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The **Potteries Gold** Post

PIP IN THE NEWS AGAIN!

OVER 1.5 MILLION CLAIMS TO BE REVIEWED AFTER HIGH COURT RULING.

Although it was introduced in 2013, **Personal Independence Payment** is still new in benefit terms and disputes about what the regulations mean and how they should be applied are happening all the time. If these get to the **Upper Tribunal** or the **Courts**, they can change how your benefit is assessed.

In **March 2017**, the Government changed the wording of PIP mobility activity 1, **Planning and Following a Journey**, after the DWP lost an appeal to the Upper Tribunal. The new descriptors added '**For reasons other than psychological distress**' to three of the descriptors for this activity, in an attempt to limit their use to people with sensory or learning disabilities.

In a **High Court** ruling before Christmas, Mr Justice Mostyn said: "In my judgment, the 2017 regulations introduced criteria ... which were **blatantly discriminatory** against those with **mental health impairments** and which cannot be objectively justified."

The changed wording was ruled **unlawful**.

The Government confirmed last month that they are **not going to appeal** this High Court decision.

They have also confirmed that **all claims** (new or renewal) made **since November 2016**, the date of the Upper Tribunal decision which the unlawful amendment attempted to frustrate, will be reviewed. This will be a paper exercise, nobody will have to have a new face-to-face medical and no-one's benefit will be cut in the process.

Approximately **1.6 million claims** will be looked at again!



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My PIP might be affected. What do I need to do?



Nothing! Please do not worry about this!

If you made or renewed your PIP claim between **November 2016** and **January 2018**, you do not need to contact the DWP. They will be reviewing your claim automatically.

If they need extra **medical evidence**, they will get in touch with the doctors or specialists mentioned on your form. You won't have to go to a face-to-face medical as part of this review.

You should get a **decision letter** whether you qualify for extra PIP or not. If you are not happy with the decision, you will have the right to ask for it to be **reconsidered**.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL GET EXTRA PIP?

The Government estimate that around **220,000 people** will get an **increase** in their PIP payments due to this review. So far, the DWP have not been able to say how long it will take to review all these claims but, even if you have to wait a long time for your claim to be looked at, any extra payments due to you will be paid from when you made your new claim or did your renewal.

If you have made a claim or renewed your claim this year and mental health affects your ability to plan and follow journeys, this should be taken into account when working out your PIP award.

You can read more about PIP on the Citizens Advice website

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> or why not come to one of our PIP workshops? Details of the next one are on our Facebook page.

Potteries Gold is a **Citizens Advice Staffordshire North & Stoke-on-Trent** project to help people in Stoke-on-Trent cope with changes to the benefit system

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