



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Timms Review
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London, SW1H 9AJ

September 2026

Co-chair update, September 2026

Dear all,

The Timms Review is now moving from gathering evidence about what needs to change to testing what that change could look like.

Today we are sharing a set of emerging recommendations. The steering group developed them using the evidence we have heard so far from D/deaf and disabled people, people with long-term health conditions, organisations and subject experts.

These are not our final recommendations. They are a starting point that we now want people to test, challenge and help us to improve.

The emerging recommendations are annexed to this letter and are being shared with participants ahead of our shaping recommendations workshops, which begin on 15 September.

Following our call for participation in the workshops, nearly 4,000 people registered their interest in taking part. We are extremely grateful to everyone who offered their time, experience and expertise to the Review.

From evidence to emerging recommendations

The steering group's thinking has been shaped by evidence gathered throughout the Review, including evidence from D/deaf and disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, organisations, subject experts, our call for evidence, and the workshop in a box process. That evidence has consistently told us that significant change is needed.

As we set out in our Interim Report, many people told us their experience of the current PIP assessment and decision-making process is stressful and dehumanising. Our evidence so far tells us that while PIP is widely valued as a benefit, it is no longer fit for purpose.

We also found that while many disabled people say that PIP is vital in helping them meet the extra costs of disability and participate in everyday life, others stated PIP creates barriers to participating fully in work, social and community life.

The emerging recommendations therefore include proposals for reforming the current PIP system, alongside principles that could underpin more fundamental reform.

The Review is clear that PIP should remain a flexible, non-means tested benefit that provides a cash contribution towards the extra costs faced by D/deaf and disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.

Our recommendations must also operate within the Review's terms of reference, including remaining within the Office for Budget Responsibility's projections for future PIP expenditure.

Shaping our emerging recommendations

The next stage of our work is not simply about asking whether people agree or disagree with our proposals. We want to understand how they would work in people's lives.

Across 15 shaping recommendations workshops in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, participants will be asked to explore the emerging recommendations.

They will be asked what could work, what may not work, where there may be unintended consequences, and what would need to change for the proposals to work fairly in practice.

What we hear will be considered alongside the wider evidence gathered by the Review and will help the steering group refine its thinking, before agreeing its final recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Hearing from a range of expertise

The workshops are an important part of this next phase, but they are not the only way in which we will test our thinking.

People with direct experience of PIP bring knowledge of how the system works in real life. Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and other charities, organisations and experts bring collective experience, evidence and specialist knowledge.

We need to bring these different forms of knowledge together if we are to understand all the impacts our proposals may have and how well they will address the issues with the current system.

Alongside the workshops, we will therefore hold shaping recommendations roundtables with DPOs, charities and other organisations with relevant expertise, evidence or direct connections with D/deaf and disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. Invitations will seek to reflect the breadth of experiences, issues, evidence and perspectives that have emerged throughout the Review.

The roundtables will provide a further opportunity to test the emerging recommendations, identify gaps and unintended consequences, and explore what would be needed for proposals to work in practice.

Over the course of the Review, we have heard from a wide range of individuals, organisations and experts.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed, both for deepening our understanding of the problems with the current benefit and for helping us to think about what could make the greatest difference.

Our quantitative survey, commissioned by the steering group, closed on 17 August with approximately 2,000 responses. Analysis of those responses is now underway.

What happens next

Our task over the coming weeks is to test whether the emerging recommendations are fair, workable and capable of improving people's experience of PIP and supporting people to participate in everyday life.

We will listen carefully to what people tell us and identify where proposals need to change or require further work, feeding this back to the steering group as we move towards our final report later this autumn.

Accessibility, fairness and accountability will remain central both to the recommendations that we develop and the way in which we develop them.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE



Sharon Brennan



Rt Hon. Sir Stephen Timms MP

Co-chairs of the Timms Review