

3. Differences and similarities between Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and PIP

PIP is a new benefit for people aged 16 to 64. Whilst some of it has some elements that are similar to DLA, other elements of PIP are quite different. This fact sheet outlines the key similarities and differences.

Similarities between DLA and PIP

Like DLA, Personal Independence Payment is a benefit paid as a contribution to the extra costs arising from having a long term health condition or disability and can be claimed by people whether they are in or out of work. PIP is not affected by income or savings and is not taxable.

Similar to DLA, there are two components for PIP, but with different eligibility criteria

PIP has a daily living component and a mobility component. Awards will be made up of one or both of these components. Each component has two rates of payment, a standard and an enhanced.

PIP will passport to additional support

DWP recognises the value of additional help that passported benefits provide. These are things like the Blue Badge, Carer's Allowance, Motability scheme and public transport

concessions. DWP has maintained the current passporting arrangements wherever possible, and is working with other Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations sponsoring their own schemes to ensure that passporting arrangements under PIP remain appropriate for their schemes and maintain the administrative benefits of the current links with DLA. More information about passported benefits can be found in [fact sheet 4](#).

Special Rules for people who are terminally ill will still apply

This will mean they can claim for PIP immediately, will be dealt with more quickly and are guaranteed payment of the enhanced rate of the daily living component of PIP without having to wait until they satisfy the qualifying period or prospective test. They will also be able to apply for the mobility component and receive that immediately if they qualify. As with DLA, if claiming under Special Rules, the claimant or third party will be encouraged to submit a DS1500 doctor's

report. More information is available in [fact sheet 12](#).

Differences between DLA and PIP

Claiming

Claims for PIP will be made in two parts – with the normal initial contact being by telephone. When the claim has been made DWP will send a form so the claimant can tell them how their health condition or disability affects their daily life, both on good and bad days and over a range of activities. More detail on how to claim can be in [fact sheet 7](#).

Additional support is available for claimants who have difficulty with the process for claiming. More detail can be found in [fact sheet 15](#).

PIP has different qualifying rules to DLA

To qualify for help, new PIP claimants must have needed help for three months or more (this is known as the qualifying period) and be likely to need help for the next nine months (this is the prospective test period).

Assessment Criteria

Entitlement to DLA is based on an individual's condition and their needs arising from this. Entitlement to the two components of PIP and the level of benefit award will be assessed on the individual's ability to complete a number of key everyday activities. This looks at how well individuals can complete activities, whether they need to use aids and appliances to do so and whether they need help from another person.

Unlike DLA, this does not distinguish between help needed during the day and night. More detail about the assessment criteria can be found in [fact sheet 2](#).

Assessment

A fair, more objective and transparent assessment of individuals by an independent health professional will be introduced for PIP.

The health professional works for an organisation that carries out assessments for the DWP.

Face-to-face consultation

In most cases the assessment will involve a face-to-face consultation; this will be with a health professional to discuss their circumstances in detail. More detail on the assessment process and face-to-face consultation can be found in [fact sheet 9](#).

Awards

Awards will be subject to more systematic reviews and will normally be of fixed duration. There are no automatic entitlements for specific conditions within PIP; everyone will be assessed as an individual. Claimants will have their award periodically reviewed, regardless of the length of the award. Some conditions worsen or improve over time; reviewing individual's awards will ensure that everyone continues to receive the most appropriate level of support.

If someone is awarded PIP DWP will tell them how long the award is for. DWP will write to them to tell them how and when they need to tell them about any change in circumstances.

When someone's award comes to an end, they can decide to make a further claim to PIP, if they still have needs arising from their health condition or disability. DWP will issue a reminder to the claimant 14 weeks before the end of their PIP award.

More detailed information about Personal Independence Payment: www.dwp.gov.uk/pip