



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Timms Review Annex: Principles of a reformed benefit September 2026

**Easy
Read**



Contents

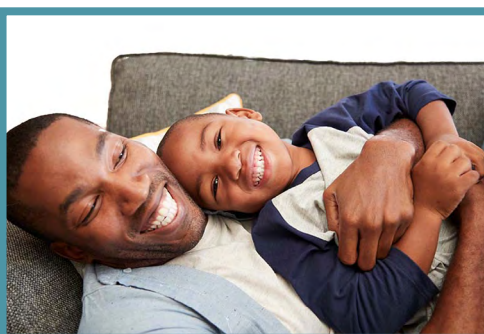
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Introduction



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The Timms Review is about a benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**.

This is called **PIP** for short.

Timms Review
Co-chair Update Letter
September 2026

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The Timms Review co-chair update letter for September 2026 talks about **emerging recommendations**.



Emerging recommendations are early ideas about what should change.

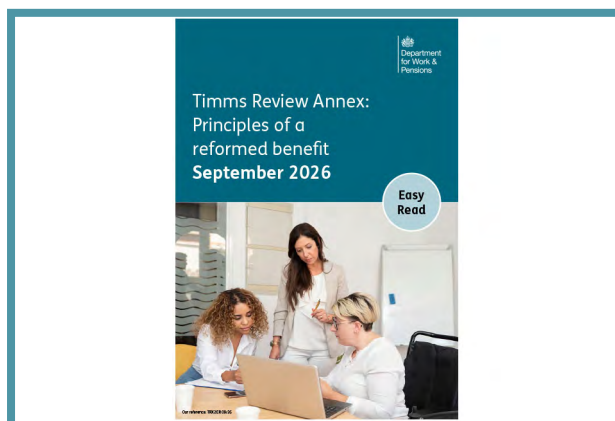
They are ideas that are still being worked on.

What this annex explains



The annex easy read documents about emerging recommendations are in 2 parts:

- 'Improvements to the current benefit'
- 'Principles of a reformed benefit'.



This part of the annex sets out the principles for a reformed benefit.

Principles are the important ideas that should guide how the benefit is designed.

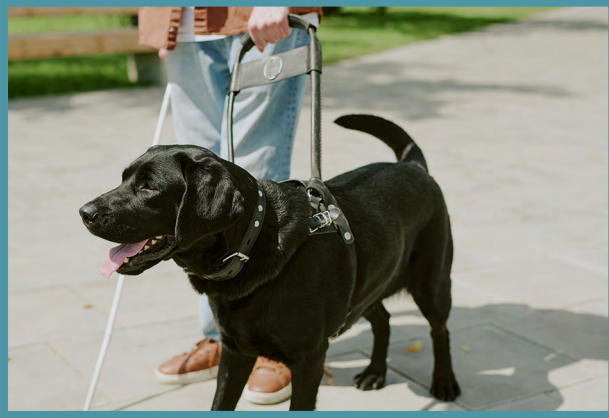


It covers:

- the overall vision
- the assessment framework
- evidence and support
- the award.

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Overall vision



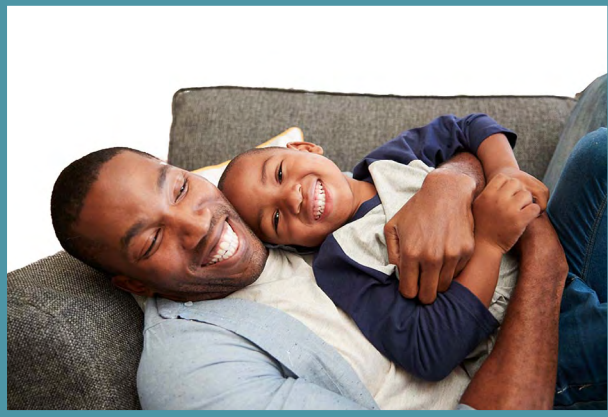
The reformed benefit will support independent living, choice and control.



It will help disabled people and people with long-term health conditions take part fully in society.



Cash will remain the main part of the award.



The award will support people to take part in everyday life.



This includes:

- work and volunteering
- caring
- other meaningful activities.



The reformed benefit will be non-means-tested.

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



It will help pay towards extra costs caused by disability or a long-term health condition.



The person will be at the centre of a fair and equitable process.

Equitable means giving each person the support they need to have a fair chance.



Everyone will have consistent rights.

Support will be tailored to each person's needs.



The process will be trusted and supportive.



It will help people explain their needs.



It will also help fill gaps in evidence when needed.



The reformed benefit will promote:

- dignity
- choice
- control.



The reformed benefit will be designed with disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.



It will be tested before it is rolled out.

Rolled out means made available to everyone who may use it.

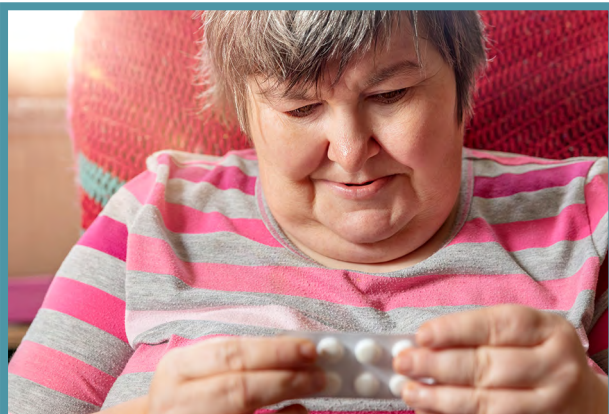
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Assessment framework



There will be a light-touch initial assessment.

Light-touch means not asking for much information.



The initial assessment will begin to understand the person's circumstances.



It will direct them to the right assessment pathway.



The initial assessment will be as simple as possible.



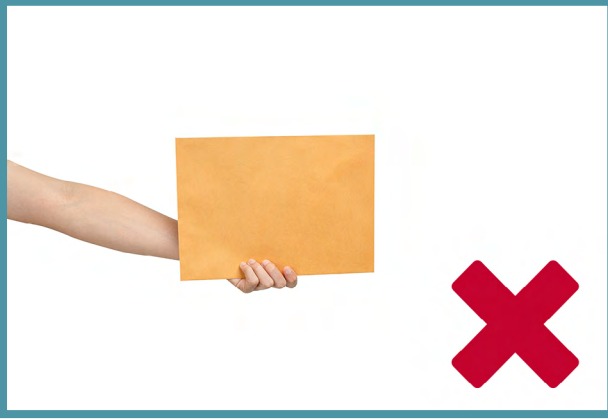
This will reduce the administrative burden.

Administrative burden means unnecessary paperwork and tasks.



There will be different assessment pathways for different groups of people.

An assessment pathway is the route a person follows through an assessment.



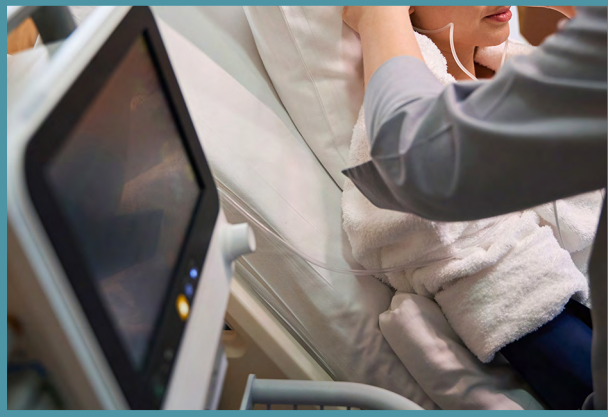
People will not have unnecessary assessments when the evidence is clear.



More detailed conversations will happen when needed.



These will help assessors understand the person's circumstances.



There could be a fast-track pathway for people with clear evidence of a serious condition.

Fast-track means the process happens more quickly.



Assessment pathways will be flexible.

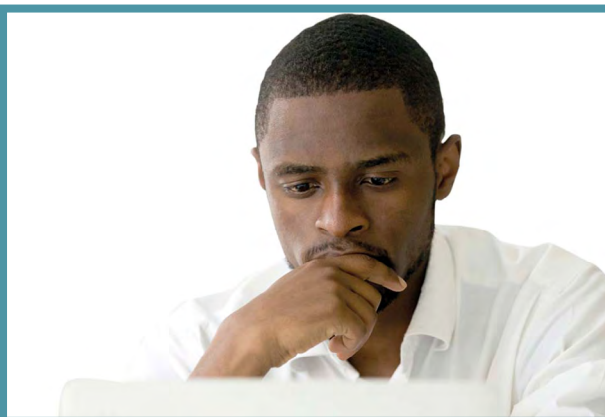


A person-shaped interview could be available when:

- their situation is complex
- evidence is missing
- they need more support.



Person-shaped means the interview is planned around the person's needs.



Every assessment pathway will consider fluctuating and cumulative impacts.

Fluctuating impacts change over time.

Cumulative impacts build up when different effects happen together.



The assessment will not only look at one moment in the person's life.

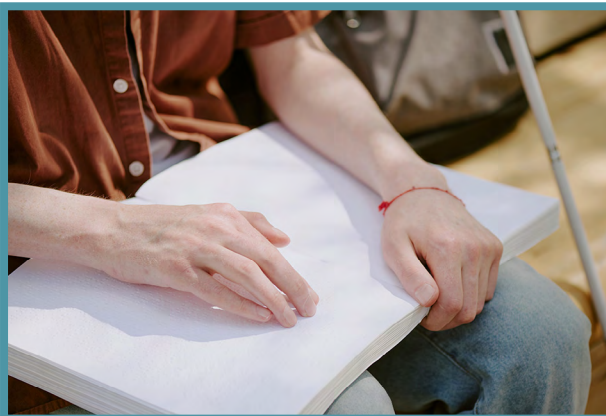
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Evidence and support



Reasonable adjustments will be part of the whole process.

Reasonable adjustments are changes that remove barriers for disabled people.



This will follow the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 is a law that protects all people from unfair treatment.



The process will follow the Tell Us Once principle.

This means people should not have to give the same information again and again.



Each person will have one digital profile if they give permission.



The profile will record important evidence about their circumstances.



It will start at the initial assessment.
It will be updated throughout the process.



Information will be reused so people are not asked for the same information again and again.



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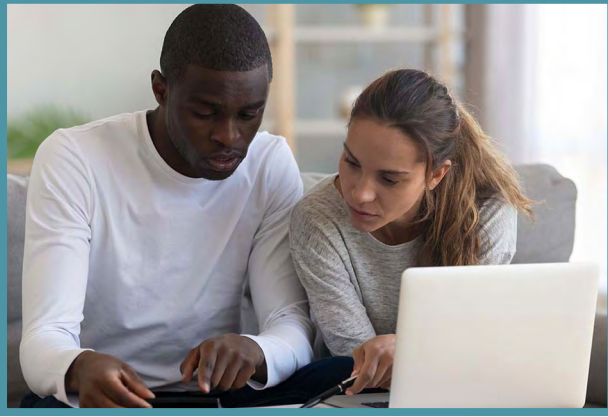
DWP may use relevant evidence already held by:

- DWP
- the NHS
- social care services.



This will only happen with the person's permission.

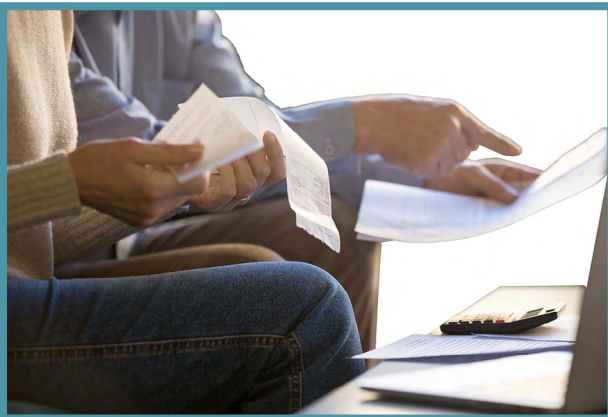
The evidence will help inform the decision.



Many types of evidence will be accepted.



This includes reports from mental health professionals or social workers.



It also includes information from:

- carers
- family
- friends
- other people who know the person.



People will not need to know exactly what to ask for.



They will not have to provide all the evidence without help.

The process will help find missing evidence.



It will also identify the support each person needs.



People who find it difficult to explain their needs will get support.



This includes people with learning disabilities.



Support and advocacy will be available throughout the process.

An advocate is someone who helps a person understand the process and explain their needs.

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The award



The award will be non-means-tested.

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



Cash will remain the main part of the award.



Some awards will also include services.

They may also include other support that is not cash.



The award will contribute fairly towards extra costs caused by disability and long-term health conditions.



It will consider fluctuating and cumulative impacts.

Fluctuating impacts change over time.

Cumulative impacts build up when different effects happen together.



Cost categories could help decide the person's award.



Cost categories are groups of similar extra costs.



They could include:

- equipment and aids
- mobility and transport
- clothing and bedding.



People will be directed to other useful information and support.

This is called signposting.