

Factsheet



Personal Independence Payment

Make Every **£** Count

The information in this leaflet is correct at December 2012

Personal Independence Payment

The personal independence payment (PIP) is a new benefit and, at the time of writing, the rules have not yet been finalised. The following information is based on what we currently know about PIP and will be subject to change. Please see www.hertsdirect.org/benefits for regular updates.

What is the personal independence payment (PIP)?

The personal independence payment (PIP) will provide help towards some of the extra costs due to having a long term condition arising from ill-health or disability. Awards will be based on how your disability or health condition affects your ability to cope with daily living and getting around. You must be aged between 16 and 64 to start a claim for PIP.

The new benefit will share some common features with DLA. In particular it will have two parts: one for daily living and one for mobility. However, these will not be assessed in the same way as DLA and there will be major changes in the way the test operates.

PIP will be administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). If you are awarded PIP you can spend it in the way that suits you best.

PIP will gradually replace disability living allowance (DLA) for people aged 16 to 64. It will not be possible to receive PIP and DLA at the same time.

Timetable for the introduction of PIP

- From 8 April 2013 - there will be a few thousand new PIP claims in pilot areas in the north of England.
- From June 2013 - new claims for PIP will commence in the rest of the country.
- From October 2013 - DLA claimants of working age who report a change in their needs will be asked to apply for PIP instead of remaining on DLA. The DWP will also start contacting people approaching the end of fixed period DLA awards and young people turning 16.
- Between October 2015 and 2018 - all remaining DLA claimants of working age will be contacted as part of a phased process and invited to apply for PIP.

Who can get PIP?

It is expected that PIP will be available for new claimants in Hertfordshire from 10 June 2013. If you are reading this factsheet before that date you should consider applying for DLA instead.

To claim the personal independence payment you must:

- be aged 16 to 64;
- meet residence and presence conditions - this includes being 'habitually resident' and having been present in Great Britain for at least two out of the past three years;

- satisfy the daily living and/or mobility assessment;
- have satisfied the daily living and/or mobility assessment for at least three months before claiming and be likely to continue to satisfy this test for at least nine months after claiming, unless you are terminally ill.

PIP is not means tested and can be paid regardless of how much income or savings you have and regardless of whether you have paid national insurance contributions. You can get PIP whether you are in or out of work, or if you are studying. You can still qualify if you live alone or if you don't have a carer.

If you claim PIP before your 65th birthday you will be able to stay on it after you turn 65. If you are aged 65 or over and not already getting PIP or DLA, you should consider claiming attendance allowance instead.

How much is PIP worth?

PIP will have two parts (components) - the daily living component and the mobility component. You may qualify for either or both parts, depending on how your disability or health condition affects you. Each component will have two rates.

The daily living component will have:

- a standard rate if you have a limited ability to carry out daily living activities - £53.00 per week
- an enhanced rate if you have a severely limited ability to carry out daily living activities - £79.15 per week

The mobility component will have:

- a standard rate if you have a limited ability to carry out mobility activities - £21.00 per week;
- an enhanced rate if you have a severely limited ability to carry out mobility activities - £55.25 per week

What if I am terminally ill?

If you are suffering from an illness where death can be expected within six months, you will automatically be entitled to the enhanced rate for daily living and will not be required to have a face to face consultation. You will still need to apply for the mobility component but will not have to satisfy the waiting period of three months.

Unlike DLA, PIP will not have automatic entitlement for people with specified health conditions, for example, those with visual impairments or receiving certain types of dialysis.

How can I apply for PIP?

You will need to phone the Department for Work and Pensions (number to be announced) to register your claim. During the phone call you will need to confirm your identity and provide basic information such as details of your doctor, bank account and any recent periods spent abroad, in hospital or in residential care.

If another person makes the phone call on your behalf you will need to be present to confirm your identity during the phone call, unless the person calling has been officially appointed to deal with your claims.

After registering your claim you will be sent a form asking for information about your disability or medical condition and how it affects you. Give plenty of detail and examples of how you have difficulty with different activities. You can send in additional evidence to support your claim if you wish, such as a letter from a doctor or social worker.

Most claimants will be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with an independent health professional. People who have the most severe health conditions or disabilities, or those who are terminally ill, are unlikely to need a face to face consultation. This will be decided on a case by case basis.

How will PIP be assessed?

In order to get PIP you will have to score a certain number of points. These can be scored for twelve different activities.

For the daily living component, the activities are:

1. Preparing food
2. Eating and drinking
3. Managing your treatments
4. Washing and bathing
5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence
6. Dressing and undressing
7. Communicating verbally
8. Reading
9. Mixing with others
10. Making decisions about money

For the mobility component, the activities are:

11. Planning and following journeys
12. Moving around

Each activity has a set of 'descriptors'. Points are awarded according to how you manage each activity. As stated in the descriptors, you may score points if you require assistance, supervision, prompting, or need to use an aid or appliance to perform the activities. For example, you will score four points if you need assistance to prepare or cook a simple meal. You can view a list of all the activities and descriptors, the possible points attached to each, and a list of definitions, in the appendix at the end of this factsheet.

The assessor will choose one descriptor for each activity. If more than one descriptor applies to you, the one that scores highest is chosen. Your total score for the daily living activities, and your total score for the mobility activities, will determine which component(s) you can get, and at what rates:

Total score for daily living (activities 1 to 10)	0 to 7 points	Not entitled to daily living component
	8 to 11 points	Standard rate daily living component
	12 or more points	Enhanced rate daily living component

Total score for mobility (activities 11 and 12)	0 to 7 points	Not entitled to mobility component
	8 to 11 points	Standard rate mobility component
	12 or more points	Enhanced rate mobility component

How will the descriptors work?

The DWP will assess whether you are able to do the activities described in the appendix in a reliable, safe and timely manner.

If your condition fluctuates, the choice of which descriptor applies will be based on a **twelve month period**. If you cannot carry out the descriptor for an activity for more than six months in total during that twelve month period, you will be awarded the appropriate points.

If you have a condition that varies, you will be awarded points for the one which is likely to apply for the greatest amount of that time.

If you are waiting for further treatment, descriptor choices will be based on the likely continuing impact of the health condition or impairment as if any treatment etc hasn't taken place.

How will the assessment happen?

Unlike DLA, PIP will be based less on the claim form and more on routine medical examinations, similar to those used in the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance. An independent health professional will look at your claim form and any medical evidence from your GP or consultant.

Most claimants will be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with the health professional. People with the most severe health conditions or disabilities, or those who

are terminally ill, are unlikely to need a face to face assessment. This will be decided on a case by case basis.

You will be able to take someone with you, such as a family member, carer or anyone else. If you are unable to travel to an assessment centre you can ask for a home visit.

After that, the independent health professional will give advice to a case manager at the DWP who will decide if you are entitled to PIP and at what rate. The case manager will also decide the length of your award. This will be based on your needs and the likelihood of your condition changing.

You may still be contacted during this time to see if your needs have changed. Penalties are being introduced for claimants who fail to report a change that would have resulted in a reduction in benefit.

If you are unhappy with a decision about your claim you should seek advice as you may be able to challenge the decision.

What happens if I am aged 16 to 64 and currently getting DLA?

PIP is being introduced in stages over a number of years and will replace DLA for people of working age. If you are currently receiving disability living allowance (DLA) and you are aged between 16 and 64 on or after 8 April 2013, you will be invited to apply for PIP some time between October 2013 and spring 2018. The DWP will write to you telling you how to apply.

There is no automatic transfer from DLA to PIP. You will be asked to apply for PIP even if you currently have a lifetime or indefinite award of DLA. You will need to apply for PIP when invited to do so. You will be told in advance when this is about to happen. If you don't apply for PIP within the time limit, your DLA will stop.

If you apply for PIP within the time limits you will carry on getting DLA until the result of your PIP claim has been decided. If you pass the conditions for PIP you will be moved on to it. If the DWP decide that you do not qualify for PIP, your DLA will end.

- **From October 2013** – anyone with a DLA award coming up for renewal, young people turning 16, or DLA claimants with an indefinite award reporting a change in their condition, will be reassessed for PIP. So, from this date, if your condition worsens while you are still getting DLA and you want your award to be looked at again, you will be asked to claim PIP. It will not be possible to switch to a different rate of DLA. If you decide not to claim PIP, your DLA award will end.

If you have a fixed term DLA award which is due to end on or after 24 February 2014 you will not be able to renew it. You will be asked to claim PIP instead.

Between October 2015 and 2018, all remaining DLA claimants (except for children and those aged 65 or over on 8 April 2013) will be invited to make a claim to PIP. You will not be able to choose to keep DLA as an alternative.

If you have had a DLA decision or an assessment for employment and support allowance within the previous six months, you should not be re-called to claim PIP until after the end of the six-month period.

What happens if I am aged 65 or over and currently getting DLA?

If you get DLA and are already aged 65 or over before PIP is introduced (8 April 2013), you can keep your DLA for the time being and will not need to claim PIP. The DWP want to see how the assessment for the new benefits works for people of working age, before deciding if people over 65 should undertake a new assessment.

However, existing DLA claimants who turn 65 after 8 April 2013 will be contacted and asked to claim PIP.

What happens if I am aged 65 or over and currently getting attendance allowance?

Attendance allowance will not be affected by the introduction of PIP.

What happens if I have a child under 16 who is currently getting DLA?

Children under 16 are currently not affected by the proposals and will continue, for the time being, to claim DLA. The DWP has said that it will look at how PIP is working for adults before considering any extension of it to new claims from children or to children already receiving DLA. There is also an aim to consider developing a separate assessment at a later date and this may be linked to a single education, health and social care assessment. Any proposals about children will be subject to a separate consultation. For more information see www.dwp.gov.uk

If your child's 16th birthday is after October 2013, they will be asked to apply for PIP a few months before they turn 16. If they apply for PIP within the time limits, they will carry on getting DLA until their PIP claim is decided. If they don't apply for PIP, they will not be able to get DLA after their 16th birthday.

I'm not currently getting DLA but have care/supervision or mobility needs. Should I apply for DLA now?

If you are not currently getting DLA, you should get advice about whether you should make a claim.

The fact that PIP only has two rates for daily living, not three rates for care like DLA, is particularly likely to affect you if you have low level disabilities and perhaps only need help with personal care for part of the day or are unable to prepare a cooked main meal. This may make it hard for you to score enough points to qualify for PIP so you should consider claiming DLA now.

If you are awarded DLA you will be able to keep it until you are reassessed for PIP, which may be as late as 2018. You can claim DLA by phoning the BEL Helpline on 0800 882200 or go to www.gov.uk

Will carer's allowance be affected?

Carer's allowance will continue as a stand alone benefit. Carers may be able to qualify for carer's allowance if they look after someone getting either rate of PIP daily living component. For more information see our **extra money for carers** pack on www.hertsdirect.org/benefits.

Will PIP passport me to help with transport costs?

If you are awarded the enhanced rate of PIP mobility component you can use it to fund a vehicle under the Motability scheme.

The DWP is also currently working with the Department for Transport about passporting arrangements for Blue Badges, concessionary local travel and exemption from vehicle excise duty.

What can I do if I am unhappy with the result of my PIP claim?

If you are refused PIP, or if you are unhappy with the rate of benefit awarded or the length of time it has been awarded for, you can ask for the decision to be revised. You must do this within one calendar month of the date on the decision letter if possible, although the time limit can be extended in some circumstances. It may be helpful to provide additional information or evidence in support of your claim – seek advice. The DWP will look at your claim again and let you know whether they can change their previous decision.

Then, if you are still not satisfied, you can appeal to an independent tribunal. The time limit for this is one month from the date of the revised decision. Seek advice before appealing.

Where can I find more information about PIP?

For more information on PIP and welfare reform in general see the Disability Rights UK website www.disabilityrightsuk.org.uk

Further information is available on www.dwp.gov.uk and regular updates will also appear on the Money Advice Unit website www.hertsdirect.org/benefits

Further help and advice

Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)

Legal help and advice

CAB Advice Line:

0844 4111 444

Online information:

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Information about local CAB and opening times:

www.hertfordshirecab.org.uk

Community Legal Advice

Legal help and information and details of other advice agencies in Hertfordshire

Community Legal Advice Helpline:

0845 345 4345

Online information:

www.gov.uk

This information is for guidance only and is not an authoritative statement of the law. It may be subject to change at any time before the introduction of PIP.

Appendix

This information is based on draft regulations which may change. These are available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2013/9780111532072/schedule/1>

The entitlement thresholds for PIP are:

Daily living component (activities 1 to 10)

Standard rate: 8 points Enhanced rate: 12 points

Mobility component (activities 11 and 12)

Standard rate: 8 points Enhanced rate: 12 points

Activity 1 Preparing food and drink

- a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to either prepare or cook a simple meal. – Score 2
- c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but can do so using a microwave – Score 2
- d. Needs prompting to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal. - Score 2
- e. Needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal. – Score 4
- f. Cannot prepare and cook food - Score 8

Activity 2 Taking nutrition

- a. Can take nutrition unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs either (i) to use an aid or appliance to take nutrition; or (ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition: or (iii) assistance to cut up food. – Score 2
- c. Needs a therapeutic source to take nutrition. – Score 2
- d. Needs prompting to take nutrition. - Score 4
- e. Needs assistance to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition. – Score 6
- f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so – Score 10

Activity 3 Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition

- a. Either (i) Does not receive medication, therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or (ii) can manage medication, therapy or monitor a health condition unaided.– Score 0
- b. Needs either (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication; or (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication or monitor a health condition. – Score 1
- c. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes up to 3.5 hours a week. – Score 2
- d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes between 3.5 and 7 hours a week. – Score 4
- e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes between 7 and 14 hours a week. – Score 6

- f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week. – Score 8

Activity 4 Washing and bathing

- a. Can bathe and bathe unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe. – Score 2
- c. Needs supervision or prompting to wash or bathe. - Score 2
- d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist - Score 2
- e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower – Score 3
- f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist – Score 4
- g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body - Score 8

Activity 5 Managing toilet needs or incontinence

- a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided. – Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to manage toilet needs or incontinence. – Score 2
- c. Needs supervision or prompting to manage toilet needs. – Score 2
- d. Needs assistance to manage toilet needs. – Score 4
- e. Needs assistance to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel. – Score 6
- f. Needs assistance to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel. – Score 8

Activity 6 Dressing and undressing

- a. Can dress and undress unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to dress or undress. – Score 2
- c. Needs either (i) prompting to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or (ii) assistance or prompting to select appropriate clothing. – Score 2
- d. Needs assistance to dress or undress lower body. – Score 2
- e. Needs assistance to dress or undress upper body. – Score 4
- f. Cannot dress or undress at all. - Score 8

Activity 7 Communicating verbally

- a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided. – Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear. – Score 2
- c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information. – Score 4
- d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information. – Score 8
- e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support. – Score 12

Activity 8 Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

- a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses. – Score 0
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information. – Score 2
- c. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information. – Score 2
- d. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information. – Score 4
- e. Cannot read, or understand signs, symbols or words at all. – score 8

Activity 9 Engaging with other people face to face

- a. Can engage with other people unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs prompting to engage with other people. - Score 2
- c. Needs social support to engage with other people. - Score 4
- d. Cannot engage with other people due to such engagement causing either (i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; or (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person. – Score 8

Activity 10 Making budgeting decisions

- a. Can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided. – Score 0
- b. Needs prompting or assistance to make complex budgeting decisions. – Score 2
- c. Needs prompting or assistance to make simple budgeting decisions. – Score 4
- d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all. - Score 6

Mobility activities and descriptors

Activity 11 Planning and following journeys

- a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided. - Score 0
- b. Needs prompting to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. - Score 4
- c. Cannot plan the route of a journey. - Score 8
- d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid, Score 10
- e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant. Score – 10
- f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid. Score - 12

Activity 12 Moving around

- a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided. - Score 0
- b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres either aided or unaided. – Score 4

- c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but not more than 50 metres Score- 8
- d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres . - Score 10
- e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres – either aided or unaided. - Score 12
- f. Cannot, either aided or unaided – (i) stand; or (ii) move more than 1 metre. – Score 12

Definitions for activities and descriptors

“aided” means with –

- (a) the use of an aid or appliance; or
- (b) supervision, prompting or assistance;

“assistance” means physical intervention by another person and does not include speech;

“assistance dog” means a dog trained to guide or assist a person with a sensory impairment;

“basic verbal information” means information in the claimant’s native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence;

“basic written information” means signs, symbols and dates written or printed standard size text in the claimant’s native language;

“bathe” includes getting into or out of an unadapted bath or shower;

“communication support” means support from a person trained or experienced in communicating with people with specific communication needs, including interpreting verbal information into a non-verbal form and vice versa;

“complex budgeting decisions” means decisions involving –

- (a) calculating household and personal budgets;
- (b) managing and paying bills; and
- (c) planning future purchases;

“complex verbal information” means information in the claimant’s native language conveyed verbally in either more than one sentence or one complicated sentence;

“complex written information” means more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text in the claimant’s native language;

“cook” means heat food at or above waist height;

“dress and undress” includes put on and take off socks and shoes;

“engage socially” means –

- (a) interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner;
- (b) understand body language; and
- (c) establish relationships;

“manage incontinence” means manage involuntary evacuation of the bowel or bladder, including use a collecting device or self-catheterisation, and clean oneself afterwards;

“manage medication or therapy” means take medication or undertake therapy, where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in the claimant’s health;

“medication” means medication to be taken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist;

“monitor health” means –

(a) detect significant changes in the claimant’s health condition which are likely to lead to a deterioration in the claimant’s health; and

(b) take action advised by a registered doctor, registered nurse or health professional who is regulated by the Health Professions Council, without which the claimant’s health is likely to deteriorate;

“orientation aid” means a specialist aid designed to assist disabled people to follow a route safely;

“prepare”, in the context of food, means make food ready for cooking or eating;

“prompting” means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person;

“psychological distress” means distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment;

“read” includes read signs, symbols and words but does not include read Braille;

“simple budgeting decisions” means decisions involving –

(a) calculating the cost of goods; and

(b) calculating change required after a purchase;

“simple meal” means a cooked one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients;

“social support” means support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people to engage in social situations;

“stand” means stand upright with at least one biological foot on the ground;

“supervision” means the continuous presence of another person for the purpose of ensuring C’s safety;

“take nutrition” means –

(a) cut food into pieces, convey food and drink to one’s mouth and chew and swallow food and drink; or

(b) take nutrition by using a therapeutic source;

“therapeutic source” means parenteral or enteral tube feeding, using a rate-limiting device such as a delivery system or feed pump;

“therapy” means therapy to be undertaken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a registered doctor, nurse, pharmacist or health professional regulated by the Health Professions Council;

“toilet needs” means –

(a) getting on and off an unadapted toilet;

(b) evacuating the bladder and bowel; and

(c) cleaning oneself afterwards; and

“unaided” means without –

(a) the use of an aid or appliance; or

(b) supervision, prompting or assistance.