

Disability Rights UK Personal Independence Paper Green Paper Explainer

What is Personal Independence Payment (PIP)?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) replaced Disability Living Allowance (DLA). It is a benefit for people who need help participating in everyday life or who find it difficult to get around.

What is the PIP Green paper?

Green Papers are consultative papers on the options the Government has determined are available to it in a certain policy area, sometimes including suggestions for legislation.

In this green paper, the government department responsible for PIP, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), has suggested replacing PIP with a catalogue or a shop in the Green Paper on personal independence payment (PIP) reform published yesterday. The department also asks people to choose whether it is more important that disabled people have money for food or money for medication.

We note the irony that when PIP was introduced, its aim was to target support for those who need it most, so disability benefit expenditure was reduced.

The Green Paper fails to mention that the UK already has one of the [least generous welfare systems](#) in Western Europe.

It fails to mention that PIP claimants are not “exploiting” the It is important to be clear about the aims of the policies proposed in the Green Paper. The obvious goal of the proposed PIP Green Paper reforms is to gatekeep access to PIP to reduce the number of people receiving support via PIP payments, thereby reducing the financial value of the support Disabled people receive.

system – new [DWP figures](#) show that PIP claimants fell from 0.2% in 2022/23 to zero in 2023/24 (of total spending on PIP of about £21.6 billion).

No major party has made clear that it would withdraw this consultation if elected. This means we have to act as if the current government is running it and answer clearly and affirmatively in rejection of these plans.

Section 1 – Assessment Types

In the first section of the consultation, you will be asked whether some claimants with medical evidence of specific health conditions should get PIP without any assessment.

Your opinion is also requested on whether only claimants with “*evidence or a formal diagnosis by a medical expert*” should be awarded PIP awards.

Finally, the questionnaire asked you to explain how to prevent the requirement for a formal diagnosis from a medical expert from having an impact on the NHS - because, of course, this sort of change will lead to doctors' time being greatly affected by having to assess people's eligibility.

Section 2 – Changes to Eligibility

This second section asks you how the DWP should think about the need for aids and appliances to assess someone's claim and what should prompt scoring “points” on the PIP assessment. This section also questions whether Disabled people who score low on some criteria should receive any support via PIP at all.

It then asks if any new activities used to score applicants should be added or removed. Then, it asks about the current three-month qualifying period and whether the existing month-forward test should be abolished.

Section 3 – Meeting Extra Costs of Disability

This section asks what the most important needs for PIP are to address, seemingly suggesting that not all of them can be met. It asks you to rank certain needs in importance from 1 to 10. Really, it's asking if it's more important to eat, heat your home, or get medication—this section is ridiculous and should be rejected outright.

It goes on to ask you what the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a new system for PIP claimants would be. The ideas they suggest are:

- A catalogue/shop scheme
- A voucher scheme
- A receipt based system
- One-off grants

Then it asks you whether there are people who'd benefit more from improved support or treatment instead of cash payments. They give examples of:

- respite care,
- mental health provision
- physiotherapy

Section 4 – Passing PIP costs on to the NHS and local authorities

The last section is very poorly written and has been described by many professionals as “bizarre”. It asks questions about what the NHS or a Local authority provides regarding services and support. The goal seems to imply that PIP isn't needed as the NHS and local authorities can support more people than they currently do. We recommend rejecting this section entirely.

Take part in the consultation.

It is really important to take part in this green paper.

You can [download Modernising Support for Independent Living: The Health and Disability Green Paper](#). You can [participate](#), which closes on 22 July 2024. You are not asked to give your name or any other personal details.

Or you can email your response to consultation.modernisingsupport@DWP.GOV.UK

Our recommended responses

Firstly, at the very least, we recommend responding to the consultation, stating your disgust with it and that you reject its premise. It's clear that the goal is to lay out routes by which people's PIP could be reduced or cut off.

In addition, many organisations have complained about Question 18 of the paper. The question asks, “Which extra costs incurred by disabled people are the most important for a new scheme to address? Please rank the following options in *order of importance*.” You may wish to complain about the question given it asks you to rank the importance of vital extra costs which are impossible to rank.

