

6. Reassessing existing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants for PIP

This fact sheet outlines how existing DLA claimants will be invited to claim PIP

DWP will start to invite existing DLA claimants who were aged between 16 and 64 on 8 April 2013, or reach age 16 after that date, to claim PIP from October 2013 onwards with the peak period of reassessment beginning in October 2015.

DWP will contact claimants individually and in plenty of time to explain what action they need to take and by when if they want to claim PIP.

Existing DLA claimants will broadly follow the same steps as someone who is making a new claim to PIP – this process is covered in full in [fact sheet 7](#).

Existing DLA claimants will not be allowed to self select between April and October 2013. Claimants still waiting for the outcome decision on a new claim to DLA will not be able to claim PIP until the decision has been made on the DLA claim.

October 2013

From October 2013, DWP will start to write to the following existing DLA claimants, inviting

them to claim PIP. The invitation will explain how to make a claim, and the time limits for making a claim:

- claimants who choose to claim PIP (self-selectors) can do so from this date
- those DLA claimants who report a change in their care or mobility needs will be invited to claim PIP
- those claimants who are reaching the end of a fixed period DLA award that ends on or after 24 February 2014 will be invited to claim PIP 20 weeks before their award of DLA expires
- claimants whose DLA fixed term award ends before 24 February 2014 will be invited to make a renewal claim for DLA.
- children who turn 16 years of age on or after 7 October (unless they have been awarded DLA under the Special Rules for terminally ill people). Details about how PIP will affect young people can be found in [fact sheet 13](#).

October 2015

From this date, 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, but selection will not be on a geographical basis.

Claimants with an indefinite award made under the Special Rules for terminally people 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. More information can be found in [fact sheet 2](#)

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.

Telling DLA claimants about PIP

During February and March 2013 DWP wrote to existing DLA claimants in their DLA uprating letter and gave them some general information about PIP.

DWP have worked closely with advisers and support organisations to make sure they have enough information and expertise to provide help and support with the PIP claim process if the claimant needs it. A range of [information products and presentations](#) is also available, including a [quick guide to PIP](#). These products will assist advisers with any claimant enquiries and provide additional information for the claimant.

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.

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. If the claimant is in a vulnerable situation further enquiries will be made before this action is taken. See [fact sheet 15](#) for further information.

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.

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 remain in payment for 4 weeks 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. The new award of PIP will only be payable four weeks after the decision.

There will be no right of appeal against the decision to terminate entitlement to DLA. 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.

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

Where a claimant is in a vulnerable situation, DWP will offer support. Details about how we will support claimants in vulnerable situations can be found in [fact sheet 15](#).

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