

**Disability Law Service**

Fighting injustice for disabled people

**A Guide to Personal  
Independence Payment (PIP)**

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## Introduction

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is extra money to help you with everyday life if you've an illness, disability or mental health condition. You can get it on top of Employment and Support Allowance or other benefits.

Your income, savings, and whether you're working or not will not affect your eligibility to PIP.

## Eligibility Rules

To qualify for PIP, you must:

- be aged 16 to 64;
- need help with everyday tasks or getting around;
- have needed this help for 3 months and expect it to need it for another 9 months;
- usually be living in England, Scotland or Wales when you apply; *and*
- have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 years - unless you're a refugee or an immediate family member of a refugee.

**Note:** There are exceptions to these rules if you're terminally ill or in the armed forces.

# Your Illness, Disability or Mental Health Condition

PIP is not based on the condition you have or the medication you take. It is based on the level of help you need because of how your condition affects you. You're assessed on the level of help you need with specific activities. These activities are:

- Preparing and cooking food.
- Eating and drinking.
- Managing your treatments.
- Washing and bathing.
- Managing toilet needs or incontinence.
- Dressing and undressing.
- Communicating with other people.
- Reading and understanding written information.
- Mixing with others.
- Making decisions about money.
- Planning a journey or following a route.
- Moving around.

## Residency Rules

If you've not lived in England, Scotland or Wales for 2 of the last 3 years, you might still qualify if:

- you've lived in another EEA country (the time you spent there can sometimes count towards the 2-year rule); or
- you've lived in another EEA country, but you're now habitually resident in the UK and you have a genuine and sufficient link with the UK social security system.

You might be habitually resident in the UK if you've returned to the UK with the intention to stay for the foreseeable future. For example, you've registered with your local doctor, moved your bank accounts to the UK, joined clubs and societies, or given up ties or your life in the other country.

You might have a link to the UK social security system if:

- you've spent a significant part of your life in the UK;
- you've worked and paid National Insurance in the UK; or
- you're dependent on a family member who has worked and paid National Insurance in the UK.

You might also have a link if you (or a family member you depend on) get any of the following benefits:

- Jobseeker's Allowance (contribution based).
- Employment and Support Allowance (contribution based).
- Bereavement Payment or Allowance.
- State Pension.
- Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Widow's Pension
- Widowed Mother's Allowance

## Moving from DLA to PIP

You'll carry on getting Disability Living Allowance (DLA) if you were aged 65 or over on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2013. For everyone else, once you reach the age of 16 and over, DLA will stop and you'll need to claim PIP instead – even if you have a 'lifetime' or 'indefinite' award of DLA.

You won't automatically move over to PIP, however. You'll get a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) asking you to make a new claim. It's

important to fill in the claim forms correctly so that you get the right amount of PIP.

If you're moving from DLA to PIP, your payments won't stop while you're waiting for your PIP claim to be processed – as long as you make your claim for PIP within 28 days of being told by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you should.

Your PIP payments will start the day after your DLA payment stops.

## How Much PIP Can You Get and for How Long?

The DWP makes the decision about the amount of Personal Independence Payment you get, and for how long.

It's not possible to say exactly what you'll get before you apply because the DWP bases the amount you get on your application, and the length of your award on the likelihood of your condition changing.

### PIP Rates

PIP is made up of 2 components (or parts) called daily living and mobility; and each can be paid at either a standard or enhanced rate.

Mobility Component	Weekly Rate
Standard Rate	£23.20
Enhanced Rate	£61.20

Care Component	Weekly Rate
Standard Rate	£58.70
Enhanced Rate	£87.65

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**Note:** If you have a terminal illness, you will automatically get the daily living enhanced rate. The mobility rate you get (if at all) will depend on the level of help you need with your mobility.

## How Long You Get PIP For

Your decision letter will tell you how long you'll get PIP for. It's usually for a fixed period of time; although there are 'ongoing' awards.

**Note:** If you're terminally ill, the award is for 3 years.

## How PIP is Paid

PIP is paid every 4 weeks. However, if you have a terminal illness you can request for it to be paid every week.

You'll be asked for your bank, building society or credit union account details when you claim. You can only get paid in a different way if you have problems opening or managing an account.

If you can't open or manage a bank, building society or credit union account, contact the office that pays your benefit to find out how to get it paid. If you receive Universal Credit, contact your work coach.

You can get the money paid into any account, apart from a Nationwide Building Society account in someone else's name.

# How to Claim PIP

Making a claim for Personal Independence Payment can take a long time. It can often take up to 4 months from starting the application to getting your money.

There are 3 stages to your claim:

1. Start your claim by calling the DWP.
2. Fill in the claim form they send you.
3. Go to a face-to-face assessment. Most people have to do this (but you won't if you're terminally ill).

## Filling in Your PIP Claim Form

You can start your PIP claim by filling in a PIP1 Form. You can do this either:

- by phone - a DWP adviser will fill in the basic claim form for you during the call, it should only take 20 minutes; or
- by post - filling in a paper form that the DWP send you, and posting it back

It's generally best to start your claim by phone because it is not only quicker, but your payments will be taken to start from when you make your claim.

You can find the contact details for the DWP below.

You'll need to have the following information when you call the DWP:

- your full name, address and phone number;
- your National Insurance number;
- your bank or building society account details;
- contact details of your GP or other health professionals you deal with;
- the dates and details of any stays in hospital or residential care;
- your nationality or immigration status; *and*
- if you've been abroad for more than 4 weeks at a time in the last 3 years (you'll need the dates and details).



You'll be asked if you have any conditions relating to your mental health, a learning difficulty or behavioural condition. These questions are asked to check if you need any additional help or support with your claim.

It should take about 20 minutes to complete the call. If you'd prefer someone else to call for you that's fine, but you need to be with them so you can give permission to speak for you.

## PIP Claim Line

- Telephone: 0800 917 2222.
- Textphone: 0800 917 7777.

Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. Calls are free from landlines and from mobiles.

### **Legal Disclaimer**

Although great care has been taken in the compilation and preparation of this Factsheet to ensure accuracy, DLS cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. All information provided is for education / informative purposes, and is not a substitute for professional advice.

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