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# Redbridge Disability Consortium and Centre for Independent and Inclusive Living - Redbridge

Response to the consultation on the PIP assessment  
'moving around' activity

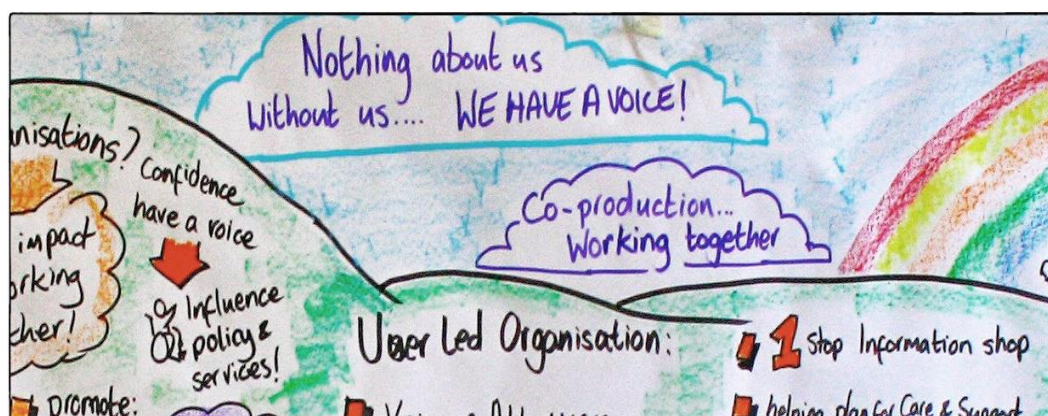
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We welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed change to the regulation on the PIP assessment 'moving around' activity.

However, we have serious concerns about the reduction from 50 to 20 meters the assessment of the distance one is able to stand and walk.

This shorter distance was chosen without prior consultation or solicitation of the views of disabled people and the wider public.

Furthermore, it will dramatically affect the numbers of claimants who would have been entitled to the enhanced mobility component of PIP, were it to remain at 50 meters.

We reject this reduction to the distance covered in this assessment for five reasons.

These are:

1. ***It will undermine the independence of some disabled people.*** This will make it harder for those affected to contribute to society and earn a living. Indeed, the UN considers personal mobility is intrinsic to independence and, as such, is a right under the UN Convention Rights of People with Disabilities. The proposed move to a 20 meter assessment will further undermine this right.
2. ***There is no precedent for the choice of 20 meters.*** It is contrary to the available good practice that has used the 50-meter distance as the appropriate way to assess to identify need and make in provision for people who find mobility a challenge. The 50-meter criteria, for example, has been used for DLA, the siting of Blue Badge Bays and even Work Capability Assessment for Employment Support Allowance
3. ***There was no involvement of disabled people in the 'moving around' activity criteria.*** We strongly reject the claim that the criteria for the moving around activity was developed with 'extensive engagement with disabled people and their organisations.' We speak for people with physical and sensory impairments, who use mental health services, and learning disabilities. We also represent the view of carers and older people and not once were we, or

organisations we are aware of in London engaged in the development of this criterion. If we had been, we would have opposed any such reduction.

4. ***We think the 20-meter assessment test conditions are unrealistic and fear that they will result in more people being excluded unnecessarily.*** The descriptors mentioning 'flat or level' surfaces. Obviously, these are not representative of disabled people's day-to-day experience. Many who are able to move the 20 meters on a flat in a test setting, will find real world environments and barriers such as uneven pavements, road works, or wet and icy surfaces a different matter. This does not even include kerbs of varying heights and steps. The difference between the artificial PIP's test conditions and a wet and windy road, full of heavy road traffic, cannot be overstated.
5. ***It will restrict and limit many people's eligibility to access the Motability Scheme.*** The Motability Scheme has been one of the most successful tools that has enhanced the independence, dignity and employability of disabled people. It has given carer's of disabled spouses and their dependents freedoms and choices that would have otherwise been denied to them. It is, in our opinion, unethical and discriminatory to restrict access to the Motability Scheme in this way. We also consider it contrary to the UN Convention Rights of People with Disabilities.

Without access to the Motability Scheme many disabled people will never afford a mobility vehicle and will suffer the loss of independent mobility for the rest of their lives. For a mobility vehicle to be affordable the eligibility criteria for the enhanced rate mobility component of PIP should remain at 50 metres as under DLA.

## **Conclusion**

**Redbridge Disability Consortium and Centre for Independent and Inclusive Living - Redbridge urges the government to return the eligibility for the enhanced rate of PIP mobility component to those unable to walk 50 metres or less, as under DLA.**

# About Us

## **Redbridge Disability Consortium**

[www.redbridgedisabilityconsortium.org](http://www.redbridgedisabilityconsortium.org)

Our work is driven by the goal of a society in which disabled people are treated with dignity, fairness, respect and understanding.

We are passionate about developing high quality, accessible services for disabled groups, working in partnership to influence policy and outcomes affecting disabled groups; and challenging the stigma and discrimination that disabled people encounter in their day-to-day lives

## **Redbridge Concern for Mental Health**

[www.rcmh.org.uk](http://www.rcmh.org.uk)

Redbridge Concern for Mental Health - established over 15 years ago – is a service user led organisation based in the London Borough of Redbridge dedicated to promoting, improving and protecting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the wider community.

We offer high quality services to local residents seeking mental health support. We also provide information and signposting as well as challenging the stigma and discrimination that people experience in their everyday lives.

## **Redbridge Forum**

[www.redbridgeforum.co.uk](http://www.redbridgeforum.co.uk)

Our aim is to help improve the quality of life for people with a learning disability and their carers, including those on the autistic spectrum. A lot of our work at present is based around children's services and we run 4 projects Fun 4 All, Bright Ideas, TrueColours and Childrens Advocacy. We also support people with a learning disability to speak up for themselves and we also engage with local carers to find out what they think about services in Redbridge

## **Centre for Independent and Inclusive Living –Redbridge**

[www.redbridgeciil.org](http://www.redbridgeciil.org)

We are run and controlled by local people and we are passionate about promoting independence, inclusive living and a meaningful and credible voice for everyone who uses services in Redbridge.