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## Welfare Benefits

Government Welfare Benefits can be paid to you if you are unemployed, on a low income, have no income or savings, or are temporarily sick or permanently disabled. Some benefits are means tested (i.e. dependent upon any income or savings that you may have), others are not.

This fact sheet only deals with benefits paid to people who are disabled or sick, or caring for someone with a permanent disability. If you have a question concerning other benefits not mentioned in this fact sheet, please speak to one of HAD.org.uk's Welfare Benefit Advisors, Age UK Harrow (If you are a senior citizen) or the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Contact numbers for these and other organisations can be found on page 4 of this fact sheet.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (16-64 years) replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (DLA is still available for children 0-16 years) and Attendance Allowance (AA) (over 65 years).

These are the main welfare benefits for people who have a "permanent and substantial" disability or impairment. Permanent means that you must have had the impairment or disability for at least 3 months prior to receiving benefit (6 months for AA) and expect the impairment or disability to last for at least another 6 months at the time of benefit claim.

Personal Independence Payment can be claimed by people aged 16-64 years old at time of application and consists of two components – mobility and care.

Attendance Allowance can only be claimed by people aged 65 and over at time of application. It only consists of the care component.

## **PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)**

### **What is PIP?**

The personal independence payment (PIP) replaced working age disability living allowance (DLA) from April 2013.

PIP will have many similarities with DLA. In particular it will have two components: a daily living component (which has similarities to the current care component) and a mobility component.

Despite the similarities to Disability Living Allowance it is felt that the tests as laid out in the regulations are stricter.

### **How much is PIP?**

The amounts of PIP for Personal Independence Payment will have two components, each with two rates:

#### *Daily living component*

1. Standard rate £ £55.10 If you have a limited ability to carry out daily living activities
2. Enhanced rate £ £82.30 If you have a severely limited ability to carry out daily living activities

#### *Mobility component*

1. Standard rate £ £21.80 If you have a limited mobility
2. Enhanced rate £ £57.45 If you have a severely limited mobility

If you have a terminal illness (that is if you are suffering from a progressive disease where death can be expected within 6 months) you will automatically receive the daily living component enhanced rate. You will also be able to apply for the mobility component and receive it immediately if you qualify.

If you are in a care home you will be entitled to the mobility component so long as you satisfy the qualifying conditions.

If you are paid PIP you are free to spend the money in the way that suits you best.

## **PIP AND DLA**

- If you are currently receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and you are between the ages of 16 and 64 you will be tested under the new benefit rules/conditions for PIP from October 2013.

If you pass the conditions for PIP you will be moved/ migrated onto it. You will not have to meet the PIP three month qualifying period but you will have to satisfy the 9 month prospective test.

Note: Transfer to PIP from DLA is not automatic. You must make a claim for PIP. The DWP will write to you about making a new claim between October 2013 and March 2016. For more information see the timetable for the introduction of PIP below.

Time table for change:

- PIP will be phased in, starting with a controlled start area in the north-west and parts of the north-east of England from April 2013.
- New claims for PIP will start nationally from June 2013.
- From October 2013, the DWP will start reassessing people whose DLA award is due to end, people who report a change in their condition and young people who reach the age of 16.(But now the peak period of reassessments will not start until October 2015 )
- Those with a 'lifetime' or 'indefinite' DLA award will be reassessed from October 2015 at the earliest.

Children under 16 may be migrated onto PIP at a later date.

"The Government recognises that the needs of children can be different from those of adults and is committed to learning from the experience of implementing the new benefit for individuals of working age before extending it to children. This means children below age 16 will continue to be able to claim DLA, and we will consult before making any significant changes to these arrangements."

There are currently no proposals to migrate people onto PIP if you are on attendance allowance or over 65 and claiming DLA.

## **DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES AND DESCRIPTORS**

To claim PIP contact 0800 515 2222 OR 0800 917 2222

Further information on the activities and descriptors can be found at [www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/disability/personal-independence-payment/)

## **ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE (AA)**

Paid to people aged over 65 who, because of permanent and substantial disability or impairment, require help with personal care of £55.10 or £82.30.

- ▶ Does not normally require a medical examination
- ▶ Is not means tested or affected by any income or savings that you may have.
- ▶ Is not taxable or based on national insurance contributions.

People may be eligible for Attendance Allowance if:

- ▶ They need help with washing, dressing or using the toilet
- ▶ Require constant supervision
- ▶ Need help if on dialysis

As with DLA/PIP, a special “fast track” rule applies to terminally ill people not expected to live longer than 6 months.

If you receive AA or the care component of DLA and move into residential accommodation, you can only continue receiving benefit for the first 28 days of residency. After that the benefit stops.

If you receive AA or DLA/PIP and have to go into hospital as an in-patient, you can only continue receiving benefit for the first 28 days of your in-patient stay. After that the benefit stops.

Ask for leaflet AAA5DCS/ leaflet no longer exist for more information and to request an AA1A claim pack.

For further information about Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance, contact the Department of Work and Pensions Benefits Enquiry Line:

Telephone: 0800 882200

Textphone: 0800 243355

Telephone: 0345 605 6055

Text phone: 0345 604 5312

Leaflets and claim forms can also be downloaded from:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Disabledpeople/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/Disabledpeople/)

This website also contains a lot of very useful information about other benefits.

## **EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT ALLOWANCE**

Incapacity Benefit no longer exists and has been replaced by Employment and Support Allowance.

If you're ill or disabled, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) offers you:

- financial support if you're unable to work
- personalised help so that you can work if you're able to

You can apply for ESA if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed.

You might be transferred to ESA if you've been claiming other benefits like Income Support or Incapacity Benefit. Following does not appear to apply.

## **What is Employment and Support Allowance?**

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) helps people with an illness or disability to move into work. For new customers, it has replaced Incapacity Benefit and Income Support paid because of an illness or disability.

If you have been placed in the Work Related Activity Group of contribution-based ESA, this benefit will stop after 365 days. It may be possible to appeal to be placed in the Support Group within one month of the claim decision.

Please seek advice or contact the [HAD.org.uk](http://HAD.org.uk) welfare benefit team to obtain further advice.

While you are getting the allowance, you will be offered personalised support and financial help. You will have access to a specially trained personal adviser. You will also have access to a wide range of other services designed to help you move into suitable work.

If your illness or disability severely affects your ability to work, the allowance can provide extra financial support.

To find out more about Employment and Support Allowance, contact:

**Jobcentre Plus Office** (either in person or on contact details below)

Telephone: 0800 055 6688

Textphone: 0800 023 4888

Website: [www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTax-CreditsAndOtherSupport/Illorinjured/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTax-CreditsAndOtherSupport/Illorinjured/)

The Claim pack ESA1 can also be downloaded from the above website.

## **CARERS ALLOWANCE (CA)**

Carers Allowance is a benefit paid to someone who cares for a person with a permanent and substantial disability. You do not have to have paid any national insurance contributions to qualify, but any earnings that you receive may affect your entitlement. Any savings that you may have will not affect your benefit.

To claim CA:-

- ▶ You must be caring for someone who receives either the higher or middle care rate of disability living allowance care component or care component of personal independence payment or attendance allowance or constant attendance allowance in respect of an industrial or war disablement.
- ▶ You are aged 16 or over
- ▶ You are not in full-time education
- ▶ You provide at least 35 hours of care a week. (If you care for more than one person, you must provide care for one of them for at least 35 hours a week, but you cannot claim twice)

If the person for whom you are caring goes into hospital, their DLA or

AA will cease after 28 days of in-patient treatment. In this case, the claimants entitlement to CA also ceases for the period that the cared for person remains in hospital. Your entitlement to CA is re-instated once the cared for person is discharged from hospital and continues to receive DLA or AA.

To find out more about Carer's Allowance, contact:

***DWP Disability and Carers service***

Telephone: 0845 608 4321

Text phone: 0845 608 5312

Telephone: 0345 608 4321

Textphone: 0345 604 5312

Website: [www.direct.gov.uk/en/CaringForSomeone/MoneyMatters/-CarersAllowance/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/CaringForSomeone/MoneyMatters/-CarersAllowance/)

The Claim pack DS700 can also be downloaded from the above website.

**HAD.org.uk'S WELFARE BENEFITS SERVICE**

If you think that you may be entitled to welfare benefits and reside in the London Borough of Harrow (to whom you pay your council tax) you can make an appointment to see one of HAD.org.uk's three welfare benefit officers (one of whom is a Gujarati speaker).

They can assess your entitlement to benefits and assist you in completing the application forms. Benefit advice sessions are free and are held at our fully accessible office by appointment only on Mondays 2-4pm, Tuesdays 3.30 – 7.30 pm and Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-1pm, Thursday 10am-1pm.

For more information, contact:

***HAD.org.uk Welfare Benefit Service***

Telephone: 020 8861 9920

## **OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS**

**If you live in a neighbouring borough, please contact your local disability organisation for advice.**

### **BARNET**

***Barnet Disablement Association***

Telephone: 020 8446 6935

### **BRENT**

***Brent Association of Disabled People (BADP)***

Telephone: 020 8451 3822

### **EALING**

***Ealing Centre for Independent Living***

Telephone: 020 8840 8573

### **HERTFORDSHIRE**

***Hertfordshire Action on Disability***

Telephone: 01707 324581

### **HILLINGDON**

***Disablement Association of Hillingdon (DASH)***

Telephone: 020 8848 8319

This fact sheet is one of a series, providing information and advice on a number of topics.

## **HAD.ORG.UK FACTSHEETS:**

Fact Sheet 1	Blue Badges
Fact Sheet 2	Utilities
Fact Sheet 3	Wheelchairs
Fact Sheet 4	Accessible Public Transport
Fact Sheet 5	Voluntary Transport
Fact Sheet 6	Holidays
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Fact Sheet 11	Direct Payments
Fact Sheet 12	Education & Learning
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Fact Sheet 14	Visiting Places of Interest
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Fact Sheet 17	Performing Arts
Fact Sheet 18	Concessionary Travel
Fact Sheet 19	The Care Act 2014
Fact Sheet 20	A General Guide to Housing Benefit
Fact Sheet 21	Housing Benefit for Disabled Students
Fact Sheet 22	Universal Credit

## **HOUSING MATTERS:**

1	General Guide to Housing Benefit
2	Homelessness (Out of Hours) Emergencies
3	10 Rights of Private Tenants
4	Applying as Homelessness (Priority Need)
5	Private Tenants: smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
6	The Right to Rent
7	Rent Increases : Assured Shorthold Tenancies