

To DLA Reform Team

564

Rec'd  
17/2/11

My name...  
My address

11<sup>Feb</sup> January 2011

To my Member of Parliament

Dear .....

I have had a spinal injury since Dec 2008. I have received DLA since Sept 2009. I have benefited tremendously from the NHS and DWP.

With regard to the Government's consultation on the proposal to replace Disability Living Allowance with Personal Independence Payment, I have chosen to respond as follows:

These are my answers to the key questions:

Question 4. The new benefit will have two rates for each component:

- Will having two rates per component make the benefit easier to understand and administer, while ensuring appropriate levels of support?
- What, if any, disadvantages or problems could having two rates per component cause?

A desire to keep a group - the majority - on the lower rate - necessary to "jump through hoops" (particularly impossible while in a wheelchair) to obtain higher rates

Question 8. Should the assessment of a disabled person's ability take into account any aids and adaptations they use?

- What aids and adaptations should be included?

Should the assessment only take into account aids and adaptations where the person already has them or should we consider those that the person might be eligible for and can easily obtain?

Yes - because this is their life - whether a wheelchair outside <sup>or</sup> inside. A council-fitted lift and wet room. Part of adaptations for me.

Question 11. An important part of the new process is likely to be a face-to-face discussion with a healthcare professional.

- What benefits or difficulties might this bring?
- Are there any circumstances in which it may be inappropriate to require a face-to-face meeting with a healthcare professional - either in an individual's own home or another location?

Very little understanding of the special needs of the spinally injured - frustration of this to the individual concerned. Damaging to the 'acceptance' of the spinally injured of their peace of mind.