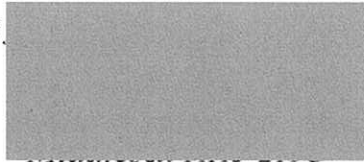


*Public Consultation  
Disability Living Allowance reform*

*Individual response*



*Dec'd  
10/2/11*

*The Minister in her forward points out the importance of disabled people being able to work and that the Government would want to encourage and help this to happen. Employment has never had anything to do with entitlement of DLA. The Minister does not seem to be aware that DLA is implicitly not linked with work, though the consultation document does not acknowledge this. The claim is that DLA acts as a barrier to employment, but no evidence is put forward to support this claim. Such evidence as there is, is that some recipients believe that they will lose some or all of their entitlement to DLA if they start work. If this is really a concern I suggest that there is a much simpler way to remedy this by providing a more comprehensive information to claimants and recipients!*

*Page 5 para 1*

*What is the evidence for this?*

*Page 5 para 3*

*Nothing for thos with Moderate need ?*

*Page 6 para 6*

*This is a key point and welcomed!*

*Page 6 para 8*

*Are you proposing to do away with this*

*Page 9 para 18*

*So there are too many claimants? When assessing for DLA if someone is*

*awarded the benefit for life then there would be a reason!! This benefit is like no other benefit it is based on impairment. Therefore life entitlement is usually based on whether your disability will deteriorate or stay static throughout your life. If this benefit has been awarded for life and the recipient has written evidence of the is it Lawful because of a change of Government to take it away?*

*Page 10 para 19*

*This document continues to refer to work. Already pointed out that DLA has nothing to do with the ability to work.*

*Page 13 para 14/15*

*How will this liaise with the wheel chair services around the Country?*

*Page 14 para 17/18*

*It is claimed repeatedly and without evidence, that the current assessment method is subjective and inadequate. It is also claimed that the assessment procedure that is being developed will be more objective and fairer. Again this claim cannot be substantiated, since no information is given either about what the new procedure will be like or about the development process that is underway, or who is involved in it. One concrete proposal that is made is that claimants should undergo a face to face interview with an assessor. In my view this is certain to act as a barrier to the benefit for some claimants particularly those with mental health issues and non native speaking . ( still looking for evidence for this!!)*

*Page 15 para 19*

*How will you do this on an individual basis, where will the resources come from to carry this out!!? The new automatic entitlement for people with physical disability is clearly difficult to see how this will work. A double amputee will be an automatic award, however, if someone has an impairment that leaves them unable to stand or walk and uses a wheel chair for their mobility how will they be assessed?*

*Page 15 para 21*

*A withdrawal of the mobility component from people in residential care. is special case of double funding situation. I strongly oppose this as unfair and discriminatory. What about the people who already live in residential care and have their own vehicle from motability? It is an assumption that residential care homes have their own transport to take people out. What happens to independence for the individual?*

*Page 16 para 22*

*You advocate that the existing process is no longer fit for purpose, where is the evidence for this?*

*Page 16 para 25*

*Who are the group of independent specialist in health, social care and disability?*

*Page 17 para 27*

*Taking into account aids and adaptations, in the assessment . What about how the aids have been funded in the first place, the claimant could have paid for them out of their own funds, it could have been funded(or part funded) by a statutory authority or funded o ( part funded) by a charity.*

*The proposal recognises that it would be unfair to withhold benefit from the first category (self funders), it would, infact amount to means testing Of the benefit which has been explicitly (in my view correctly) RULED OUT. However, the other two categories are no less problematic.*

*If the aid has been supplied by the statutory authority, it must have been considered to be a statutory entitlement. In this case the effect of the proposed change will be to take away that statutory entitlement, or to reduce the value of the entitlement , or to reduce the value of the benefit to claimant who needs to use aids or adaptations. It is surprising that this does not appear in the Equality Impact Assessment. It is certainly unfair, almost certainly unworkable and probably illegal.*

*Signposting*

*Another proposal in the consultation document is that claimants might be referred to sources of information or services that would be beneficial. It is not made clear whether their award would be made conditional on them seeking out these opportunities for support, or whether the proposed 'double funding' rules would apply to them too. Either of these*

would be extremely undesirable.

Page 19 para 34/ 35

*I would imagine that the amount of fraud and error is extremely low for this benefit . It is interesting to note how many claimants are awarded DLA on Appeal. There are again no figures provided in this section.*

*Finally, as a person who is in receipt of both of these benefits I am extremely anxious of the outcome.*

*I find the whole report without proper research, or evidence given of the disability organisation you have already consulted.*

*Yours sincerely*

A large rectangular area of the document has been redacted with a solid grey block, obscuring the signature and any text that might have been present below the 'Yours sincerely' line.