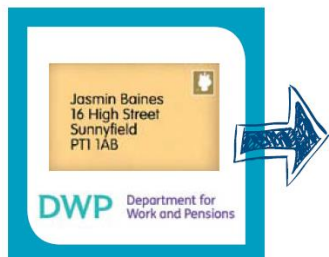


Personal Independence Payment – Information and timetable



Personal Independence Payment (also known as PIP) is a new benefit that will replace Disability Living Allowance (also known as DLA).

These changes will start to happen from April 2013.

There are two parts to the money that you receive from PIP. There is money for daily living and money for getting around.

You will get more money if you have more needs.

If you are an adult and get DLA and you want to continue to get it you will have to reapply for PIP.

The Department for Work and Pensions will write to you and ask you if you want to reapply for PIP.





These changes to benefits will take place between 2013 and 2016.

From April 2013, brand new claims for disability benefits in the north west and north east of England will be for PIP.

New claims in the rest of England started in June 2013. This will not affect people who are renewing their DLA claim.

If you get DLA at the moment, you will be asked if you want to re-apply for PIP. You will get a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions:

From October 2013 to October 2015 people turning 16, people with big changes in their lives and people whose DLA claim is coming to an end will apply for PIP not DLA.

	<p>After October 2015 the Department for Work and Pensions will contact people who now get DLA and tell them what they need to do to get PIP.</p>
<p>Personal Independence Payment Update – a recent consultation on The Moving Around Activity</p> 	<p>Lots of organisations and individuals that support disabled people, older people and carers were not happy about the changes with DLA becoming PIP. It is more difficult to get PIP, meaning that less people will be entitled to PIP.</p> <p>The moving around activity is about whether a person can stand up and move around over different distances. The distances are 20 metres, 50 metres and 200 metres.</p> <p>It also looks at whether the person needs aids or appliances to move around.</p> <p>Aids help a person do something better. For example if someone is walking or reading, their</p>



?
Question

Aid may be a walking stick or a magnifier.

Appliances are things that give a person something they are missing or help them do something. For example, a false arm or leg, or a wheelchair.

It also looks at if the person is in pain or feels tired because they are moving around a lot.

At the moment people who can only walk less than 20 metres without too much pain or tiredness will get the enhanced rate of the mobility component.

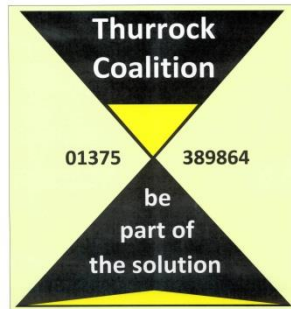
People who can walk between 20 metres and 50 metres without too much pain or tiredness will get the standard rate of the mobility component.

The Question

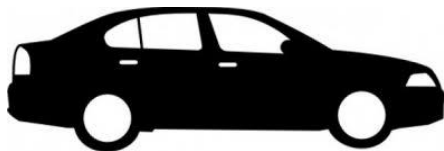
The consultation asked *"What do you think about the moving around activity in the Personal Independence Payment assessment rules?"*

Thurrock Coalition responded. In our answer, we said:

- How the rules that the government have at the moment will affect disabled people



www.thurrockcoalition.co.uk



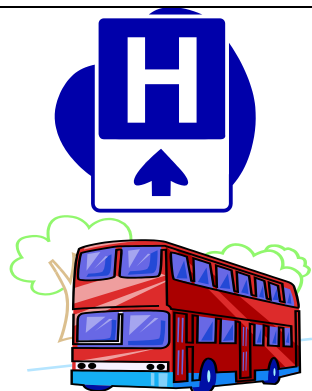
We believe the 20 metre threshold to be too low. The reduction to 20 metres under the current rules will limit the independence of Disabled people

PIP should actually help to support disabled people to have full choice and control over their daily lives.

20 metres is not far enough for a person to be able to walk to carry out out-of daily moving activities for example, getting to a bus stop, walking to a shop or even from a parked car and using a shop, even if they can rest before returning to the car.

People who have a Motability car at the moment, who can walk more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres would lose their money, car or scooter, and potentially their job.

People would then be forced to use public transport (if indeed, the bus stops/stations or other transport hubs are close enough to their home to allow them to catch a bus or train) for all journeys to the shops, hospital, G.P. or to visit friends.



Many Disabled people only use public transport as a last resort as the journeys are often long and difficult, and cause people pain and tiredness 50 metres is used in other assessments as a distance to show if a person has mobility difficulties. For example:

Eligibility for a Blue Badge

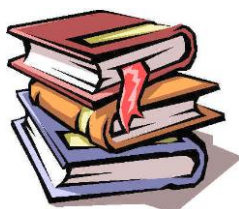
Planners and developers use 50 metres as a guide distance when deciding on the location of Disabled Parking Bays.

What else did we say in our response to the consultation?

The government shouldn't focus too much on whether a person uses an aid or appliance to help them to be independent. The government should look at whether the person can move around without an aid or appliance

Disabled people still face barriers to independent living inclusion and taking part in society. Such as the buildings, steps, access and peoples' attitudes towards them

Someone may be mobile in their own home, and have various aids, adaptations and appliances to help them with their daily routines and moving around (for example, a wheelchair, frame, rollator, grab stick/rails,



adapted bedroom, wet room).

Disabled people face barriers as soon as they get outside. For example the extra cost of transport, education, goods, services, housing, facilities and other key sectors of society

DLA and PIP in Thurrock

There are currently 6,915 DLA claimants (aged 16 to 65) in Thurrock (as of November 2012)

3,720 of those people currently receive Higher Rate Mobility Allowance (£54.05 per week / £2810.60 per year). That means a total of: £10,455,432 per year in Thurrock.

It is government policy to reduce spending on DLA by 20%.

This would mean:

For Higher Rate Mobility/Enhanced Mobility Component PIP in Thurrock – 744 fewer people receiving the Enhanced Component, losing a total of £2,091,086.40 per year to the borough's economy overall

These people may then need some help and assistance from other

	<p>departments such as Health or Adult Social Care.</p> <p>Fraudulent claims for DLA run at around 0.5%¹ so the majority of individuals who are likely to lose out under the new PIP system will be genuinely disabled.</p>
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