



Personal Independence Payment

The moving around activity

What people told us and what the government says

October 2013



Easy Read

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

Important

Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word list at the back of the booklet.

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What this booklet is about

In April 2013, the government started changing **Disability Living Allowance** to a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment**.

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled.

Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live independent lives. Disabled people who get the benefit will get money to pay for the extra costs of being disabled.



To see if you can get **Personal Independence Payment** you will have an **assessment**.

Assessment

This is a method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**. It looks at 12 everyday activities, and points are given based on how well a person can or cannot do the activities.

Payment of **Personal Independence Payment** and how much a person receives will depend on the number of points they get in the **assessment**.

Some people told us that the rules for the part of the assessment that looks at moving around were not clear.

We wrote the rules again to make sure

- they were easy to understand.
- it was easier to get the decision right about moving around.

Some disabled people and disabled people's groups said that they were not happy with the rules for the moving around activity. They wanted another chance to tell us what they think about the rules.

Personal Independence Payment – the moving around activity

Because of this, in June 2013 the government started a **consultation** on the moving around activity.

Consulting or consultation

This is when the government asks people what they think about their plans, and for ideas about the best ways of doing things.

The **consultation** finished in August 2013. We got more than 1,100 replies to the **consultation**.

This booklet tells you about the replies we got and what the government says.



About the moving around activity

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.

It also looks at whether the person needs **aids or appliances** to move around.

Aids or appliances

Aids help a person do something better. For example, if someone finds it hard to walk, they may use a walking stick as an **aid** to help them.

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.



What people told us and what the government says

What people told us

Many people said that looking at whether someone can walk 20 metres is not fair. This is because they think that 20 metres is too short. Also, 20 metres is not used for any other **assessment** or benefit.

Many people said that using a distance of 20 metres to see if someone could get **Personal Independence Payment** could have a big effect on people's life.

What the government says

We have looked carefully at all the replies we had about the **consultation**. We have also looked at the other ways people said we can use to see how people can move around.

We want the rules for **Personal Independence Payment** to make sure that those people who cannot move around get the most support. Also, we want to make sure that the **assessment** does this in the best way possible.

What people told us and what the government says

Using distance to see if someone can move around is easy to understand and easy to use.

We use the distance of 20 metres to find people who can hardly move round at all. It also helps us find people who can only move around a little bit.



What people told us

A lot of people said that a distance of 50 metres should be used instead of 20 metres. This is because the government uses 50 metres for other rules, like where disabled parking spaces should be put.

What the government says

We do use a distance of 50 metres in other government areas to check how people can move around. But the results are used for different reasons.

What people told us

A lot of people are worried that they will no longer have a Motability Scheme car. They are worried that these things could happen.

- They will lose their independence.
- They will not be able to get out and about to meet their friends, family or other people.
- They will have less money. This is because they would need to pay for other means of getting around, like buses, trains and taxis.



- They may have to stop working because they will not be able to get to their place of work.
- Their physical and mental health may be affected.

What the government says

We know that those people who lose their Motability car may find things very difficult. We have worked with Motability who will give financial help and support to people who can no longer get a Motability car so they can find other ways to get around.

What people told us

Some people said that the moving around rules may mean that the government has to spend more money in other areas. This could be areas like more hospital transport for people to get to medical appointments.

What the government says

It is very hard to guess at how **Personal Independence Payment** will affect other government services. But, we believe that the savings we will make from setting up **Personal Independence Payment** will be higher than any increase in costs in other areas as a result of **Personal Independence Payment**.

What people told us

Some people said that we should look more closely at whether a person needs to use **aids or appliances** to help them move around.

What the government says

In the older versions of the **assessment** rules we looked closely at the **aids and appliances** people use to move around. But in our **consultations** people said that this was confusing. So we decided not to use them.

What people told us

Some people are worried that the health workers who carry out the **assessment** may not follow the rules properly when they look at whether a person can do activities over and over again, in a safe way and in a reasonable time.

What the government says

The health workers who carry out the **assessment** look at whether people can do activities over and over again, in a safe way and in a reasonable time. They do not look at what people can do at their best, but then cannot do again.



What the government has decided

We believe the rules are the best way of finding people who need the most help moving around.

We will not be making any changes to the moving around rules.

What we will do next

We will make sure that the health workers carrying out **assessments** use the rules properly. We will make sure the instructions are clear.

We are going to check how well the **assessment** rules are working. We will do this twice. We will write about our first check in winter in 2014.

Word list

Assessment

This is a method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**. It looks at 12 everyday activities, and points are given based on how well a person can or cannot do the activities.

Payment of **Personal Independence Payment** and how much a person receives will depend on the number of points they get in the **assessment**.....5

Aids or appliances

Aids help a person do something better. For example, if someone finds it hard to walk, they may use a walking stick as an **aid** to help them.

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.....7

Consulting or consultation

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Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the extra costs of being disabled.....4

Personal Independence Payment

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If you want to look at the full report written in English, you can see it on our website at www.gov.uk/government/consultations-on-the-pip-assessment-moving-around-activity

A copy of this easy-read report is also on this website.

Copies of the full report can be made available in other formats on request. Our contact details are shown below.

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