

Personal Independence Payment

1. Introduction



At a glance

Personal Independence Payment is a new benefit, introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016.

From that date it has not been possible for people aged 16 to 64 to make a claim for Disability Living Allowance. They have to claim PIP instead.

This briefing is aimed at:

- members of the public
- advisers

It explains what PIP is, how people qualify and how it is paid.

Law Centre (NI)

- promotes social justice and provides specialist legal services to advice organisations and disadvantaged individuals
- in five areas of law: social security, community care, mental health, employment, trafficking and asylum
- through advice, casework, training, information and policy services

Our advice line

9.30 to 1pm, Monday to Friday: 9024 4401

Introduction

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a new benefit introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016. It has replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as the main benefit paid to disabled people of working age (16 to 64) who need help getting around and/or with daily living activities.

If you were aged over 65 on 20 June 2016 and were in receipt of DLA your DLA will continue to be paid as usual.

If you are claiming for a child who is aged under 16, DLA will continue until the Department for Communities (the Department) write to you to invite you to apply for PIP instead.

If you are making a new claim for a child under 16 you will still apply for DLA.

1. What is PIP?

PIP is a non-means tested benefit which, once you qualify, is paid whether you are in or out of work. It is a non-contributory benefit and thus does not depend on your national insurance contribution record. It is not taxed. It is paid by the Department. The purpose of PIP is to help towards some of the extra costs that arise from having a long-term health condition or disability which affects your ability to get around and/or your daily living activities.

2. What type of conditions are covered by PIP?

Your entitlement will be based on the effect your health condition or disability has on your daily life and not on the nature of your condition or disability itself.

You can only qualify for PIP if your condition has lasted for at least three months and is expected to last for another nine months or longer.

3. PIP components

PIP is made up of two different components:

- the Daily Living component;
- the Mobility component.

Each component has two rates:

- the standard rate which is paid where you are found to have limited ability;
- the enhanced rate which is paid where it is accepted that you have severely limited ability.

All awards of PIP consist of one or both of these components which can be paid at either the standard or the enhanced rate. If you are awarded PIP, the rate at which your benefit is paid will depend on an assessment of your individual need for help with activities of daily living and/or with getting around.

The weekly amount for each rate is:

PIP Daily Living Component Enhanced	£83.10
PIP Daily Living Component Standard	£55.65
PIP Mobility Enhanced	£58.00
PIP Mobility Standard	£22.00

4. What factors will be considered to see if you are entitled to PIP?

In order to assess your entitlement to PIP, the Department will consider how your condition affects you in respect of a range of specific activities which are set out in Appendix 1 to this briefing (page 4).

In assessing you, the Department will consider a number of factors. These include:

- your specific needs;
- how your illness or disability impacts on your daily life;
- your ability to carry out key everyday activities;
- your physical, sensory, mental, intellectual and cognitive impairments and developmental needs;
- any variability in your health problems including any fluctuations you might experience as part of your illness or disability.

The level of award made is determined by the number of points your needs attract in each component. To qualify for the standard rate, you must obtain a total score of at least 8 points and for the enhanced rate you need a total of 12 points.

Our other briefings in this series provide more information on:

- how to make a claim for PIP;
- moving from DLA to PIP;
- what help is available if you are in receipt of DLA and you are not awarded PIP, or you receive a lower rate of benefit, following reassessment.

See page 9 for the full list of PIP briefings and where you can find them online.

APPENDIX 1

Daily living and mobility activities and descriptors

DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES AND DESCRIPTORS

Activity 1. Preparing food

- a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided – **Score 0.**
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal - **Score 2.**
- c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to 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 be able to take nutrition; or (ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition; or (iii) assistance to be able to cut up food - **Score 2.**
- c. Needs a therapeutic source to be able to take nutrition - **Score 2.**

- d. Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition - **Score 4.**
- e. Needs assistance to be able 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 or therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or (ii) can manage medication or therapy or monitor a health condition unaided - **Score 0.**
- b. Needs any one or more of the following – (i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication, (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication (iii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to monitor a health condition - **Score 1.**
- c. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week. - **Score 2.**
- d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week - **Score 4.**
- e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week - **Score 6.**
- f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week - **Score 8.**

Activity 4. Washing and bathing

- a. Can wash 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 be able 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 be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence - **Score 2.**
- c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs - **Score 2.**
- d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs - **Score 4.**
- e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel - **Score 6.**
- f. Needs assistance to be able 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 be able to dress or undress - **Score 2.**
- c. Needs either (i) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or (ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing - **Score 2.**
- d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body - **Score 2.**
- e. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their 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 be able to engage with other people - **Score 2.**
- c. Needs social support to be able 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 be able to make complex budgeting decisions - **Score 2.**
- c. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions - **Score 4.**
- d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all - **Score 6.**

MOBILITY ACTIVITIES AND DESCRIPTORS

Activity 1. Planning and following journeys

- a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided - **Score 0.**
- b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant - **Score 4.**
- c. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot plan the route of a journey - **Score 8.**
- d. For reasons other than psychological distress, 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. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid - **Score 12.**

Activity 2. 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 no 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.**

APPENDIX 2

PIP assessments centres

City	Address
Belfast	24 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8GD
Coleraine	5 Stable Lane, Coleraine BT52 1DQ
Dungannon	Unit 2, 40 Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6BE
Enniskillen	1 Broadmeadow Place, Shore Road BT74 7EE
Newry	The Foundry, Quays Shopping Centre, Newry BT35 8QS
Londonderry	Unit 6 Timber Quay, 100 Strand Road, Londonderry BT48 7NR

Law Centre (NI) social security advice line

Advisers are welcome to contact the Law Centre's social security legal advice line with queries about this and other benefit issues.

(028) 9024 4401, 9.30 to 1pm, Monday to Friday

Law Centre (NI) briefings on Personal Independence Payment

PIP 1. Introduction

www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Law-Centre-Information-Briefings/PIP-1.Introduction-September-2016updatedSept2017.pdf

PIP 2. Making a claim

www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Law-Centre-Information-Briefings/PIP-2.Making-a-Claim-September-2016updatedSept2017.pdf

PIP 3. Moving from DLA to PIP

www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Law-Centre-Information-Briefings/PIP-3.Moving-from-DLA-to-PIP-September-2016updatedSept2017.pdf

PIP 4. Supplementary payments

www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Law-Centre-Information-Briefings/PIP-4.Supplementary-Payments-September-2016updated2017.pdf

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