



[REDACTED] MP

3 February 2011

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

Ref No 392
Rec'd
10/2/11

Dear Sir or Madam,

[REDACTED]

My above constituent has contacted me regarding the public consultation on Disability Living Allowance.

I enclose a copy of his email sent to me, which he would like me to submit on his behalf as part of the official consultation process.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Public consultation - Disability Living Allowance

Dear [REDACTED]

The Government is proposing to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This will be introduced 2013/14. I would like to respond to the public consultation particularly for those with a spinal cord injury and hope you could consider these views to help form your views on these changes?

The main potential changes are

- There will be no automatic entitlement to PIP except for those with a terminal illness.
- The two components of Mobility and Daily Living will each have two rates.
- Applying for PIP will automatically mean being assessed by an independent medical examiner.
- To be awarded PIP you will need to have had a Spinal Injury for six months.
- Entitlement will stop after 28 days in hospital but the Consultation paper says that the Government will work with Motability to ensure that Motability agreements are supported.
- Once in receipt of PIP you will be periodically reassessed.

I have the following comments to make:

At present the mobility element of DLA will cease on admission to Residential Care.

1. Currently there are three rates for the care component of DLA. Moving to two rates for Mobility and Daily Living would mean a reduction towards the lower level with the previous Middle Rate being rounded down.
2. Spinal Cord Injured (SCI) are wary of an Independent assessment by a medical examiner as the SCI often has more knowledge of their condition than even their GP or Community Occupational Therapist
3. A paraplegic SCI can be discharged post accident within 4 months of injury and despite qualifying for PIP would have to wait a further 2 months before being able to apply. This could lead to problems meeting the person's care and housing needs.
4. SCI are very dependent on cars supplied by Motability and it would be essential that PIP could support the hire or lease agreement should the person be hospitalized for more than 28 days. The Motability scheme is also used by some SCI to lease powered wheelchairs or scooters which can be vital in meeting their local mobility needs
5. SCI might not like to be reassessed periodically as it would serve as a reminder of their disability and a review of their static situation (since there is no cure for SCI) would seem pointless and in some respects hurtful.
6. The use of a wheelchair could be viewed as part of that person's ability rather than its essential use to get around. This is our interpretation of a very unclear statement.
This could mean that your needs would be assessed on your abilities in the wheelchair rather than the fact you need a wheelchair to undertake anything at all!

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]