



Personal Independence Payment

The government's ideas about the points you need to get benefit, and assessment questions

Tell us what you think

February 2012



Easy Read

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Important

Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in normal green writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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What has already happened

The government is planning to change **Disability Living Allowance** to a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment** from 2013.

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need.

Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled.



Personal Independence Payment – tell us what you think

The government wants to find new and better ways to work out who gets Personal Independence Payment. This will be done through an **assessment**.

Assessment

This is a method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get Personal Independence Payment. It looks at 11 everyday activities, and points may be given based how well a person can or cannot do those things.

The assessment rules will make sure Personal Independence Payment goes to the people who need it most.



The government told people about its first ideas for Personal Independence Payment and the assessment rules in a booklet called About the Personal Independence Payment assessment. Tell us what you think. It then had a **consultation** to find out what people thought about the ideas.

Consultation

This is when the government asks people what they think about its ideas and plans.

Many people and groups got in touch and they had some good ideas to make Personal Independence Payment better.

As a result, the government made some changes to its assessment.



On 14 November 2011 the government sent out a second booklet about the changes it had made as a result of the consultation. The booklet was called About the Personal Independence Payment assessment. What people told us.

The booklet included the government's ideas about working out the points system for the 11 everyday activities the assessment is based on.

What this booklet is about

This booklet is the government's second consultation about the assessment for Personal Independence Payment. It asks what you think about

- the government's ideas about the points system.
- the government's ideas about the points you need to get benefit.
- the changes the government has made as a result of the first consultation.



The payment's make up

Personal Independence Payment will be made up of 2 parts.

- A **Daily living component**.

Daily living component

This is an amount that may be paid to someone who has extra living costs because of a disability.

- A **Mobility component**.

Mobility component

This is an amount that may be paid to someone who has extra costs of getting out and about because of a disability.



Depending on their assessment, a disabled person may get the daily living component only, the mobility component only, or the Daily living component **and** the mobility component.

The points system

The government thinks that the assessment for Personal Independence Payment should be made using a points system based on 9 daily living activities and 2 mobility activities.

All the activities and the number of points that could be given in the assessment are shown on the next page.

- People assessed at fewer than 8 points for either the daily living component or the mobility component should not get any Personal Independence Payment at all.
- People assessed at 8 points or more for either the daily living component or the mobility component should get Personal Independence Payment. Personal Independence Payment should then be paid at a standard rate or an enhanced rate, depending on the number of points in their assessment.

The standard rate and the enhanced rate

There will be 2 rates of Personal Independence Payment – a standard rate and an enhanced rate. People will get

- the standard rate daily living component if their assessment gives them 8–11 points for the daily living activities.
- the standard rate mobility component if their assessment gives them 8–11 points for the mobility activities.
- the enhanced rate daily living component if their assessment gives them 12 points or more for the daily living activities.
- the enhanced rate mobility component if their assessment gives them 12 points or more for the mobility activities.

Daily living activities and their points

- Preparing and cooking food – up to 8 points.



- Feeding and drinking – up to 10 points.
- Taking medicines, looking after health and doing treatments a health expert says are important – up to 8 points.
- Keeping clean and getting ready – up to 8 points.
- Using the toilet and controlling body waste in other ways – up to 8 points.
- Dressing and undressing – up to 8 points.
- Talking and listening to others, and reading information – up to 12 points.
- Taking part with other people – up to 8 points.
- Making decisions about money – up to 6 points.

Mobility activities and their points

- Planning a journey and following the plan – up to 15 points.
- Moving around – up to 15 points.

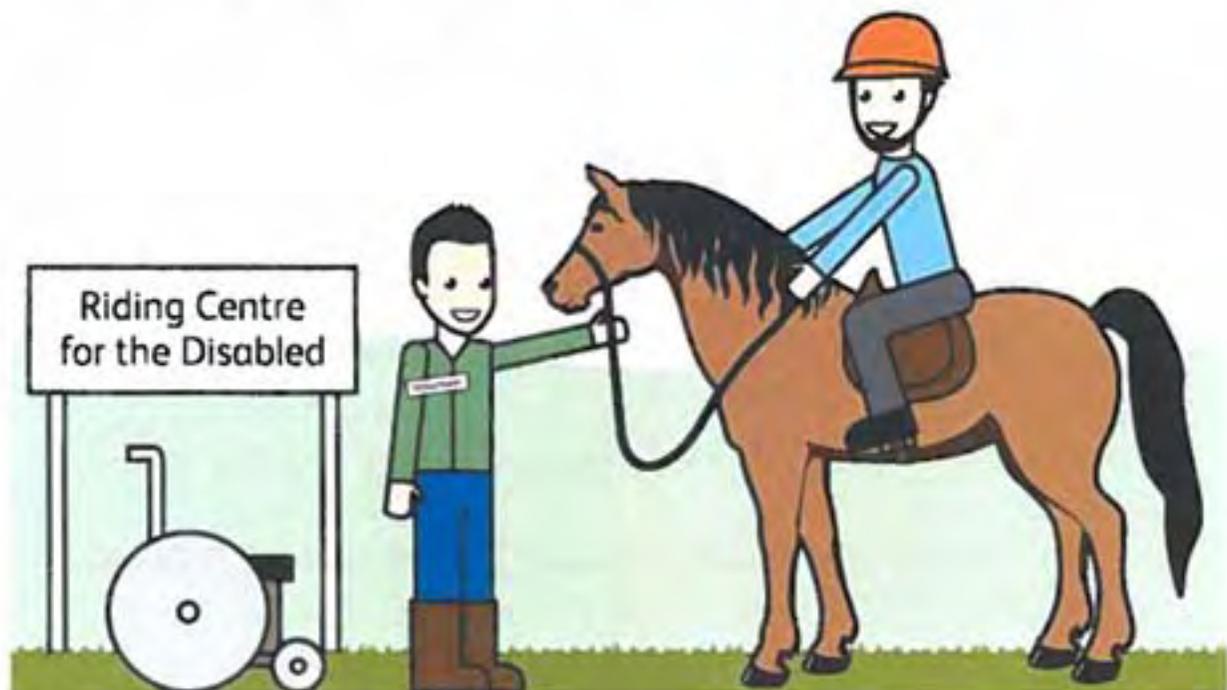
What these changes mean

The change to Personal Independence Payment in 2013 will only affect people aged 16 to 64.

This is what the government has worked out.

- If we didn't change Disability Living Allowance in 2013, by the end of March 2016 there would be 2,200,000 people aged between 16 to 64 getting it.
- The change to Personal Independence Payment will mean that, by the end of March 2016, there will be 1,700,000 people aged between 16 to 64 getting it.

So, by the end of March 2016, half a million fewer people aged 16 to 64 will be getting Personal Independence Payment than would have been getting Disability Living Allowance.



Dealing with changing conditions

A person's health condition or disability may sometimes be a little better, and sometimes a little worse.

To make sure the assessment takes this into account, the government thinks that the assessment should look at how a condition or disability affects a person's daily life or mobility over a 12-month period.



If the person's health condition or disability affects them enough to get assessment points for

- at least half the year (183 days or more), the points should be taken into account in the assessment for the full year.
- less than half the year (182 days or less), the points should not be taken into account in the assessment at all.

If a person's health condition or disability affects them enough to get points during any part of the day, the assessment should treat those part days as full days.

Doing things safely and on time

The government thinks that the person doing the assessment should always think about whether a person can do an activity 'safely, reliably, repeatedly and in a timely fashion'.

- **Safely** means that, when doing the activity, the person is unlikely to hurt themselves or other people.
- **Reliably** means that the person can do the activity in an acceptable way.
- **Repeatedly** means the person can do the activity as many times as needed during the day.
- **In a timely fashion** means the person can do the activity in less than twice the time it would take a person without a condition or disability.



Consultation

The government wants to be sure the assessment rules are right so it is consulting disabled people and disability groups about its ideas for the assessment of Personal Independence Payment. This started on 16 January 2012 and ends on 30 April 2012.



You can tell the government what you think about any of the ideas shown in this booklet or in the booklet shown on page 6. But the government would also like you to answer the 9 questions shown on pages 16 to 21.

To answer the 9 questions you will need to look at 3 things.

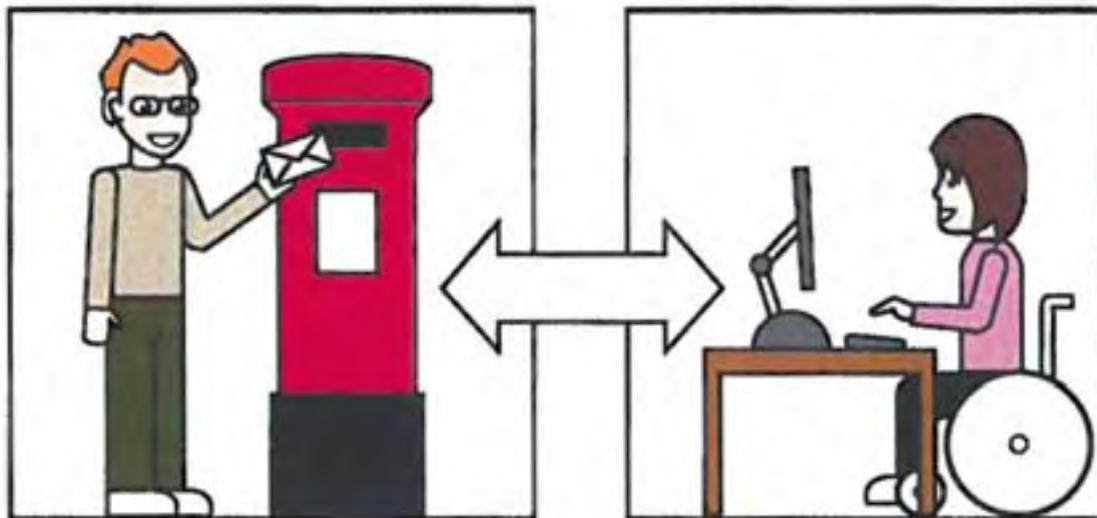
- this booklet.
- the booklet called Personal Independence payment: second draft of assessment criteria – this was also written as an easy read booklet called About Personal Independence Payment assessment. What people told us.
- the draft regulations – these will become part of the law about Personal Independence Payment. Because of this, they are written in a special way and you may need extra help from someone to understand them.

Personal Independence Payment – tell us what you think

You can tell us what you think in 2 ways. You can

- send an email to PIP.assessment@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- post a letter to

Department for Work and Pensions
2nd Floor – Area B
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NA



Consultation questions

Question 1 – What do you think of the government's latest ideas about the daily living activities?

This hasn't listed everything that is in a person's daily life. The people we support have learning disabilities and they need help with personal admin such as booking holidays & going out & about.

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

Yes - people need help with more than making decisions about money. They also need help with making appointments to see the bank / help with the organisation of direct debits / booking holidays etc.

Question 2 – What do you think of the government's ideas about the points allowed for daily living activities and the points you need to get this component?

- It is not clear how the points relate to money.
- There is worry & concern that people we support will get less money or support than they currently receive.
- Points system is not very clear.

Personal Independence Payment – tell us what you think

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

Yes. There are no points for day to day admin or an allowance for unexpected issues or emergencies.

Question 3 – What do you think of the government's latest ideas about the mobility activities?

Should include accessing services such as doctors, hospitals & opticians

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

Yes - include support for accessing services especially health.

No allowance for different need levels at different times.

Eg - might need to attend hospital more than once one week, and another time attend 1 time another.

If you need more space to give us your answer, see page 21.

Department for Work and Pensions

Question 4 – What do you think of the government's ideas about the points allowed for mobility activities and the points you need to get this component?

This seems fair - but concerned how the points translates to finances.

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

No comment

Question 5 – What do you think of what the regulations say about deciding who can get the payment?

No comment

If you need more space to give us your answer, see page 21.

Personal Independence Payment – tell us what you think

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

No

Question 6 – What do you think of the government's ideas for dealing with health conditions that are sometimes a little better and sometimes a little worse?

This is very difficult to understand. This has not been communicated well & needs a re-think.

Who makes the decision to stop or start a benefit?

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

Yes - see above.

If you need more space to give us your answer, see page 21.

Department for Work and Pensions

Question 7 - What do you think of the government's ideas about the meanings of the following words - safely, reliably, repeatedly and in a timely fashion?

Safely - OK

Reliable - not OK. It is not about "acceptance" it's about being able to be trusted to do the task.

Repeatedly - OK

In a timely fashion - not clear - needs rewording.

Does the government need to make more changes to this?
Should the meanings be in the regulations?

- ① make changes - yes. See above
- ② in regulations - no as these are too open to interpretation

Question 8 - What do you think about the way the regulations show the meanings of words?

Some of the words are hard to understand and could be simplified eg: component

Personal Independence Payment – tell us what you think

Does the government need to make more changes to this?

Yes. ~~see~~ see above.

Question 9 – Do you want to say anything else about the draft regulations?

They are very difficult to understand – esp paragraph 4 section 8 paras i, ii & iii which relates to the qualifying time periods. Even with Easy Read there is confusion & the pictures do not relate to the text.

Does the government need to make more changes?

Yes. Put in plain English.

General comment:

PIP seems to be designed for people with physical disabilities, some mental learning disabilities.

If you need more space to give us your answer, please continue on a piece of paper making sure the paper shows which question you are answering.

Word list

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This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need 4

Mobility component

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Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled 4

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Or you can write to

The National Archives
Kew
London
TW9 4DU

Or email your questions to psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

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Copies of the full report can be made available in other formats on request. Our contact details are shown below.

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