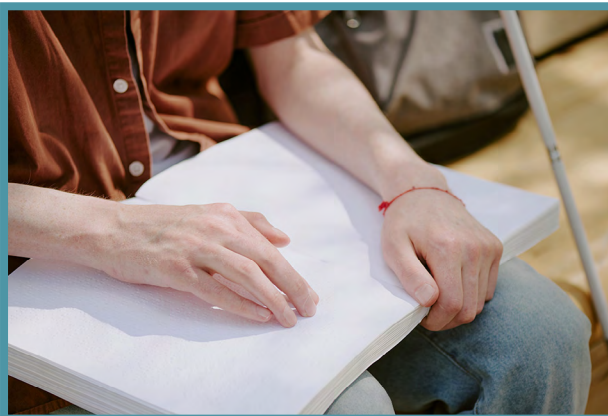
The Interim Report will help us start well in the next part of the Review.

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Why this Review is important



PIP is a benefit for D/deaf and disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.



Disabled people can face unfair problems in everyday life.



They can also have extra costs because of their disability or health condition.

PIP pays some money towards these extra costs.

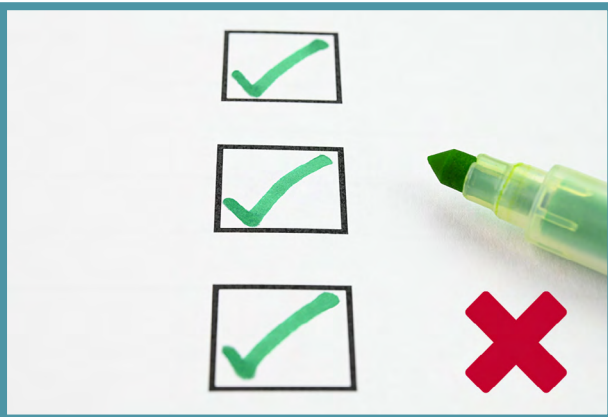


At its best, PIP helps people to:

- be treated with dignity and respect
- be more independent
- make choices
- take part in everyday life and society.



The evidence shows that many people rely on PIP for financial support.



However, the current PIP system does not always do what it should.



Too many people have told us that PIP assessments and decisions can be:

- stressful
- difficult to trust
- dehumanising.

?

Explaining dehumanising

Dehumanising means making someone feel that they are not being treated as a person.



We have also heard that parts of the PIP system can create more problems for people.



These problems can make it harder for people to take part in everyday life or be independent.



This is not acceptable.



The Review is not only about making the assessment process better.



The Review wants to make sure PIP is:

- fair
- accessible
- fit for disabled people now, and in the future.



It is important that people can understand and use the PIP system.

Especially people with different support and learning needs.

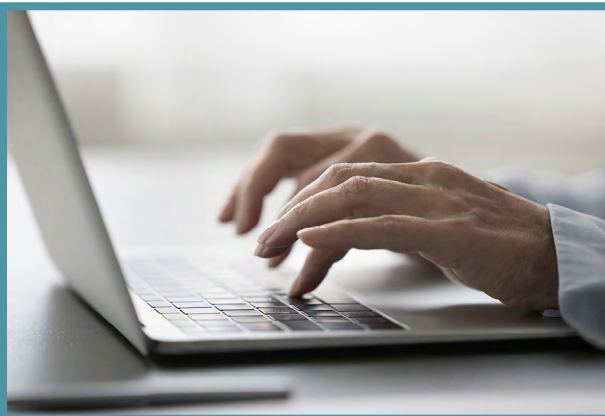
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What happens next



The first part of the Review focused on:

- understanding people's experiences
- collecting evidence
- understanding how the current PIP system works.



We are now starting the next part of the Review.



We will develop recommendations for **reform**.

Reform means making important changes to improve a system.



We want the recommendations to make a real difference to disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.



There are still important questions and difficult choices to work through.



This is why we must continue to work with disabled people to shape the Review.



We want to understand:

- what ideas will work in real life
- what problems or unexpected effects an idea could cause
- how ideas can better reflect the everyday lives of people.

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Shaping recommendations workshops



The next part of the Review will include shaping recommendations workshops.



**September
and
October
2026**

The workshops will take place during September and October 2026.

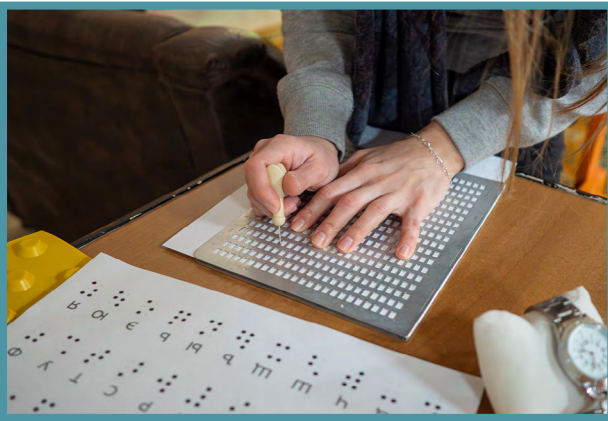


There will be workshops across:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland.

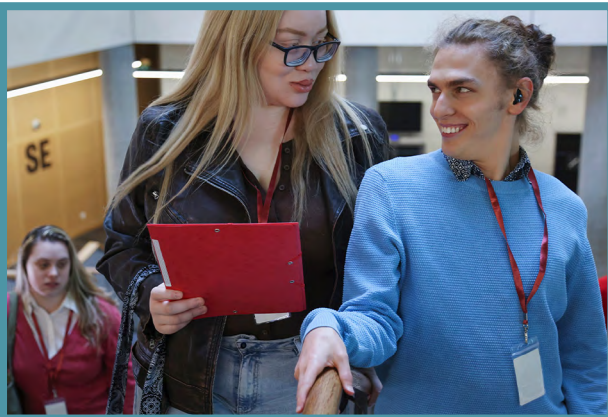


Disabled people and people with long-term health conditions from many different backgrounds will take part.



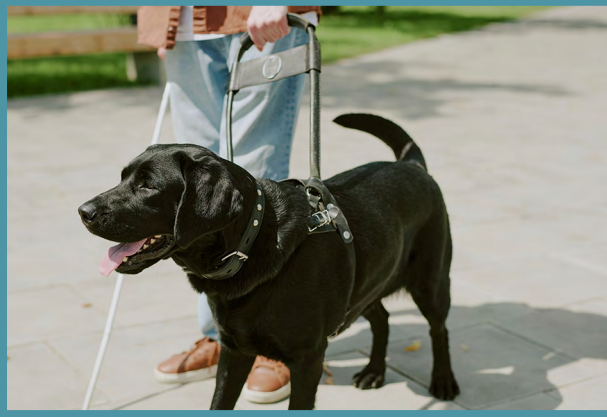
They will help the Review to:

- shape new ideas and recommendations
- test if these will work
- improve the ideas and recommendations.



We do not expect everyone to agree.

People have different experiences and points of view.



These differences will help us with ideas and recommendations that are:

- fair
- balanced
- based on the real lives of people.



The steering group will lead the work of the Review and give clear feedback.



The steering group will explain:

- which ideas were taken forward
- which ideas were not taken forward
- the reasons for these decisions.



The workshops will be co-hosted with selected organisations and charities in each area.



These will include d/Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations.

These organisations are called **DDPOs** for short.



DDPOs are organisations that are led and controlled by disabled people.

The organisations know their local areas and have trusted relationships with local people.



They will help make the workshops accessible and inclusive.



You can find out more on the shaping recommendations workshop page.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-timms-review>



This includes information about:

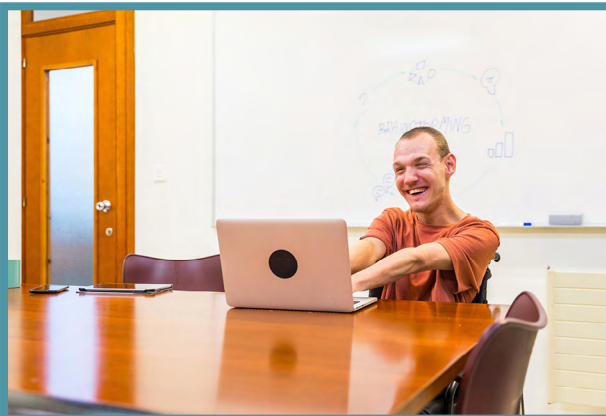
- how to apply
- accessibility
- reasonable adjustments.

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Evidence and engagement



The steering group will use evidence from many different places to develop its recommendations.



Thank you to everyone who took part in Workshop in a Box.

Workshop in a Box helped organisations and groups hold their own discussions about PIP and send people's views to the Review.



We received feedback from more than 130 workshops.



The workshops were run by local, regional and national organisations and groups across the UK.



They included:

- DDPOs
- charities
- carers
- disabled people.



We are still looking at responses to the Call for Evidence.

The Call for Evidence was a way for people and organisations to share their experiences and ideas about PIP.



We are also talking to many different experts, including:

- charities
- DDPOs
- disabled people



- researchers
- elected representatives
- policy specialists.



Elected representatives are people chosen to represent others, such as Members of Parliament.

Policy specialists are people who understand how government plans and rules are developed.



We are working with the National Centre for Social Research.

It is also called **NatCen** for short.



NatCen is carrying out a survey of working-age disabled people.

Working age usually means people aged between 18 and 66 years old.



The people who take part will be chosen so that the survey represents working-age disabled people across the country.



The survey will give us **quantitative evidence**.

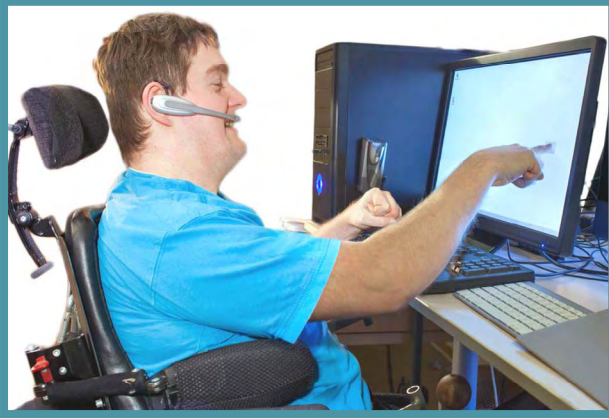
Quantitative evidence is information shown in numbers, such as how many people had a particular experience.



This evidence will add to what people have told us in workshops, written responses and other discussions.



Each type of evidence gives us a different point of view.



We are especially grateful to people who share their **lived experience**.

Lived experience means knowledge gained through a person's own life and experiences.



This helps us understand how PIP rules and decisions affect everyday life.

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Looking ahead and closing message



Thank you for continuing to take part in the Review and sharing your views.



We know there is more for us to do than just asking disabled people what they think.



It means disabled people are involved in making decisions about the Review.



Disabled people should share the power, purpose and responsibility for shaping decisions.



Over the next few months, the steering group will continue working with disabled people to improve its recommendations.



The steering group will send its final report to the **Secretary of State** in autumn 2026.

The Secretary of State is the government minister responsible for the Department for Work and Pensions.

From the co-chairs of the Timms Review



Yours sincerely,
Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE



Sharon Brennan



Sir Stephen Timms