



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Timms Review Co-chair Update Letter October 2026

**Easy
Read**



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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 is nearly finished.

We have collected **evidence** and listened to many of you.

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



We are writing to:

- explain what we have heard
- thank everyone who has helped
- explain what happens next.

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

Search for **Easy Read PIP**.

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What PIP should do



The steering group has agreed what PIP should do.



PIP should help:

- D/deaf and disabled people
- people with long-term health conditions.



PIP should help people with extra costs caused by disability or long-term health conditions.

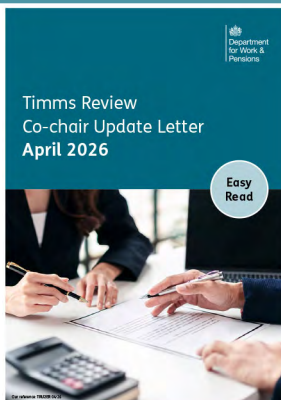
This should apply whether or not a person is in work.

3

What we have heard



We have finished the 6 activities we used to collect evidence.



We explained these activities in our update letter in April 2026.



The activities helped us understand:

- how well PIP does what it should at the moment
- how PIP could work better in the future.

The 6 evidence activities



1. Call for evidence

We asked people to send us information about their experiences and views.



2. Looking at existing research and data

We studied information and research that already existed.



3. A new quantitative survey

A quantitative survey collects information that can be shown in numbers.



4. Workshop in a Box sessions

Groups used materials from the Review to discuss PIP and share their views.



5. Evidence sessions with experts

Experts shared their knowledge with the Review.



6. Shaping recommendations workshops

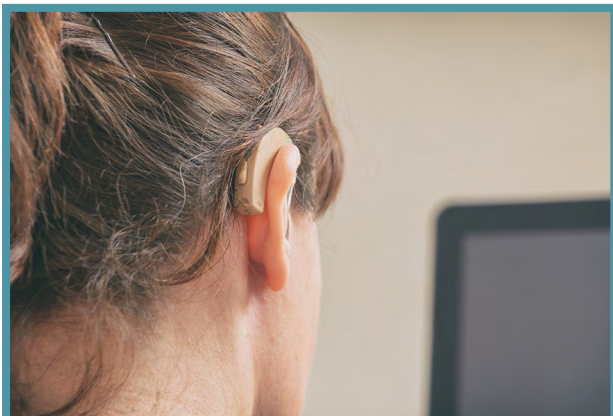
People tested our early ideas and helped us improve them.

Writing our interim report



We received 38,000 responses to the call for evidence.

These responses helped us write our interim report.



The responses gave us a clear message.

Many people value PIP, but it is not fit for purpose.



This means it does not work well enough or do everything it should do.



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.

Developing our early ideas



We used evidence to develop 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 evidence came from:

- the call for evidence
- research from disability organisations, universities and government
- new information from workshop in a box.



Experts gave us valuable evidence in 26 sessions.

They spoke to us directly about their knowledge and experience.



Almost 2,000 disabled people answered our survey.

Their answers will help shape our final recommendations.



People have been open and generous when sharing their knowledge with us.

Some people shared evidence from their own lives.



Other people shared professional, **academic** or **policy** knowledge.



Academic knowledge comes from study and research.



Policy knowledge means knowing how government services are set up and how they work.



Together, these different views helped us understand:

- what works well about PIP
- where PIP may need to change.



Thank you to everyone who offered their:

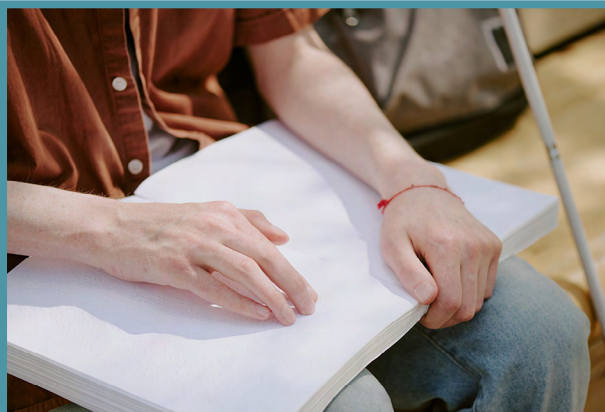
- time
- experience
- knowledge.

4

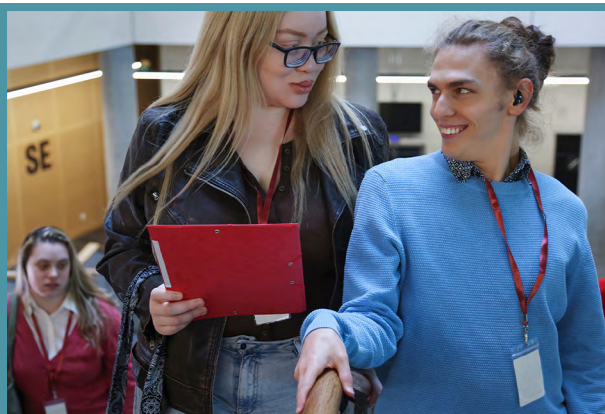
Shaping the recommendations



We published our emerging recommendations in September.



Since then, we have tested them with more than 200 people.



We held workshops across the country.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us improve the recommendations.

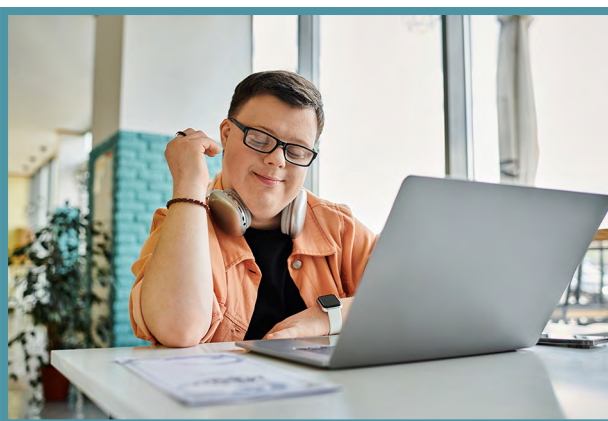
The workshops



People at the workshops helped us understand how the ideas might work in real life.



They also helped us understand how the ideas might affect different people.



They:

- challenged some of our thinking
- agreed with some of our thinking
- found risks or things that were missing.



Thank you to the organisations that co-hosted the workshops.

They helped create places where people felt comfortable sharing their experiences.



The co-hosts did not develop or change the Review's emerging recommendations.



The co-hosts helped us hear directly from people at the workshops.

Their support played a huge role.

Roundtables



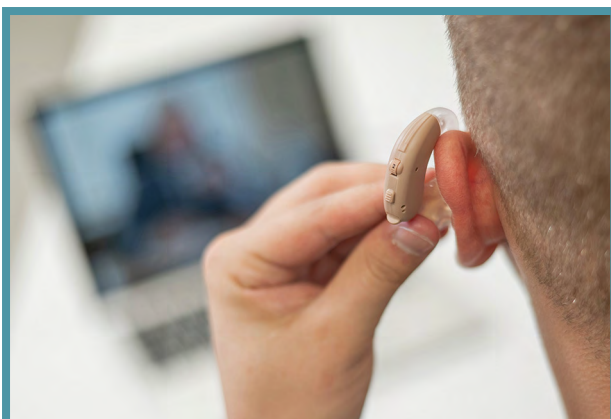
We also held **roundtables** with organisations, charities and other experts.

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



These included:

- D/deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs)
- charities
- think tanks
- academics.



DDPOs are organisations led and controlled by D/deaf and disabled people.

Think tanks are organisations that research issues and suggest ideas for change.



More than 40 organisations and experts took part.



The workshops and roundtables helped us test:

- how the ideas would work in real life
- how the ideas might affect different people.



Many people challenged our thinking.

Some agreed with our ideas.

Other people found risks or things we had missed.



This evidence is helping us improve our recommendations.

It has helped us understand which ideas could make the biggest difference.



It has also shown us where we may need:

- stronger **safeguards**
- a different approach.

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Explaining safeguards

Safeguards are rules or actions that protect people from harm or unfair treatment.

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What happens next and closing message



We will now improve our recommendations using all the evidence we have heard.



We want our proposals to be:

- ambitious
- practical and fair
- able to make a real improvement to people's lives.



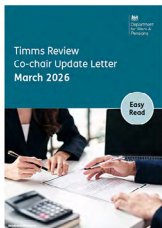
This is our last co-chair update before we publish our final report.



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

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

Large print



The final report will be published on GOV.UK.

It will be available in accessible formats.



We could not make recommendations without the people who contributed to the Review.

Thank you for your experience, knowledge and challenge.



What people told us helped shape:

- the evidence we considered
- the questions we asked
- the difficult choices we explored
- the recommendations we are developing.



Explaining difficult choices

There are times when improving one thing can make another thing harder.

The Review considered these **difficult choices** carefully.

From the co-chairs of the Timms Review



Yours sincerely,
Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE



Sharon Brennan



Sir Stephen Timms