



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Timms Review Co-chair Update Letter September 2026

**Easy
Read**



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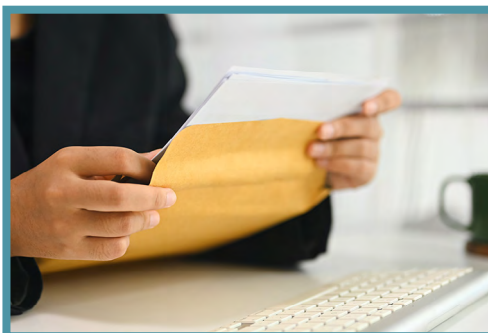
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1

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.



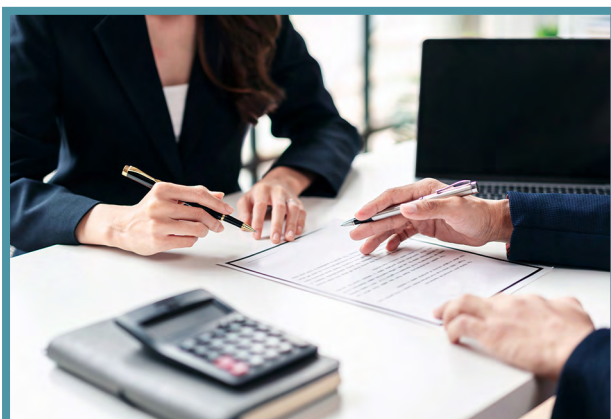
We are writing to give an update about the Review.

What this letter explains



The Review has been collecting **evidence** about what needs to change.

Evidence is information that helps us understand something and make decisions.



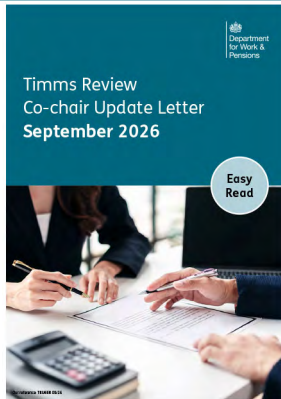
We are now testing what these changes could look like.

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

Search for **Easy Read PIP**.

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Emerging recommendations



In this update, we are sharing our emerging recommendations.



Explaining emerging recommendations

Emerging recommendations are early ideas about what should change.

They are ideas that are still being worked on.



The steering group worked on these ideas using the evidence we have heard so far.



The evidence came from:

- D/deaf and disabled people
- people with long-term health conditions
- organisations and experts in different subjects.



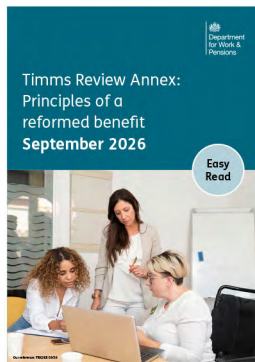
These are not our final recommendations.

They are a starting point.



We want people to test our ideas and challenge them.

This will help us improve them.



The emerging recommendations will be shared in other easy read documents with September's update.



We are also sharing them with people before the shaping recommendations workshops.



**15
September
2026**

The workshops start on 15 September 2026.



We asked people to tell us if they wanted to take part.

Nearly 4,000 people **registered their interest**.

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Explaining registered their interest

If someone has **registered their interest**, this means they told us they would like to take part.



Thank you to everyone who offered their:

- time
- experience
- knowledge.

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From evidence to emerging recommendations



The steering group used evidence collected from the start of the Review until now.



This included evidence from:

- D/deaf and disabled people
- people with long-term health conditions
- organisations and experts in different subjects



- the Call for Evidence
- Workshop in a Box.



We explained some of the evidence in our Interim Report.

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



The evidence so far shows that the current PIP system does not always do what it should.



The evidence has continued to show that PIP needs important changes.



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

- stressful
- difficult to trust
- dehumanising.

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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.

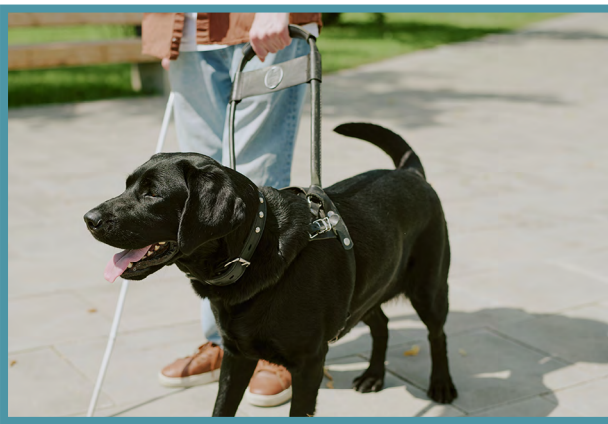
Especially people with different support and learning needs.



The emerging recommendations include ideas about improving the PIP system we have now.



They also include important rules for thinking about bigger changes in the future.



The Review is clear that PIP should continue to:

- be flexible so people can use the money for their own needs



- be non-means-tested

This means it is paid without looking at how much money or savings a person has.



- pay money towards the extra costs faced by D/deaf and disabled people, as well as people with long-term health conditions.



Our recommendations must follow the Review's **terms of reference**.

This means we follow the rules that explain what the review has to consider and what work it can do.



The rules say that future spending on PIP must stay under the level expected by the **Office for Budget Responsibility**.

They are an organisation who look at government spending, now and in the future.

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Shaping our emerging recommendations



The next part of the Review is about more than asking if people agree or disagree with our ideas.



We want to understand how the ideas would work in people's lives.



There will be 15 workshops across:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland.



People at the workshops will explore the emerging recommendations.



They will be asked:

- what ideas could work?
- what ideas may not work?



- what problems or unexpected effects could an idea cause?
- what needs to change so the ideas work fairly in real life?



The steering group will consider what people tell us at the workshops.

It will consider this information with all the other evidence collected by the Review.



This will help the steering group improve its ideas.

The steering group will then agree its final recommendations.



The steering group will send its final recommendations to the **Secretary of State**.

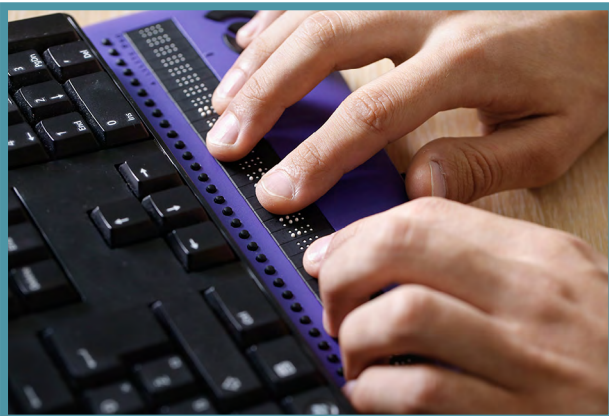
The Secretary of State is the government minister responsible for the Department for Work and Pensions.

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Hearing from different people and experts



The workshops are an important part of the next stage.



But the workshops are not the only way we will test our ideas.

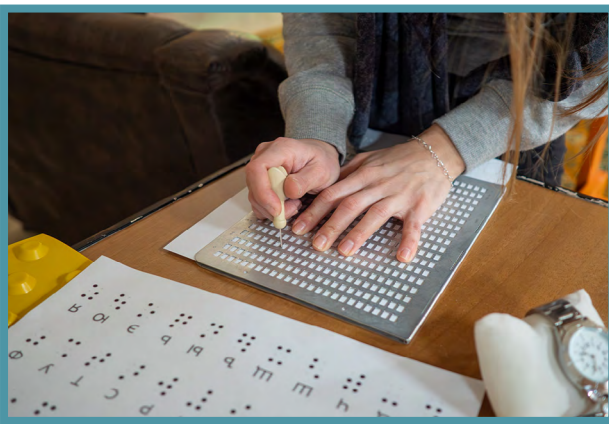


We will also hold **roundtables** with organisations, charities and other experts.

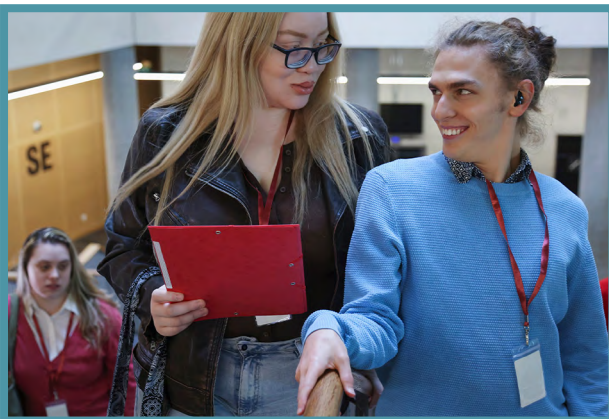
A **roundtable** is a discussion where a group of people share their knowledge and ideas.



The roundtables will include Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), charities, other organisations and experts.



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



These groups can share:

- the experiences of groups of people
- evidence
- specialist knowledge.



We will invite organisations that represent the wide range of experiences, issues and views we have heard during the Review.



They will help the Review to:

- test the emerging recommendations
- find anything that is missing
- find problems or unexpected effects
- understand what would make the ideas work in real life.



Some of these organisations work directly with D/deaf and disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.



They have already helped us understand the problems with the current PIP system during the Review.



They have also helped us think about the changes that could make the biggest difference.



Thank you to everyone who has helped the Review.

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Survey



The steering group asked for a survey of working-age disabled people.



**17 August
2026**

The survey closed on 17 August 2026.



About 2,000 people answered the survey.



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

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Explaining quantitative evidence

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



The survey team is now looking at the answers.

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What happens next and closing message



Over the next few weeks, we will test the emerging recommendations.



We need to find out if the ideas are:

- fair
- able to work in real life



- able to improve people's experience of PIP
- able to help people take part in everyday life.



We will listen carefully to what people tell us.

We will find where ideas need to change or need more work.



We will share this information with the steering group.

This will help the steering group prepare its final report later in autumn 2026.

The following things will remain important throughout our work:



- accessibility - making sure people with different support and learning needs can understand and take part



- fairness - treating people properly and making fair decisions



- accountability - explaining our decisions and taking responsibility for them



These things will guide:

- the recommendations we develop
- the way we develop the recommendations.

From the co-chairs of the Timms Review



Yours sincerely,
Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE



Sharon Brennan



Sir Stephen Timms