

Tel: [REDACTED]

DLA Reform Team
1st Floor Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

Dec'd
2/2/11

31 January 2011

Dear Madam or Sir

We are very concerned about the proposed changes to DLA.

Our eldest son, now 41 years old, lives in a residential care home. He qualifies for the lower rate care and the lower rate mobility components of DLA, although he receives no payments for the care element because his care home fees are covered in part by the local authority. Our son relies heavily on his mobility award to get out and about. His only other income comes from the personal allowance paid to residential care home residents (currently £22.30 a week). Without the mobility award his independence, wider social participation and quality of life would be seriously curtailed. The negative impact on his health and well-being is difficult to exaggerate.

We strongly oppose the removal of the mobility component from individuals in residential care settings.

Our son qualifies for DLA principally on the grounds of severe mental health problems: he requires regular and frequent oversight to engage in a range of activities without being a danger to himself and others. We are concerned that the proposed assessment process will not adequately take account of medical conditions and impairments that can fluctuate markedly from day to day and from week to week. A face-to-face, snapshot assessment with a health care professional is unlikely to fully identify his care and support needs, especially as he is often unaware, ignores or underestimates the wider impact of his mental health problems. **We are deeply worried that our son, and claimants in similar circumstances, will lose their DLA claim simply because the proposed assessment process does not encompass the realities of their medical condition and its impact on their daily life.**

Yours sincerely

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