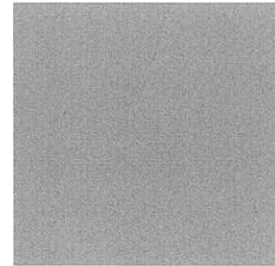


DLA Reform Team,
1st Floor,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street,
London,
SW1H 9NA

Rec'd
17/2/11



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14th February, 2011

Dear Sirs,

REFORM OF DLA

My wife is very disabled and uses a wheelchair. I am her carer and do most things for her.

I am very concerned about paragraph 27 that deals with 'The successful use of aid and adaptations'. Because of the way that the proposal is worded, it gives the very strong impression that most wheelchair users will not be awarded the mobility component of the new Personal Independence Payment, as, by definition, they must be able to 'get around in a wheelchair'.

If they lose that then they will lose their motability cars.

That will have an enormous impact on their lives, greatly reducing their access to the outside world, preventing them doing all those things that the rest of us take for granted and, effectively, isolating them in their own homes. It would be a terribly cruel thing to do.

In my wife's case, because she has to use a very heavy electric wheelchair, she needs a vehicle fitted with a hoist, winch or lift. Such vehicles are expensive to hire. She cannot access a bus or train. If we did not have a car with a hoist, she would rarely be able to leave home and would never be able to visit our family as they live too far away. It would cost too much to hire an adapted vehicle to get there and we could never afford to move.

I hope and pray that you do not really mean what you have written in paragraph 27. I know that a great many disabled people and their carers are totally convinced that you do and are worried out of their minds at the prospect.

If you did not mean it, please tell us. If you did mean it, please reconsider.

That is not the only proposal that causes us concern. Paragraphs 25 and 26 are very unclear and also give the impression that far fewer disabled people are likely to qualify for the new payment.

My wife is very disabled and has been awarded both the mobility and care component of the DLA at the highest levels indefinitely. Her condition can never improve, only get worse. I have no doubt that if she was reassessed under the present rules, she would continue to be awarded what she is currently getting. It is far from clear what she might receive, if anything at all, under your proposals.

She is not unique. There are a lot of very disabled people and their carers out here in the real world who are in utter despair at what you appear to be proposing. We are among them.

Yours faithfully,

