

Derbyshire Welfare Rights Service

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

What is it?

PIP replaces Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people who have an illness or disability which means they have needs for help with daily living and/or mobility.

PIP can be claimed by someone aged over 16 and under state retirement pension age.

PIP is a non-taxable benefit, and can be paid on top of other benefits or income. It can be claimed whether you are in or out of work, and your income and savings are not taken into account when PIP is assessed.

What if I already get DLA?

All DLA awards are gradually being reassessed as PIP awards. This includes lifetime and indefinite awards. If you are still receiving DLA and you were under 65 on 8/4/13, you will eventually be invited to replace your DLA claim with PIP, even if you have a 'lifetime' or 'indefinite' award.

However - if you get DLA and you were born before 8th April 1948 (i.e. you were 65 on before 8th April 2013) you are not affected by this change.

DLA awards may continue for some time yet, but if you report a change in your condition (for instance a deterioration) or you come to the end of a fixed-term award or you are about to turn 16, you will be invited to claim PIP, and between now and early 2021 (when all claims are due to have moved to PIP) you may receive an invitation to claim PIP even if there is no change in your circumstances.

Please contact the helpline for further advice on the change-over to PIP.

I get Attendance Allowance, am I affected?

No.

My child aged under 16 gets DLA, is s/he affected?

This change only affects those aged 16 or over. However, if you have a child who receives DLA and who will be 16 soon, you will receive an 'invitation' to claim PIP. See below.

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Will my claim be transferred to PIP automatically?

No. You will need to make a claim.

When your claim is to be transferred over to PIP you will receive a letter inviting you to claim the new benefit.

If you are claiming for a child who is reaching 16, you will be contacted to ask if you want to claim PIP.

It is very important to reply to the letter or to seek help at this point. You will have 4 weeks to apply for PIP, and if you do not do so, your DLA claim will be suspended and then brought to an end.

If you cannot respond in time, contact PIP to ask for more time. Contact our helpline for further advice.

What is PIP made up of?

Daily Living Component

This assesses 'ability to carry out daily living activities' which may be affected by physical or mental health problems - such as making a simple meal, coping with eating and drinking, managing personal health needs, washing and bathing, dressing and undressing, managing toilet needs/incontinence, communicating verbally, reading and understanding signs/symbols/words, engaging with people face to face, and making simple or complex budgeting decisions.

Mobility Component

This assesses 'ability to carry out mobility activities' which may be affected by physical or mental health problems – your ability to stand up and walk both inside and outside your home. Mobility activities include the ability to plan and follow a journey, and whether you need someone else with you.

Standard and Enhanced Rates

The 'daily living' and 'mobility' components will each have two rates:

Standard Rate – if you have limited ability to carry out daily living activities and/or mobility.

Enhanced Rate – if you have a severely limited ability to carry out daily living activities and/or mobility.

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How much is PIP?

Daily Living Component:

Standard Rate:	£59.70
Enhanced Rate:	£89.15

Mobility Component:

Standard Rate:	£23.60
Enhanced Rate:	£62.25

How is PIP assessed?

PIP works on a 'points' system. Your answers about your illness or disability will be checked against a set of 'descriptors' – daily living and mobility activities which you can or cannot carry out in a 'reliable, safe and timely manner'. The assessment should look at how you are on most days – not, for instance, unusually good or bad days.

Each 'descriptor' has a set of points attached to it – from 0 if you have no problem, to 4, 8, 10 or even 12 points if you have increasingly severe difficulties.

You can score points if you need to use aids and adaptations in order to carry out an activity.

The list of 'activities' and descriptors' is at the back of this leaflet.

As an example, look at 'moving around' under the mobility activities:

- If you can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided you get 0 points
- If you can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided you get 4 points
- If you can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres you get 8 points.
- If you can stand and then move, using an aid or appliance, more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres you get 10 points
- If you can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, with aided or unaided or you cannot stand or move more than 1 metre you get 12 points

You will have to score at least **8 points for the standard rate** and **12 or more for the enhanced rate**.

Claiming PIP

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Unlike with most other benefits, Welfare Rights cannot send you a claim form for PIP, but if you wish to send a claim form to us for checking and for us to keep a copy of the form on your behalf, please contact the Helpline.

You can start a claim for PIP by phone –

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Textphone: 0800 917 7777

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

You'll be asked for information such as:

- your contact details and date of birth
- your National Insurance number
- bank or building society details
- doctor's or health worker's name
- details of any time you've spent abroad, or in a care home or hospital

Someone else can call on your behalf, but you'll need to be with them when they call so that PIP may obtain your permission for the call to be made.

If you can't use the phone, you may write asking for a form to send the above information by post. This can delay the decision on your claim: seek advice if this causes problems.

Personal Independence Payment New Claims

Post Handling Site B

Wolverhampton

WV99 1AH

Once you have begun your claim, DWP will send you a form, the PIP2 - 'How your condition affects you'. It comes with notes to help you fill it in.

See also our advice leaflet 'Filling in the 'how your disability affects you' form'

Medical Assessment

A health professional working for the DWP will look at your claim and at any medical evidence that you provide from your GP or consultant.

You are likely to be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation, after which a 'decision maker' at the Department for Work and Pensions will make the decision on your claim.

Failure to provide information that you are asked for or to attend a medical examination without good cause may lead to the refusal of your claim.

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People who are terminally ill will not be required to have a face-to-face consultation

People who have the most severe disabilities may not need a face-to-face consultation – seek advice if you are having problems with asking for your case to be considered without a consultation

How long do I get PIP for?

The length of any award will be based on your needs and the likelihood of your condition changing.

If you have a PIP award that runs to a fixed date, you may find that you are asked to fill in new forms quite some time before the award is due to stop. It is DWP policy to check awards in this way, and your award letter will usually tell you the date after which you may expect this to happen.

If you claim PIP before you are of state retirement age you will continue to get it after that date providing you still meet the criteria. If you are of state pension age and still getting PIP, your benefit may only be reviewed every ten years.

Will PIP be affected if I go into hospital or a care home?

PIP 'daily living' component will not be paid (though your claim does not stop) after 28 days in a care home, unless you are funding your own stay.

PIP mobility component is not affected.

If you are 18 years old or over and you are a hospital in-patient, you will not be paid either component of PIP after 28 days. Your claim does not stop and payments can be re-started when you are no longer a patient.

If you have already been in hospital or care recently, your PIP may stop earlier as periods in hospital/care separated by less than 28 days link together and count as one period

If you are under 18 when you go in to hospital, payment will continue.

If you are terminally ill and in a hospice, you need to advise DWP of the situation in writing so that PIP may continue.

You should always tell the PIP office at once when you go into care of hospital – this will avoid you being over-paid benefit.

Tell PIP promptly when you come home, as payments can then be re-started.

Seek advice on how the hospital or care rules apply to you, as they are quite detailed and the above is just a general summary.

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Also seek advice if you receive other benefits as well as PIP – they may be affected when PIP payments stop.

Can my carer still get Carer's Allowance?

Yes – Carer's Allowance is payable to your carer if you are getting either of the daily living components of PIP and they spend at least 35 hours a week looking after you.

Where can I get more information?

From the Benefits Helpline (see below)

Online: in the 'Disability and carers' benefits' section of the Derbyshire County Council website

Or at <https://www.gov.uk/pip>

To keep up-to-date with benefit changes in Derbyshire go to
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/benefitnews

Additional information can be found on our website, visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/welfarebenefits

Benefits Helpline – 01629 531535 or email
welfarebenefits@derbyshire.gov.uk

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
11.00am – 4.00pm

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THIS IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT A CLAIM FORM

DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES

Column 1 Activity	Column 2 Descriptors	Column 3 Points
1. Preparing Food	a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	2
	c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave.	2
	d. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	2
	e. Needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal.	4
	f. Cannot prepare and cook food.	8
2. Taking nutrition	a. Can take nutrition unaided.	0
	b. Needs – i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition; or ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition; or iii) assistance to be able to cut up food.	2
	c. Needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition.	2
	d. Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition.	4
	e. Needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition.	6
	f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so.	10

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3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition.	a. Either –	0
	i) Does not receive medication or therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or	
	ii) Can manage medication or therapy or monitor a health condition unaided.	
	b. Needs any one or more of the following:	1
	i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication	
	ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication	
	iii) supervision, prompting or assistance to monitor a health condition	
	c. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week.	2
	d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week.	4
	e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week.	6
	f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours.	8
4. Washing and Bathing	a. Can wash and bathe unaided	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe.	2
	c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe.	2
	d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist.	2
	e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower.	3

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	f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist.	4
	g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body.	8
5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence	a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence.	2
	c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs.	2
	d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs.	4
	e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel.	6
	f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel.	8
6. Dressing and undressing	a. Can dress and undress unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to dress or undress.	2
	c. Needs either –	2
	(i) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or	
	(ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing.	
	d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body	2
	e. needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body	4
	f. cannot dress or undress at all	8

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7. Communicating verbally	a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear.	2
	c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information.	4
	d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information.	8
	e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support.	12
8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words	a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information.	2
	c. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information.	2
	d. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information.	4
	e. Cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all.	8
9. Engaging with other people face to face	a. Can engage with other people unaided.	0
	b. Needs prompting to be able to engage with other people.	2
	c. Needs social support to be able to engage with other people.	4
	d. Cannot engage with other people due to such engagement causing either –	8
	(i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; or (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person.	

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10. Making budgeting decisions	a. Can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided.	0
	b. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions.	2
	c. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions.	4
	d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all.	6

MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

Column 1 Activity	Column 2 Descriptors	Column 3 Points
1. Planning and following journeys	a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided.	0
	b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	4
	c. Cannot plan the route of a journey.	8
	d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid.	10
	e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	10
	f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid.	12
2. Moving around	a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided.	0
	b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided.	4
	c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	8
	d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10

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- e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided. **12**
- f. Cannot, either aided or unaided – **12**
 - (i) Stand; or
 - (ii) Move more than 1 metre.