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The Government's latest ideas about the new PIP Assessment:

Our members affected by this assessment are in the 60 – 65 age brackets, and are often living with multiple conditions leading to disability, which is likely to worsen with time. They are extremely worried about the effects of this new assessment.

Questions being asked are:

Half a million people are to be taken off or not be eligible for a benefit that is already difficult to obtain. Why is it considered that these people no longer need support to live with their disabilities?

Will the company chosen to deal with the new assessment be given bonuses for taking people off PIP leading to an expensive appeals system in which those cases that do meet the criteria are reinstated, though often at great cost to their mental wellbeing?

The Governments latest ideas about the daily living activities:

Whether the government's ideas on this are reasonable or not will depend on the interpretation of the company chosen for the assessments and even their individual operators. As it stands at the moment, the allocation of points could be open to individual interpretation.

More thought needs to be given to these ideas

The Government's latest ideas about the mobility activities:

Under the Motability scheme members who are unable to use, or get to public transport, are able to have use of a reliable car. Our members typically may also have an older and less able carer. Under the new system the weighting given to whether someone can plan a journey means that many will be left housebound as they will no longer qualify for a vehicle if they can actually plan their journeys. This will leave them socially isolated, unable to access their churches, libraries, go shopping for themselves etc leading to more demand for help from social services.

More thought needs to be given to these ideas to take into account a person's physical ability to undertake a journey which would be necessary and beneficial should they make it, rather than planning a journey, which to the individual may be neither necessary nor desirable to undertake.

Dealing with health conditions that are sometimes better sometimes worse:

It is an improvement that the government is now looking at a person's health condition over the course of a year.

Ideas about the meanings of the words:

Again still open to interpretation, though a step in the right direction. Since the government is looking at an overall period of 12 months, is it implicit that the words are for the times when a condition is active?

Some changes need to be made to this, and the meaning should be in the regulations

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