



Reassessing existing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants for PIP

Details of how existing DLA claimants will be invited to claim PIP

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Key facts

- PIP replaced DLA for people who were aged between 16 and 64 on 8 April 2013. Initially, this was for new claimants only
- DWP will gradually start to reassess existing DLA claimants for PIP
- From 28 October 2013 onwards, DWP will start to invite some existing DLA claimants living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia to claim PIP
- From 13 January 2014, reassessment areas extend to postcodes beginning: DG, EH, TD and ML
- From 3 February, areas further extend to include postcodes beginning: CA, DL, HG, LA and YO
- DLA claimants do not need to take any action until they are told to do so by DWP
- Most existing DLA claimants will not be affected until 2015 or later
- People cannot get DLA and PIP at the same time

Introduction

We are introducing PIP in stages over a number of years for existing DLA claimants.

We will start reassessing existing claimants of DLA for the new Personal Independence Payment from 28 October gradually in parts of the country first.

This is similar to how we introduced PIP to new claimants from April 2013 and is the way we have been introducing our other programmes of change.

Alongside the phased introduction of natural reassessment activity, new claims to PIP will continue to be taken across Great Britain.

Gradually introducing reassessment

From 28 October 2013, DWP started inviting existing DLA claimants who live in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia to claim PIP where:

- we receive information about a change in their care or mobility needs. DWP will ask these claimants to claim PIP. We will not ask claimants to claim PIP if the change they are reporting will have no affect on their entitlement, for example someone going into a care home or hospital.
- they are aged 16 to 64 and have a DLA fixed award due to expire on or after 17 March 2014. Claimants whose DLA fixed term award ends before 17 March 2014 will be invited to make a renewal claim for DLA and will be asked to claim PIP at a later date.
- they turned 16 years old from 7 October 2013 (unless they have been awarded DLA under the special rules for terminal illness).
- an individual chooses to claim PIP instead of their DLA.

This is referred to as natural reassessment.

From 13 January 2014, we will extend the areas where we're inviting existing DLA claimants to claim PIP (under the circumstances described above) to postcodes beginning DG (Dumfries and Galloway), EH (Edinburgh), TD (Galashiels) and ML (Motherwell).

Find the postcodes for reassessment in: [PIP postcodes map](#) and the text version of the [PIP postcodes](#)

From 3 February 2014, we'll further extend these areas to postcodes beginning CA (Carlisle), DL (Darlington), HG (Harrogate), LA (Lancaster) and YO (York).

Further decisions on extending natural reassessment will be taken and communicated to the rest of the country in due course and will be informed by the experience of introducing reassessment in a gradual way first.

Children approaching age 16

DWP have already begun to notify parents or guardians of children approaching the age of 16 who have an existing award of DLA to inform them that that their child will be invited to claim on or shortly after their 16th birthday.

- Children living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia will be invited to claim PIP when they reach age 16.
- From 13 January 2014, children living in postcodes beginning DG, EH, TD or ML in southern Scotland and parts of the borders will also be invited to claim PIP when they reach age 16.
- From 3 February 2014, children living in postcodes beginning CA, DL, HG, LA or YO in the north of England will also be invited to claim PIP when they reach age 16.
- Children reaching age 16 and who live elsewhere in Great Britain will continue to receive DLA but will have their eligibility for adult DLA checked if their award is due to expire on or around their 16th birthday.

For more detail on the process for children approaching age 16: [supporting young people to claim PIP](#)

The process for reassessing existing DLA claimants

Existing DLA claimants do not need to do anything until they are contacted by DWP.

DWP will write to claimants individually and in plenty of time to explain what action they need to take and by when if they want to claim PIP. The invitation letter explains to the claimant what they need to do, how to make a claim, and the time limits for doing so.

For more information: [how to make a claim for PIP](#)

For more information: [conditions of entitlement](#)

October 2015

From October 2015, DWP will start to reassess all remaining DLA claimants who were aged between 16 and 64 on the day that PIP was introduced (8 April 2013). All these remaining claimants with a DLA award will be invited to make a claim for PIP.

DWP will randomly select those DLA claimants with an indefinite award. Further details of how the random selection will work are not yet available. This is referred to as managed reassessment.

Claimants with an indefinite award made under the special rules for terminal illness or with a fixed term award expiring after September 2017 will be reassessed towards the end of the reassessment period.

Claimants who were aged between 16 and 64 on 8 April 2013, but have since reached age 65 or over will be treated as if they are still under the age of 65 for reassessment purposes. This means they may qualify for the mobility component of PIP if they satisfy the eligibility criteria.

DWP will not select a claimant for reassessment if they have had an assessment for DLA within the last six months.

DWP expects all invitations to claim PIP for existing DLA claimants to have been issued by September 2017, and that PIP will be dealt with under business as usual processes from May 2018.

Important information about existing DLA claimants and PIP

All existing DLA claimants who are invited to claim PIP will need to decide if they want to make a claim for PIP. It will not be an option to remain on DLA.

People cannot get PIP and DLA at the same time. A PIP decision will automatically end the DLA claim. If PIP is not awarded or not claimed then DLA will stop.

The claimant will have 28 days to make a claim to PIP when they are invited to claim. If they fail to do this, their DLA may be suspended after four weeks and after a further four weeks it may be terminated. If they do not comply with the PIP new claims process they may not be awarded PIP and their existing DLA award will be terminated. In these circumstances

For more information:
[supporting vulnerable claimants](#)

their DLA will continue to be paid for a further 13 days following their next payday.

If the claimant is in a vulnerable situation further enquiries will be made before this action is taken.

If the claimant actively tells us they do not wish to claim, or if they withdraw the PIP claim, their DLA will stop.

There is no automatic entitlement to PIP even where an indefinite or lifetime DLA award has been made.

DWP will ensure that DLA remains in payment for all claimants who comply with the new claims process, until a decision on PIP has been communicated to them.

The DLA award will be extended if the claimant has made a claim to PIP within the specified timescales; their DLA award is due to end, but a decision has not yet been reached on the PIP claim.

Once a decision is made on the PIP claim no matter whether that decision is favourable or unfavourable, DLA will continue to be paid until 28 days after their next payday, until the PIP decision comes into force. These rules will also apply if the claimant is awarded PIP at a higher or lower rate than their previous rate of DLA or even disallowed altogether.

There will be no right of appeal against the decision to terminate entitlement to DLA unless the Department has incorrectly applied its legislative requirements (for example if DWP have invited someone who is outside of the qualifying age criteria to claim PIP). However, the claimant will have a right of appeal against the PIP decision.

There will be no right of appeal against the date when the claimant is selected for reassessment.

Where a claimant is in a vulnerable situation, DWP will offer support.

If an existing DLA claimant is reassessed for PIP after they have turned 65 and receives a nil award, their claim to PIP will automatically be treated as a claim to Attendance Allowance. They will not have to make a separate claim although they may be asked to provide further information.

For more information:
[supporting vulnerable claimants](#)

For more information:
[people aged 65 and over](#)

If a claimant living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands or East Anglia contacts DWP to voluntarily claim PIP they can do so. However, if they are in receipt of both the Higher Rate Mobility Component and Highest Rate Care Component of DLA, DWP will advise them not to proceed. This is because they will have no likelihood of receiving an increase in benefit. These claimants would only be asked to claim PIP if they tell DWP that their condition or needs have improved.

From 13 January 2014, the areas where this applies extend to postcodes beginning: DG, EH, TD and ML in southern Scotland and parts of the borders.

From 3 February 2014, the areas further extend to postcodes beginning: CA, DL, HG, LA and YO in the north of England.