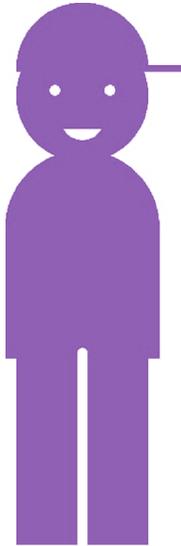


SUPERVISION

Sam has epilepsy. He used to get the highest rate of DLA for care, as he needed someone to watch over him throughout the day and to check on him during the night. He also got the lower rate for mobility, as he needed supervision from another person when walking outdoors.

Sam got about £100 per week in DLA.

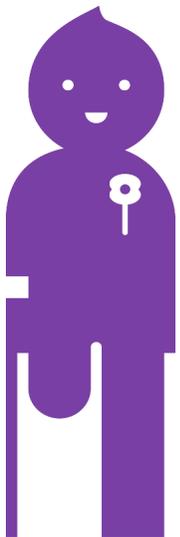
When he claimed PIP, he only scored enough points for the 'standard' rate for daily living, about £55 per week, and nothing for mobility.



MOBILITY

Len used to get DLA at the highest rate for mobility because he was 'virtually unable to walk'. He used his benefit for a Motability car.

When he had to claim PIP, because he could walk more than 20 metres but less than 50, he only got the lower rate of PIP for mobility and lost his car.



APPEALS

If you get less PIP than you hoped for or are turned down, you can ask for the decision to be looked at again. This is called a 'reconsideration'. You must ask within **one calendar month** of the date on the decision letter.

If you are unhappy with the second decision, you can then appeal to an independent tribunal. You have **one calendar month** from the date on the new decision letter to appeal.

If you have been given less PIP than you hoped for, get advice before asking for a reconsideration or appeal. Although you might win and get more PIP, you could get less or lose the whole award if the decision is looked at again.

The change from DLA to PIP might affect other benefits you get or benefits for a carer, if you have one.

For more information go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk or contact our Citizens Advice Helpline: 03444 111 444

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
www.snsCab.org.uk/about-us/potteries-gold
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Potteries Gold

Changing to...

Personal Independence Payment

...from DLA



LOTTERY FUNDED

WHAT IS PIP?

PIP (Personal Independence Payment) is for people whose disabilities affect their daily lives and mobility.

It is not means-tested and you do not need to have paid National Insurance to get PIP.

You do not have to be 'unfit for work'. You could get PIP even if you do paid work.

You cannot make a claim new claim for DLA unless you are claiming for a child under 16.

Everyone who now gets DLA will eventually have to claim PIP instead, unless you were over 65 on 8th April 2013.

If your DLA runs for a fixed time, you will be invited to claim PIP just before it ends.

If you report a change in your care or mobility needs, you will be asked to claim PIP instead.

Even if your DLA was 'for life', you will still be asked to claim PIP one day. You will be chosen at random and asked to claim PIP. If you don't claim, your DLA will stop.

PIP v DLA

PIP is different to DLA in how it looks at disability.

DLA for care asked if you needed attention or supervision *from another person* and if you needed this during the day, at night or both.

DLA mobility usually looked at whether you were *virtually unable to walk* but you could also get this if the effort of walking was a risk to your health.

PIP has a **points system** which looks at ten 'daily living' activities and two 'mobility' ones.

The more difficult an activity is for you, the more points you should get for it. For example, if you need an 'aid or appliance' to cook for yourself, you score 2 points; if you need help from someone else to cook you score 4; but if someone else needs to do the cooking for you, you score 8.

Some people might find it easier to get PIP than DLA, or might get a higher rate of PIP. Some people will find it harder to get PIP than they did DLA, or might get a lower rate.

Here are some examples...

AIDS AND APPLIANCES

Beryl has severe arthritis but manages to look after herself. Because she does not need help from another person, she was not able to get DLA.

Beryl needs gadgets to cope at home. She can only cook and cut up her meals because she has cutlery and kitchen equipment with handles that are easy for her to hold. She wears slip-on shoes and elasticated clothes as she cannot manage buttons and zips.

She needs lever taps on her bath and wash basin and hand rails to help her get on and off the toilet.

Because Beryl needs to use lots of 'aids and adaptations' she scores enough points for the 'standard' rate of PIP for daily living. This is about £55 per week. If she gets this, Beryl might find she can also claim more of some other benefits.

Beryl must claim PIP before her 65th birthday. If she gets PIP, it will be paid for as long as she meets the rules, even when she is over 65.

