



Department
for Transport

Guidance to local authorities on assessing eligibility of disabled people in England for concessionary bus travel

Version 1.2

Valid from 8th April 2013

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Introduction

The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) was introduced in April 2008 to provide free England-wide off-peak bus travel to eligible older and disabled people. Local buses are the most commonly used mode of public transport, and the purpose of providing free local bus travel England-wide is to ensure that no older or disabled person in England need be prevented from bus travel by cost alone. For many older and disabled people a free local bus service can be a lifeline, providing access to healthcare and other essential services as well as allowing people to visit family and friends, stay active and avoid isolation.

In 2008 the Department for Transport (DfT) published its guidance document to aid local authorities in assessing the eligibility of disabled applicants for the ENCTS. This revised version has been updated to reflect changes in state benefits for disabled people and will enable authorities to continue providing access to concessionary travel on the basis of automatic entitlement wherever possible.

Version 1.2 will replace the previous Guidance (though not the guidance addendum "*Guidance on assessing the eligibility of Service Personnel and Veterans for the England National Concessionary Travel Scheme*") from the 8th April 2013, coinciding with the launch of the Government's new benefit for disabled people.

The Government has recently announced important reforms to the welfare system. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) will be introduced for people who are aged 16 to 64 on or after 8th April 2013. The new benefit will be introduced for new claims in a limited geographic area, in the North West and part of the North East of England, from April 2013, before the DWP expect to take new PIP claims in all remaining areas of Great Britain from June 2013. The DWP has published a final implementation timetable; this sets out that the reassessment of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) recipients will be undertaken on a significantly slower timetable with the peak period of reassessments starting from October 2015. Therefore, whilst some disabled people will begin presenting PIP award letters as evidence of concessionary travel entitlement from Spring 2013, others will continue to use their DLA claim for some time to come. Advice on evidencing a continuing DLA claim is provided at Annex A.

We will aim to update this guidance to reflect any future changes in the timetable for the implementation of PIP, further details of which may be found on the Department of Work and Pensions' website, at:

www.gov.uk/pip

To reflect the introduction of PIP, and to allow for the passporting of eligibility for concessionary travel for disabled people in certain categories, we have amended the guidance at several points, including:

- 1 Adding specific awards (against specific activity criteria) of PIP to the applicable list of state benefit components, and reflecting this in the guidance for assessing applicants; and
- 2 Updating the guidance on assessing eligibility for the statutory concession on the basis of ability to walk or to speak, informed by the introduction of PIP.

A number of minor formatting and typographical adjustments as well as some updates to reflect changes in the law have also been made to aid clarity, however no further substantive amendments have been introduced. The Department continually reviews the effectiveness of its policy and guidance documents, and a more comprehensive revision may be released in due course.

Administering the Concession

The all-England Concession

1. The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act') provides for a statutory guarantee of free off-peak travel for eligible older and disabled people on local bus services anywhere in England ('the national concession'). Provisions in the 2007 Act have been commenced to enable the national concession to begin on 1 April 2008.
2. The 2007 Act modifies existing legislation which guarantees free off-peak local bus travel in England only within the area of the local authority in which an eligible person resides. The grant of concessions is governed outside Greater London by sections 145 to 150 of the Transport Act 2000 ('the 2000 Act') and within London by sections 240 to 244 of, and Schedule 16 to, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 ('the 1999 Act').

Outside Greater London

3. The 2000 Act requires the operator of a bus service to provide the statutory minimum to any person holding a 'statutory travel concession permit'. Local authorities which are 'travel concession authorities' must issue a permit free of charge to any applicant who appears to that authority to be an 'elderly or disabled person' residing in its area. An 'elderly person', for the purposes of the 2000 Act (as amended), is a woman of pensionable age, or a man of the pensionable age of a woman born on the same day¹. The pensionable age for women is due to rise from 60 to 65 by 2018. For the purposes of the 2000 Act, disabled people are defined by reference to seven categories (section 146).

Greater London

4. The 1999 Act has the effect of requiring London local authorities to agree uniform arrangements with Transport for London under which travel concessions are extended to older people and to disabled people in the same categories as those listed in the 2000 Act. Failure to reach

¹ The definition of "elderly person" in section 146 of the 2000 Act was amended by the Travel Concessions (Eligibility) Act 2002. The Travel Concessions (Eligibility) (England) Order 2010, made under that Act, substituted the age of an elderly person with references to the pensionable ages mentioned above in section 146 of the 2000 Act.

agreement on such arrangements would trigger a reserve 'free travel scheme' (see Schedule 16), under which certain travel concessions must be provided.

Free Bus Passes

5. The concessionary fares pass for the statutory minimum is to be issued free of charge. The legislation does not require the applicant to be fully indemnified for the cost of providing his/her photograph - nor for any signed medical certification, or any postage on his/her application. Local authorities should issue passes which conform to the standard design specifications set out in regulations².

Replacement Bus Passes

6. Bus operators must grant the statutory minimum concession to eligible persons. The purpose of imposing on the authority a duty to issue passes is to enable concessionaires to provide evidence to bus operators of their entitlement. There is no provision in the legislation about safe keeping and it is the Department's view (which it is stressed is only a view) that it is the pass holder's responsibility to look after their bus pass. This suggests that the obligation to issue a pass free of charge would be limited to the first pass only. However, if a person applies for a replacement it is doubtful whether the authority would have the right to refuse to issue one without good reason or to charge more than a sum representing roughly the cost of producing it. It is the Department's view that nothing in the legislation would prevent an authority from refusing to issue a replacement pass to a person whom it had good reason to believe is engaged in fraud. As a matter of good practice in preventing fraud, the Department strongly recommends that any pass issued in replacement for one which has been lost or stolen should generally be issued using the same photograph as the original pass. Each travel concession authority is strongly encouraged to maintain a database of persons to whom concessionary travel passes have been issued, including a digitised photograph of each recipient.

Discretionary concessions and eligibility for the statutory minimum concession

7. In addition to the statutory minimum concession guaranteed under the 2000 Act, the Transport Act 1985 (as amended) ('the 1985 Act') gives local authorities outside London the power, at their discretion, to offer additional travel concessions to people in any of the categories defined in section 93(7) of that Act. For example, although the statutory

² The relevant regulations are the Concessionary Bus Travel (Permits) (England) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/417) (as amended).

concession does not extend to companions of disabled pass holders, local authorities remain free to offer concessions to companions using discretionary powers under the 1985 Act.

8. It is important to emphasise that national concession bus passes may only be issued to eligible older and disabled people (as assessed using this guidance). Passes of the national concession design must not be issued to other groups, such as companions of disabled people, as this could lead to confusion about their entitlement to the statutory concession as opposed to discretionary enhancements. Passes issued on a discretionary basis (under the 1985 Act) rather than under powers in the 2000 Act and the 1999 Act should be produced to a different design from the national pass.
9. Under the terms of the 2000 Act and the 1999 Act, it is for a local authority to determine whether someone is a 'disabled person' for the purposes of concessionary travel. But the 2000 Act and the 1999 Act both provide for the Secretary of State to issue to local authorities guidance to which they must have regard in reaching a decision. In doing so, the Secretary of State is obliged to consult the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC - the Government's statutory advisers on the mobility needs of disabled people) and local authority interests.
10. This statutory Guidance, which has been subject to the required consultation, applies only to England. Concessionary travel is a devolved policy area, and legislation and assessment of eligibility with regard to concessionary travel in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the appropriate devolved administration.

General criteria to be taken into account in determining entitlement

11. The categories of disabled person listed in the 2000 Act and the 1999 Act in relation to concessionary travel do not cover the full range of disabled people included within the Equality Act 2010 (EA) definition.
12. However, in line with the central principle of the EA definition, the types of disability which should enable people to claim the statutory minimum bus travel concession are those which are permanent, or which have lasted at least 12 months, or which are likely to last at least 12 months or are likely to recur (although the likelihood of an effect recurring may be disregarded in pre-agreed circumstances). This disability should have a substantial effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
13. It should not be necessary for the effect of the disability to be the same throughout the period - it may worsen or diminish at different times - but local authorities should nevertheless satisfy themselves that it will have (or be likely to have) such an effect throughout the period.

- 14.** A person may have more than one disability which would cause them to be eligible for the concession.
- 15.** The 2007 Act provides an entitlement to a concession against a full adult fare. It does not set age limits for recipients of this concession. It should therefore be taken to apply the concession to adults and to all disabled children and young people of fare-paying age.
- 16.** In any application for a concessionary travel pass, the onus will be on the applicant to prove their entitlement.

Assessing Eligibility

Automatic Eligibility

Passporting from state benefits

17. The Department recommends that, where available, the most robust way of assessing eligibility is likely to be via other relevant state benefits.
18. Eligibility for a concessionary travel pass may be considered "automatic" (not requiring further assessment) where a person is in receipt of any of the following state benefits, which link eligibility to receive the benefit to the ability to walk or, in the case of PIP, to communicate orally, provided that the person is of fare paying age and that the award of the benefit has been for at least 12 months or is expected to be for at least 12 months:
 - a. Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA);
 - b. Personal Independence Payment (PIP), where the applicant has been awarded at least eight points against either the PIP "Moving around" and/or "Communicating verbally" activities ³⁴;
 - c. War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS).
19. Applicants claiming these benefits will be able to provide documentary evidence of their entitlement. An example of proof of entitlement is proof of payment of the allowance. An applicant receiving the HRMCDLA or PIP will be able to produce an award notice letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or, alternatively, an excise duty exemption certificate (which is given to those who receive HRMCDLA). If they have lost the award notice, the Department for Work and Pensions can provide another copy at:
<https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline>

Even where such a letter does not in itself automatically entitle the applicant to the statutory concession, Authorities may wish to consider the degree to which it provides evidence in support of the conclusions of independent medical assessments (see below). For instance, the

³ Advice on recognising a PIP award of eight points or more can be found at Annex A.

⁴ A PIP claimant will already have been assessed as having a disability which will, or is likely to, last for at least twelve months.

activity descriptors in an award letter may support the conclusions reached by a medical professional, or detract from them.

Example PIP award letters and advice on identifying relevant disability descriptors indicating passportable entitlement are provided at Annex A.

20. An applicant receiving WPMS will have an award letter from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (Free-phone enquiry number: 0800 169 22 77).
21. Eligibility may also be considered automatic where a disabled person of fare paying age has been issued with a disabled persons' parking badge ("Blue Badge"). It does not follow that a person who has a concessionary travel pass is necessarily eligible for a Blue Badge.

Disability Registration

22. For applicants outside the above categories, the Department recommends that the next most robust means of assessment is likely to be via local authority lists of registered blind, partially-sighted, or profoundly or severely deaf people. This is covered in more detail below. Where a person is registered with an authority outside their current area of residence, the local authority may wish to consider the desirability of contacting that authority as against other means of assessing eligibility.

Independent Medical Assessment

23. For other applicants, where there is any doubt about eligibility, the Department recommends that local authorities seek independent medical evidence to inform their decision. The cost of this should not be borne by the applicant.
24. Using an applicant's GP to verify that an individual meets the criteria for a concessionary travel pass is regarded as an unsatisfactory arrangement for both the GP and the administrators of the scheme. The main argument against this approach is that it compromises the doctor/patient relationship.
25. The Department strongly recommends that independent health professionals should undertake assessments in place of GPs. In the case of assessment of the inability to walk, for example, occupational therapists or physiotherapists are often best placed to assess eligibility due to their professional knowledge of mobility. Transferring assessment to such specialists implicitly suggests the importance of making judgements based on physical mobility rather than medical conditions.
26. The Department recommends that, where possible, local authorities run dedicated assessment centres to assess eligibility. As well as having the potential to reduce costs, this can help to ensure that a fair and equitable

service is provided to all applicants who are required to have an assessment. Moreover, scope for identity fraud can be reduced if photographs for use on passes are taken at the time of assessment.

27. Neighbouring authorities may wish to work together in running such assessment centres to achieve economies of scale. In assessment centres, or where any specialist is consulted, an authority will need to satisfy itself of the fitness of the specialist to carry out the assessment.
28. In a rural authority, where the population is scattered and accessibility could be a problem, careful consideration needs to be given as to how medical assessments are carried out, such as whether people may require additional assistance to attend medical facilities.
29. Where, as a last resort, it is necessary to use a GP, the contact should be made direct by the authority, having secured the applicant's agreement, and the GP should only be asked for answers to factual questions. They should not be asked for an opinion on whether someone meets the criteria.

The Seven Categories of Disability

30. There are seven categories of disabled person identified as eligible for concessionary bus travel in the 2000 Act. The same categories are reproduced in the 1999 Act, although that Act lists blind and partially sighted people separately.
31. The Department strongly recommends that when a local authority issues a concessionary travel pass to an eligible disabled person, the authority keep a record of the particular category of disability under which a person qualifies (as well as details of how the assessment was carried out and by whom). The Department also recommends that the local authority should consider the category of disability when setting the expiry date of the pass. This would reflect the fact that some disabilities are clearly permanent, whereas others may last for only a limited period. It may therefore be appropriate to consider setting an expiry date of one year, for example, where circumstances would suggest this is sensible. Authorities are encouraged to seek independent medical advice on this point.
32. Under the legislation, an eligible disabled person is someone who:

"(a) is blind or partially sighted"

33. 'Blind' means having a high degree of vision loss i.e. seeing much less than is normal or perhaps nothing at all. 'Partially sighted' is a less severe loss of vision. Partially sighted people can see more than someone who is blind, but less than a fully sighted person. Blind and partially sighted people can register with their local council. The register is held by the social services or social work department, or by a local voluntary agency, and is confidential.

34. For registration purposes, the term 'blind' now becomes 'severely sight impaired (blind)' and partially sighted becomes 'sight impaired (partially sighted)'. The formal notification required to register as "severely sight impaired" or "sight impaired" is a Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI), signed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist (eye specialist). However, registration is voluntary. The individual should have a copy of their CVI and should be encouraged to register, if they have not already done so, as they may be entitled to various other benefits too.
35. In general terms a person can be registered as severely sight impaired (blind) if they cannot see (with glasses, if worn) the top letter of the eye test chart (used by doctors and opticians) at a distance of 3 metres or less. Some people who can read the top letter of an eye test chart at 3 metres, but not at 6 metres, may still be eligible for registration as blind if their field of vision is also severely restricted. Only being able to read the top letter at 3 metres is sometimes referred to as 3/60 vision: the person can see at 3 metres what a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres.
36. A person can be registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) if they have a full field of vision but can only read the top letter of the eye test chart at a distance of 6 metres or less (with glasses, if worn). However, if they can read the next three lines down at the same distance, but the field of vision is either moderately or severely restricted, they may still qualify for registration.
37. The Department advises that concessionary travel passes should be issued to people whose sight is so impaired that they would be able to register as severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted). Local authorities may, where a person is not on the local authority register, require evidence from an eye specialist, for example an optometrist, that the applicant would qualify to be registered as severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted). Advice on how to register can be found on the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) website at:
<http://www.rnib.org.uk/registrationcard>

"(b) is profoundly or severely deaf"

38. Hearing loss is measured in decibels across the normal hearing spectrum, as dB HL (Hearing Level). People are generally regarded as having a severe hearing loss if it reaches 70-95 dB HL and a profound loss if it reaches 95+ dB HL. The Department advises that the statutory minimum concession should be made available to people in these categories.
39. There is no statutory registration system for deaf people. However, many will be registered on a voluntary basis with their local authority social services department. The register is open to people who have varying degrees of hearing loss, so in checking the register a local authority is advised to check that the applicant is profoundly or severely deaf before issuing a national concession bus pass.

40. As in the case of blind and partially sighted people, local authorities may, where appropriate, require applicants to provide evidence of registration before issuing a pass, or evidence that they could register, for example, an audiological report, or a report from an aural specialist.

"(c) is without speech"

41. Included within this category are people who are unable to communicate orally in any language. Those people will be:
- a. unable to make clear basic oral requests e.g. to ask for a particular destination or fare;
 - b. unable to ask specific questions to clarify instructions e.g. 'Does this bus go to the High Street?'
42. This category would not, in the Department's opinion, cover people who are able to communicate orally but whose speech may be slow or difficult to understand, for example because of a severe stammer.
43. In considering an application on these grounds the local authority may accept receipt of PIP, with a score of at least eight points for the "Communicating verbally" activity, as providing an automatic entitlement to the Concession. Further detail on passporting eligibility from PIP, including details of the descriptors indicating an award of eight points or more, is provided at Annex A. Alternatively, where PIP has not been applied for, or where insufficient points have been awarded, authorities may reasonably require medical evidence to support the application.

"(d) has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to walk"

44. To qualify under this category, a person would have to have a long term and substantial disability that means they cannot walk or which makes walking very difficult.
45. It is envisaged that passes will be issued to people who can only walk with excessive labour and at an extremely slow pace or with excessive pain. Their degree of impairment should be at comparable level to that described in the "Guidance on assessing ability to walk" box below. Where an applicant has been awarded PIP, with an award of eight points or more for the "Moving around" activity, or the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA), a relevant benefit award letter may be accepted as evidence of an automatic entitlement to the travel concession (see Annex A for details). Where the specified rates of PIP or DLA have not been awarded, or where these benefits have not been applied for, applicants may still be found eligible if assessed using the criteria below:

Guidance on assessing ability to walk

"(i) they cannot walk or..."

Being unable to walk means that they cannot take a single step.

They need to show that because of their disability they cannot put one foot in front of the other.

Walking involves always having one foot on the ground.

If their only way of getting about is to swing through crutches then they will be considered unable to walk.

"(ii) ...they are virtually unable to walk, or..."

They will need to show that they are unable to walk very far without experiencing severe discomfort.

Discomfort can mean either pain or breathlessness. Extreme fatigue and stress may also be taken into account. It has been accepted that discomfort is subjective and that some people have higher pain thresholds than others.

Unless both legs are missing then they will need to show that they experience severe discomfort even when using an artificial aid.

When deciding whether they are virtually unable to walk the following factors should be taken into account:

- the distance over which they can walk without experiencing severe discomfort
- the speed at which they can walk
- the length of time for which they can walk
- the manner in which they can walk

If they can only walk up to 27 metres without severe discomfort then they will qualify for the statutory concession.

If they can only walk between 27 and 64 metres without severe discomfort then it is likely that they will qualify for the statutory concession.

If they can walk more than 64 metres without severe discomfort then they will need to show that the other three factors mean that they are virtually unable to walk. For example, if they can show that it takes them five minutes to walk 100 metres, they should qualify for the statutory concession.

As a guide, the average person can walk the following in a minute:

- 90 metres at a brisk pace
- 60-70 metres at a moderate speed

- 40-50 metres at a slow pace
- 30-40 at a very slow pace

It does not matter whether the severe discomfort occurs at the time of their walk or later. What counts is that the discomfort is a direct result of their attempt to walk.

"(iii) The exertion required to walk would "constitute a danger to their life or would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in their health."

The test here is whether the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to their life or whether it would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in their health.

They need to show that they should not walk very far because of the danger to their health.

This criterion is intended for people with serious chest, lung or heart conditions.

Some people with haemophilia may also qualify for the statutory concession in this way.

The serious deterioration does not need to be permanent but it should require medical intervention for them to recover.

They will need to show that any danger to their health is a direct result of the physical effort required to walk.

People with epilepsy will need to show that any fits were brought about by the effort required to walk.

- 46.** In all cases, entitlement depends on the applicant's difficulty in walking and considerations, such as difficulty in carrying parcels, are not to be taken into account.
- 47.** The fact that a walking aid is or is not used may be relevant to the eventual decision, but these alone should not determine whether or not a person qualifies. For example, if a person can walk relatively normally with the use of an artificial leg, then they should not be considered eligible. Alternatively, a person who can only swing through on crutches could be considered eligible, as they would be seen as having considerable difficulty walking (provided it is due to a long term disability and not due to legs being in plaster).
- 48.** The Department advises that the authority should normally require medical evidence to support the claim that the applicant's walking ability is long term and substantially impaired.

"(e) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms"

49. This category includes people with a limb reduction deficiency of both arms; bilateral upper limb amputation; muscular dystrophy; spinal cord injury; motor neurone disease; or a condition of comparable severity.
50. In the Department's opinion, it also covers both people with deformity of both arms, and people who have both arms, if in either case they are unable to use them to carry out day-to-day tasks, for example, paying coins into a fare machine. In these latter cases the Department advises that a local authority should normally require independent medical evidence to support the application.

"(f) has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning"

51. A person with a learning disability has a reduced ability to understand new or complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills, and may be unable to cope independently. These disabilities must have started before adulthood and have a lasting effect on development. The person should be able to qualify for specialist services and he or she may have had special educational provision.
52. The Department of Health adopted the term 'learning disability' in 1992. It has the same meaning as its predecessor 'mental handicap' but it is seen as more acceptable, particularly in reducing the confusion with mental illness.
53. In determining eligibility in a case where there has been no previous contact with specialist services a local authority should normally require independent medical advice, or check any register of people with learning disabilities which might be held by the Social Services Department of the applicant's local council.

"(g) would, if he applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol."

54. Under Section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 the Secretary of State may refuse to issue a driving licence on the grounds of the applicant's medical fitness. Those who are currently barred from holding a licence are people with:

- a. epilepsy (unless it is of a type which does not pose a danger - see below);
 - b. severe mental disorder;
 - c. liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting (whether as a result of cardiac disorder or otherwise);
 - d. inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 metres (with lenses if worn);
 - e. other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public.
- 55.** It will be seen that specific reference is made to people who persistently misuse drugs or alcohol. Those people are not covered by the definition of 'disabled person' under the 2000 Act and are thus not entitled to the statutory minimum travel concession.
- 56.** It is not a condition of entitlement under this category that the disabled person should apply for and be refused a driving licence (which would be unduly burdensome for everyone involved). If, for people with any of the disabilities (b) - (d) listed above, the local authority can be confident that a licence would be refused it should therefore be able to issue the travel pass automatically. For (a) epilepsy - the bar is not automatic and depends on the circumstances.
- 57.** The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/258) permit the grant of a driving licence to a person with epilepsy if that person meets a number of conditions concerning the type and frequency of their seizures.⁵
- 58.** There are a number of categories of "severe mental disorder" under which people may qualify. Authorities will need to assess individuals on a case-by-case basis as eligibility may depend on the severity of the condition. Such conditions include (but are not limited to) dementia (or any organic brain syndrome); behaviour disorders (including post head injury syndrome and Non-Epileptic Seizure Disorder); and personality disorders.
- 59.** Other groups include:
- a. People with restricted visual fields, who will be refused a licence if they do not have a horizontal field of vision of at least 120 degrees, or if they have significant scotoma encroaching within 20 degrees of the central fixation point in any meridian or, sometimes, if they have restricted vertical fields of vision; and
 - b. People with insulin-dependent diabetes: In general people with insulin dependent diabetes can continue to drive - though their licence may be renewable on a 1, 2, or 3-yearly basis. However, where the person experiences disabling hypoglycaemia they will be prevented from driving until their diabetes is controlled.
- 60.** The above list is not comprehensive. Any person with a cardiac, locomotor, renal or neurological disorder might qualify. Where there is

⁵ See the *Motor Vehicle (Driving Licences) Regulations (S.I. 1999/2864) (as amended)*.

doubt about whether someone would be refused a driving licence, the local authority is strongly advised to seek independent medical advice.

Annex A: Evidencing Receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Introduction

- A.1** The Guidance recommends that applicants in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), with a score of at least eight points on account of their inability to walk, or to communicate orally without support, should be automatically eligible for the statutory minimum concession. This Annex provides further advice on identifying such applicants.
- A.2** All recipients of PIP will be issued with an award letter by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), specifying the conclusions of their assessment, and the level of benefit awarded. An example of this letter is provided below.
- A.3** It should be noted that the specimen letter provided here is only an example, and may not represent exactly what an applicant may present as evidence. The Department recommends that in cases where such a letter is presented, and the Authority is unsure of its authenticity, checks are undertaken to provide such assurance. In exceptional circumstances such a check might include contacting the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that the name, address and qualifying descriptors indicated on an applicant's PIP award letter are authentic, and have not been altered. DWP's PIP Enquiry Line can be contacted on **0845 8503 322**.
- A.4** Eligibility descriptors will be included at a standard location in award letters. See the second page of the specimen letter below.

Identifying Eligible PIP Recipients

- A.5** Applicants for PIP will be assessed against a number of activities, considering their mobility and their ability to carry out Daily Living tasks. Award letters will include descriptors to explain to applicants the result of DWP's assessment of each activity.
- A.6** Between April and October 2013 the following descriptors will be used on claimants' award letters without details of the number of points

scored. After October 2013 letters will display both descriptors and points. Examples of both pre- and post-October 2013 letters are provided below.

- A.7** You may accept such award letters as proof of automatic eligibility for the Concession only where you believe them to be authentic and unaltered, and where at least one of the following descriptors is used:

Moving around activity:

- A.8** Descriptors indicating award of eight points or more:

- **8 Points**

Descriptor 12C

"I've decided you can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres."

- **10 Points**

Descriptor 12D

"I've decided you can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres."

- **12 Points**

Descriptor 12E

"I've decided you can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres."; or

Descriptor 12F

"I've decided you cannot stand or move more than 1 metre."

Communicating verbally activity

- A.9** Descriptors indicating award of eight points or more:

- **8 Points**

Descriptor 7D

"I've decided you can express and understand basic verbal information with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate."

- **12 Points**

Descriptor 7E

"I've decided you cannot express or understand verbal information at all, even with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate."

Specimen PIP award letter (April - October 2013)

This is a draft example and may not represent exactly the final version of this notification.

If you contact us, use this reference:
AB123456C – PIP31032013



Mr Tim Ber
7 Woodland Walk
Forest Hill
Cedarshire
FX1 9PE

DWP Address Line 1
DWP Address Line 2
DWP Address Line 3
DWP Address Line 4

www.gov.uk/dwp

DWP Telephone Number
DWP TextPhone Number

Date

Personal Independence Payment Your Personal Independence Payment Decision

Dear Mr Ber,

<Introductory Text>

<Introductory Text>

<Introductory Text>

I've decided you're entitled to the Daily Living component of Personal Independence Payment at the Enhanced rate of £<Amount> a week from <Date> for an ongoing period.

I've decided you're entitled to the Mobility component of Personal Independence Payment at the Enhanced rate of £<Amount> a week from <Date> for an ongoing period.

Please keep this letter as it may be needed as proof of your Personal Independence Payment award.

<Further information on the award>

<Further information on the award>

<Further information on the award>

Having looked at all the information provided, I've decided you meet the following descriptors for the **Daily Living component**:

Preparing food
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Taking nutrition
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Washing and bathing
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Managing toilet needs or incontinence
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Dressing and undressing
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Communicating verbally
I've decided you can express and understand basic verbal information with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate.

Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Engaging with other people face to face
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Making budgeting decisions
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Having looked at all the information provided, I've decided you meet the following descriptors for the **Mobility component**:

Planning and following a journey
I've decided you <Decision Text>.

Moving Around
I've decided you cannot stand or move more than 1 metre.

Specimen PIP award letter (October 2013 onwards)

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Personal Independence Payment Your Personal Independence Payment Decision

Dear Mr Ber,

<Introductory Text>

<Introductory Text>

<Introductory Text>

I've decided you're entitled to the Daily Living component of Personal Independence Payment at the Enhanced rate of £<Amount> a week from <Date> for an ongoing period.

I've decided you're entitled to the Mobility component of Personal Independence Payment at the Enhanced rate of £<Amount> a week from <Date> for an ongoing period.

Please keep this letter as it may be needed as proof of your Personal Independence Payment award.

<Further information on the award>

<Further information on the award>

Decision Maker's Reasoning

<Text explaining the decision-maker's decision>

<Text introducing the Daily Living Component>

Using all the information provided, I've given you the following scores for the **Daily Living component** I've decided:

Preparing food

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Taking nutrition

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Washing and bathing

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Managing toilet needs or incontinence

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Dressing and undressing

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Communicating verbally

You can express and understand basic verbal information with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate.. This gives you a score of 8.

Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Engaging with other people face to face

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Making budgeting decisions

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

<Text introducing the Mobility Component>

Using all the information provided, I've given you the following scores for the **Mobility component** I've decided:

Planning and following a journey

<Decision Text>. This gives you a score of <Score>.

Moving Around

You cannot stand or walk or more than 1 metre. This gives you a score of 12.

Identifying Continuing DLA Claims

- A.10** During the implementation of PIP, until October 2017, working age applicants may continue to present evidence of existing DLA claims as proof of automatic entitlement to the statutory concession. Others, including children under sixteen, and people who were born on or before the 7th April 1948 may present DLA evidence beyond October 2017.
- A.11** Authorities who wish to confirm that a DLA claim is still active, and has not expired or been replaced by PIP, are recommended to request the applicants' most recent "DLA uprating letter".
- A.12** Uprating letters are provided to DLA claimants on an annual basis to notify them of changes in the amount they are paid. They also confirm the relevant DLA components (i.e. Higher Rate Mobility Component) that the claimant is in receipt of. Details contained in the uprating letter may therefore be cross-referenced with the applicant's original award letter.
- A.13** Requesting uprating letters will ensure that a DLA claim was active during the past twelve months.
- A.14** An example DLA uprating letter is shown below.

Specimen DLA Uprating Letter

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Disability Living Allowance

Dear Mr Berr,

The purpose of this letter is to give you:

- Proof of entitlement to your benefit
- Information about Disability Living Allowance rates
- Information about changes you must tell us about
- Important information about how Disability Living Allowance is being replaced by a new disability benefit called Personal Independence Payment. There is more information at the end of this letter – please read it carefully.

Please read all this information carefully.

Keep this letter safe because it is proof of your entitlement to Benefit.

Disability Living Allowance Entitlement

You are entitled to:

- middle rate care component for help with personal care until 28/5/13
- higher rate mobility component for help with getting around until 28/5/13
- middle rate care component for help with personal care from 1/6/13 until 28/2/14
- lower rate mobility component for help with getting around from 1/6/13 until 28/2/14.

Further Advice

Controlled introduction of PIP

A.15 Changes to concessionary travel eligibility guidance may be required in the future as a result of operational experience, on-going monitoring, testing and evaluation of PIP. In such an event this document will be reviewed and updated accordingly to ensure that eligibility for the statutory concession may continue to be demonstrated through the presentation of benefit award letters. Further information on the Department for Work and Pensions' timetable for the introduction of PIP can be found on its website, at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/pip-toolkit/>

Alternatives to automatic eligibility

A.16 The threshold for an award of PIP with a score of at least eight points on account of the applicant's ability to walk (the "Moving around" activity), does not correspond exactly with that for the Concession. Where an applicant is not found to be eligible on the grounds of their PIP award, or where PIP has not been applied for, they may still be found eligible through an assessment against the criteria recommended in the Guidance. Recommended eligibility criteria for the statutory minimum concession have been maintained at the levels suggested in previous versions of this Guidance document. Authorities may also wish to consider the degree to which evidence provided in applicants' PIP award letters, where appropriate, support or detract from the conclusions of independent medical assessments.