

## Questions

Ref 405

Rec'd 10/2/11

### Question 1

What things stop disabled people joining in with other people and living full, active and independent lives?

The inability to participate in certain activities either because they are physically unable to do so, it would be unsafe for them to do so or they are unable to get to where they need to, to do so.

### Question 2

What parts of Disability Living Allowance do you think we should keep?

All of the current parts financially but less of the repetitive paperwork where no changes have occurred.

### Question 3

What extra things do disabled people need to spend money on?

Equipment. Travel expenses. Adaptations.  
Help from others. Financial assistance for  
living expenses that they may not be  
able to earn because of their disability.

### Question 4

The new benefit will have 2 amounts for each of the 2 parts of the benefit. Do you think this will make the benefit easier to understand and also easier for us to run?

Do you think just having the 2 amounts for each part will cause any problems?

No.

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## Question 5

Do you think some health conditions or disabilities should allow people to get an amount of the benefit automatically?

Or do you think that all claims should be based on the needs of the person asking for the benefit?

I think certain conditions that are static (ie unchanging in severity) should automatically qualify without the periodic applications. Only more variable and unquantifiable conditions should be based on individual's needs.

## Question 6

How can we make sure that disabled people who most need the new benefit can get it?

What activities or actions are the most important to live an independent life?

Advertise on tv to reach people who may not know about DLA.

Mobility, the ability of the individual being enabled to work + earn a living, also to ensure the person can live independently but also to be able to go out + socialise.

## Question 7

How can we make sure that the new benefit takes into account the way a person's health condition can change?

Only by periodic reviews. Applications should only go to another part of the questionnaire if it is changeable. This should then trigger more reviews + re-applications sooner than for others whose conditions are static.

## Question 8

When a person makes a claim to the new benefit, should we take account of any aids or adaptations that they use?

What aids and adaptations should we take into account?

Should we only take aids and adaptations into account if the person already uses them? Or should we take aids and adaptations into account that a person could use and get hold of easily?

If an aid or adaptation could help they should be assisted in obtaining it but an aid does not necessarily make you less disabled it only helps to reduce the inconvenience + 'manage' the problem.

## Question 9

How could we make the way a person asks for benefit better.  
For example

- How could we make the claim form easier to fill in?
- How could we tell people about the new benefit so that they know what the benefit is for and who is likely to get the benefit?

There should be new 'standards' created.  
For instance if you are blind / severely visually impaired you are part of the form & get a certain level of financial help & so on. If your condition is static you should not have to answer the same laborious questions every 2/3 years.

Once more standard levels have been identified these could form new rules to be circulated.

## Question 10

Who are the best people to tell us about the needs of the person asking for benefit?

What information will we need to make it clear what the person can and cannot do?

This depends on the subjectiveness of the disability. If you are deaf for instance you only need confirmation of this. If you have a more variable condition

you could appoint a medical practice(s) to carry out assessments as well as take the person's own specialist / GP's views into account.

## Question 11

An important part of the new benefit may be talking face to face with an independent person about how well you can do the things you need to do to take part in everyday life.

What good things and bad things may this bring?

Is there any time when it would not be right to say that a person had to meet an independent person face to face, either in the person's own home or somewhere else?

The problem with someone assessing another on one particular occasion is that it will not necessarily highlight many of the problems which will not be evident at that moment, at that day, at that place.

Everyone should be prepared to be interviewed but only really if this is any question about what the person can/cannot do. And even then, this view/opinion should only form part of the assessment for the reasons above. It is also difficult for a child to be interviewed/assessed as they may not necessarily be honest or know what they should say or how they should respond.

Only an expert in a certain field can comment on a person's ability or reduced ability.



## Question 12

What should we use to decide how often we should look at a claim again and check it?

Should the way we look at a claim again depend on the needs of the person and their health condition or disability?

As already stated in this questionnaire this very much depends on if the disability is quantifiable. If you are blind or deaf & not likely to change the claim should be automatically ongoing. If not & you have a changing condition then it should be reviewed regularly.

## Question 13

The new benefit will be easier for people to understand, so we will expect people to tell us when things change in their lives.

How can we get people to tell us about the changes in their lives?

A simple form that may have to sign to say 'nothing has changed' or, 'yes' more changes have occurred should maybe sent out regularly.

## Question 14

What types of help and advice are people who will ask for the new benefit likely to need?

Would it help if we told people to get help and advice and where to get it from?

Some people may need help completing forms + in this case yes, it would help if you furnished people with where they could get the help needed.

## Question 15

How do disabled people pay for their aids and adaptations at the moment?

Should disabled people be allowed to use the new benefit to pay for a one-off cost?

I think it varies + some grants may be available where in other cases people have to purchase aids themselves. People should be able to use the benefit as they see fit, like they can do at present.



## Question 16

What are the main differences we should think about when we are dealing with claims for children instead of adults?

With young children the extra work/help is probably all needed by the parent/carer.

This transfers gradually to the growing child into adulthood but they will always need more help from the parent than an able-bodied child or young person. They may eventually get the

Question 17 help from a friend or partner instead, after leaving home.

How important or useful has Disability Living Allowance been in getting people to use other services or to get other benefits?

What can we do to make things better?

At the moment people who get Disability Living Allowance automatically get help from other benefits and services, like the Blue Badge scheme and the Warm Front scheme.

What would it mean to disabled people if they did not automatically get help from these other benefits or services?

DLA is very important + can enable people to 'bridge the gap' in their private income/earnings.

Travel should be cheaper or free for those on the higher levels of DLA or production of a disabled travel card.

The 'linking-up' of other services is essential otherwise people would have to 'prove their case' over + over.

Life is difficult enough for the person or carer/parent without having to do even more unnecessary applications all the time!

## Question 18

What information about the disabled person could we share with other services or government departments to stop the disabled person having to tell lots of people the same thing?

The issuing + wide recognition + acceptance of the disabled persons say, licence, which could enable people access/discounted rates of free use of all relevant services. This could extend to Europe eventually.

However this could only apply to people who are disabled on a permanent basis to a certain level + above.

Q20

Perhaps the problem the DWP has is not many of the people claiming DLA are doing so on a temporary basis due to a changing / temporary or improving condition which should maybe be assessed completely separately + under a different scheme.

If I were revamping this scheme I would keep DLA/PIP but create a second scheme for more temporary / subjective disabilities under another name say DLA(temp)/PIP(temp) with different rules + more regular application renewals. It would follow those under this scheme would have to be assessed more regularly.

## Question 19

How would our ideas for the new benefit affect different equality groups? For example, the equality groups looking at disability, age, race, gender, **sexual orientation** and religion and belief.

### Sexual orientation

This is about whether a person is

- heterosexual – sexually attracted to people of the other sex.
- lesbian – a woman who is sexually attracted to women.
- gay – a man who is sexually attracted to men.
- bisexual – sexually attracted to men and women.
- asexual – not sexually attracted to men or women

*This form has not really told of any real changes. In any case I don't see how any rules should affect any equality groups at all.*

*\* Apart from 2 part stages as opposed to 3?*

## Question 20

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

*See notes under Q18.*