

Factsheet 87

Personal Independence Payment and Disability Living Allowance

April 2024

About this factsheet

This factsheet gives information about Personal Independence Payment (PIP), a non means-tested benefit for people under State Pension age who have a disability. State Pension age is currently 66 years.

The factsheet also has information about Disability Living Allowance (DLA) which is being replaced by PIP for some people. It covers the process for reassessing existing DLA claimants for PIP and explains what to do for both benefits if you have a change of circumstance.

If you are over State Pension age and have care needs, you may be able to claim Attendance Allowance (AA). See factsheet 34, *Attendance Allowance*, for more information.

The information in this factsheet is correct for the period April 2024 to March 2025.

Benefit rates are reviewed annually and updated in April but rules and figures can sometimes change during the year.

The information in this factsheet is applicable in England and Wales. If you are in Northern Ireland, please contact Age NI for information.

Scotland: The information in this factsheet also applies in Scotland, although PIP and DLA for adults are being replaced by Adult Disability Payment. For more information contact Age Scotland. Contact details can be found at the back of this factsheet.

Contact details for any organisation mentioned in this factsheet can be found in the *Useful organisations* section.

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1 What is Personal Independence Payment?

3 Current rates

PIP has a *daily living component* and a *mobility component* that can be paid separately or together. Rates for 2024/25 are:

Daily living component

Enhanced rate	£108.55
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Standard rate	£72.65
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Mobility component

Enhanced rate	£75.75
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Standard rate	£28.70
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4 PIP components

Qualifying for either PIP component depends on an assessment of your ability to perform specific activities related to daily living and mobility. Each activity contains a range of statements (called *descriptors*), describing various levels of difficulty in doing that activity. Descriptors score between 0 to 12 points. For each activity, the descriptor that describes your situation most accurately is awarded to you.

The number of points you score for each activity within each component is added up. If your total score is between eight and eleven, you are awarded the standard rate of the relevant component. If your total score is 12 or more, you are awarded the enhanced rate of that component.

If a descriptor applies for more than six months in a one-year period, you score the points for that descriptor (or the highest scoring descriptor if two or more apply to you for more than six months). If no descriptor applies to you for six months of the year, but two or more added together do, the descriptor that applies most of the time applies, or the highest scoring one if they apply for the same amount of time.

Descriptors describe different sorts of help you may need, such as using an aid or appliance, or needing prompting, supervision, or assistance.

Assistance means physical intervention by another person and does not include vocal assistance. **Prompting** is another person reminding or encouraging you to do an activity. **Supervision** means the continuous presence of another person for your safety.

The descriptor that applies

4.1 Daily living component

There are ten daily living activities:

preparing food

taking nutrition

managing therapy or monitoring a health condition

washing and bathing

managing toilet needs or incontinence

dressing and undressing

communicating verbally

reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

engaging with other people face to face

making budgeting decisions.

See section 12 for a full list of activities, descriptors and points.

Example

The dressing and undressing activity has six descriptors as follows:

Descriptor	Points
a. Can dress and undress unaided	0
b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to dress or undress	2
c. Needs either:	
(i) p/Ft4r:	

Aids and appliances

Many descriptors assess your *using an aid or appliance* is something that improves, provides, or replaces a function: for example, and kitchen utensils, grab rails and shower seats.

It can include an aid or appliance not specifically designed for disabled people like an electric can opener, if you need it due to your disability rather than through choice. If you do not have a particular aid or adaptation, you may be assessed as if you do, if you could reasonably be expected to use it.

With respect to dressing and undressing, the Upper Tribunal currently holds that using a bed as an aid for this activity will only *extreme cases*

4.2 Mobility component

There are two mobility activities that are assessed:
planning and following journeys
moving around.

Although the mobility component is awarded because you

Action

Phone 0800 917 2222 to start a PIP claim. Have the following information to hand: NI number, bank account details, phone number, GP or other health worker, details of any periods longer than four weeks spent abroad in the past three years.

Claim by post

You can get a form to start your claim by post (although this can delay the process). Ask for a form by writing to:

Personal Independence Payment New Claims,
Post Handling Site B,
Wolverhampton, WV99 1AH.

5.3 How your claim is assessed

DWP look at your PIP2 form and supporting evidence, decide whether to ask for additional information and if you need to undergo an assessment. An assessment can be by telephone, video link or face to face and DWP should of the date.

Assessments are carried out by a private contractor on behalf of the DWP. You can have someone with you at the assessment. You should be given the opportunity to explain your support needs. If you want a home assessment, e.g. because you have difficulty travelling, make sure you mention this on the claim form. You may be reluctant to admit you have problems or cannot do something, but it is important to give a picture of your normal range of activities *not just the things you can do good day*

If you have

5.5 Terminal illness and special rules claims

You are treated as terminally ill if you have a progressive illness that is likely to limit your life expectancy to 12 months or less. If you are terminally ill, you can claim PIP without the three-month waiting period. It is impossible to say exactly how long someone will live and people who

6.2 If you disagree with a decision

If you disagree with a decision on your PIP claim, you can challenge it. Details of how to do this are in the decision notice. It is important to challenge a decision or get advice

If the local authority provides temporary funding that will later be reimbursed by you (for example, under a deferred payment agreement), the daily living component is paid during the period of temporary funding.

If you have a temporary admission to a home, for example, for respite care funded in full or in part by a local authority or the NHS, the daily living component is suspended after 28 days. Periods of less than 28 days are linked and added together to reach the 28-day limit. If you need regular periods of respite care in a care home, it may be possible to plan these so your PIP is not affected. Seek advice if this applies to you.

Mobility component

PIP mobility component is payable no matter who pays your care home fees, or how long you remain in a care home. See section 7.3.3

7.4 If the DWP needs more information

If you report a change in circumstances, the DWP may contact you, your doctor, or someone noted on the claim form, to ask for more information.

They may arrange an assessment carried out by a private contractor on behalf of the DWP. See section 5.3 for information about assessments.

7.5 Prisoners

Generally, neither component of PIP is payable after 28 days in prison or legal custody.

7.6 Going abroad

If you go abroad temporarily and intend to return within 52 weeks, your PIP entitlement continues for up to 13 weeks. If you go abroad specifically to receive medical treatment, PIP can continue to be paid for up to 26 weeks.

Different rules apply to members of the armed forces and their families, aircraft workers and mariners.

Exporting PIP

Sometimes the daily living component (but not the mobility component) of PIP can be paid if you leave the UK to live in a European Economic Area (EEA) state or Switzerland. You may be able to make a claim for the daily living component from an EEA state or Switzerland if you are covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, you are habitually resident in the EEA state or Switzerland and you have a genuine and sufficient link to *competent state*

factsheet 34, Attendance Allowance, for more information on the

competent sta0 G-5(n)6(1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 56.664 329.33 Tm0 g0 G[0088 0 1 292.99 761.4 Tm0 g0 G[D

8 Example of who

9 PIP and other benefits

9.1 Means-tested benefits

Income from PIP is ignored when calculating entitlement to means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, income-based J , Housing Benefit, and Tax Credits.

Entitlement to PIP daily living component may help you get a higher amount of these benefits, such as *severe disability addition* Pension Credit.

If someone in your household gets PIP, you are exempt from the benefit cap that limits the amount of benefit a working age household can get.

See Age UK factsheet 48, *Pension Credit*, factsheet 17, *Housing Benefit*, and factsheet 56, *Benefits for people under State Pension age*.

9.2 Overlapping benefits

You cannot get PIP at the same time as DLA, AA, Armed Forces Independence Payment, or Adult Disability Payment in Scotland.

Constant AA, paid with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and War Disablement Pensions, overlaps with PIP daily living component. War

If you qualify for two overlapping benefits, you are paid whichever pays the higher amount.

9.3 Benefits for carers

If you are awarded the daily living component of PIP and you have a carer, they may be entitled to *Carer Support Payment* in Scotland or NI credits. If you receive the severe disability addition/premium with PC or other means-tested benefits, this stops if someone is paid

9.4 Motability Scheme

If you are awarded the m0 g0 G()JTJETQq0.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 reW*nBT/F6 118.94 Tml.tET

9.5 Council Tax

If you have a severe mental impairment and you are awarded either rate of the daily living component of PIP, you may be entitled to a Council Tax discount or exemption.

A severe mental impairment can be a learning disability, mental illness, or a condition like dementia. Ask your local authority for details of the scheme available in your area.

See Age UK factsheet 21, *Council Tax*. In **Wales**, see Age Cymru factsheet 21w, *Council Tax in Wales* and in **Scotland**, see Age Scotland *Council Tax* and *Council Tax Reduction* guides.

9.6 Other benefits

If you qualify for PIP, you qualify for a £10 Christmas bonus.

If awarded eight points or more under mobility activity 2 *moving around* or 10 points specifically under descriptor e for mobility activity 1 because you are unable to undertake any

11 Disability Living Allowance

DLA has been replaced by PIP for new claimants aged 16 years to State Pension age. DLA is available for children aged under 16, although it is being replaced in Scotland with *Child Disability Payment*. Contact Age Scotland for more information about this.

This section is for existing adult DLA claimants and looks at what the changes mean. DLA conditions of entitlement are the same as those for AA as set out in section 3 of factsheet 34, *Attendance Allowance*.

11.1 Current rates

Care component

High

For PIP, you have four weeks to send this back, although the DWP can give you longer if you have a good reason for needing an extension. Unless the deadline is extended, your DLA payments stop if you do not make a PIP claim within four weeks.

Note

If you receive a letter, it is important you act as soon as possible. If you miss the four-week window, DLA payments are suspended.

If you make a PIP claim within a further four weeks, your DLA goes back into payment while your PIP claim is assessed.

If you do not make a claim for PIP within the further four-week period, your DLA award stops and you cannot get it reinstated.

When you claim PIP, your DLA payments continue while you are being assessed. If awarded PIP, your DLA award is paid for four weeks after your next payment date and then your PIP award starts.

If refused PIP, the DLA award is paid for four weeks and then stops.

For information about challenging a decision, see section 6.2.

For more about this process see DWP guidance in section 10.

11.3 Change of circumstances - DLA

If you were under 65 on 8 April 2013

If you report a change in circumstances that affects your current DLA award, you will be invited to make a claim for PIP instead. PIP has no equivalent of low-rate care component so you may lose this and once the PIP claim process starts, it cannot be stopped or reversed.

As in section 11.2.2, you have four weeks to make the PIP claim and your DLA award should remain in payment until a decision is made about your PIP claim. In **Scotland**, call Age Scotland for details of the ADP.

Even though you are over State Pension age, your PIP claim is assessed for both daily living and mobility components and you can establish entitlement to PIP mobility, even if you were not entitled to DLA mobility element before.

Important

It is a good idea to get independent advice before you contact the DWP to ask for your claim to be looked at again. An adviser can tell you whether you may qualify for a higher rate of benefit and how to explain your needs fully to the DWP.

If you were 65 or over on 8 April 2013

If your condition changes, you cannot receive low-rate care component for the first time but you can move to, or start to receive, the middle or high rate. For example, if you receive middle rate care but you now need help day and night, you can apply for the higher rate. You must satisfy the conditions for six months before your rate can be increased.

You cannot normally be awarded either rate of the mobility component for the first time.

Nor can you move from lower rate mobility to higher rate mobility. The only exception is if:

you already receive DLA, and

you can show you met the qualifying conditions for the new award before you were 65, and

the relevant medical conditions did not happen since your 65th birthday.

11.3.1 Terminal illness

The same rules apply as for PIP, see section 7.2.

11.3.2 Hospital and care homes

The same rules apply as for PIP, see section 7.3.

12 PIP Activities, descriptors and points

12.1 Daily living activities

- (ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication;
- (iii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to monitor a health condition.
- c. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week. 2
- d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week. 4
- e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week. 6
- f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week. 8

4. Washing and bathing	a. Can wash and bathe unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe.	2
	c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe.	2
	d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist.	2
	e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower.	3
	f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist.	4
	g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body.	8

5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence	a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided.	0
	b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence.	2
	c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs.	2
	d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs.	8

f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel.

8

6. Dressing and undressing

12.2 Mobility activities

Activity	Descriptors	Points
1. Planning and following journeys	a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey unaided.	0
	b. Needs prompting to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	4
	c. Cannot plan the route of a journey.	8
	d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid.	10
	e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant.	10
	f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid.	12
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2. Moving around	a. Can stand and then move more than 200 metres either aided or unaided.	0
	b. Can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either aided or unaided.	4
	c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	8
	d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10
	e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided.	12
	f. Cannot, either aided or unaided, (i) stand; or (ii) move more than 1 metre.	12
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Useful organisations

Alzheimer's Society

www.alzheimers.org.uk

Telephone 0333 150 3456

Scotland www.alzscot.org

Telephone 0808 808 3000

Offers advice, information and support to people with dementia, their families and carers through its helpline and local branches.

Asthma + Lung UK

www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/

Telephone 0300 222 5800

Information if you have chest problems and breathing difficulties.

Carers Trust

www.carers.org

Telephone 0300 772 9600

Offers practical help and assistance to carers.

Carers UK

www.carersuk.org

Telephone 0808 808 7777

Information and support for carers, including information about benefits.

Citizens Advice

England go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Wales go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales

Scotland go to www.cas.org.uk

In England telephone 0800 144 8848

In Wales telephone 0800 702 2020

In Scotland telephone 0800 028 1456

National network of advice centres offering free, confidential, independent advice, face to face or by telephone.

Dementia UK

www.dementiauk.org

Telephone 0800 888 6678

Work to improve the quality of life of dementia patients and their carers.

In some areas, provides Admiral Nurses who support you at home.

Disability Service Centre

www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline

DWP helpline providing advice or information about any claim for DLA, PIP or AA that you have already made:

- **Attendance Allowance (AA)**
Telephone 0800 731 0122
- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

Motability

www.motability.co.uk

Telephone 0300 456 4566

Parkinson's UK

www.parkinsons.org.uk

Telephone 0808 800 0303

Provides support, advice and information for p

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

www.rnib.org.uk

Telephone 0303 123 9999

Charity offering information and advice for people with sight problems.

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)

<https://rnid.org.uk/>

Telephone 0808 808 0123

Provides information and support for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Scope

www.scope.org.uk

Telephone 0808 800 3333

Provides practical information and emotional support for disabled people.

Social Security Scotland

www.socialsecurity.gov.scot

Telephone 0800 182 2222

Responsible for paying ADP, CDP and SCP in Scotland.

Stroke Association

www.stroke.org.uk

Telephone 0303 3033 100

Provides information and community support in some areas.

Versus Arthritis

www.versusarthritis.org

Telephone 0800 5200 520

Offer support to people affected by arthritis.

Veterans UK

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk

Telephone 0808 1914 2 18

Administers the armed forces pension schemes and compensation payments for those injured or bereaved through service.

Age UK

Age UK provides advice and information for people in later life through our Age UK Advice line, publications and online. Call Age UK Advice to find out whether there is a local Age UK near you, and to order free copies of our information guides and factsheets.

Age UK Advice

www.ageuk.org.uk

0800 169 65 65

Lines are open seven days a week from 8.00am to 7.00pm

In Wales contact

Age Cymru Advice

www.agecymru.org.uk

0300 303 4498

In Northern Ireland contact

Age NI

www.ageni.org

0808 808 7575

In Scotland contact

Age Scotland

www.agescotland.org.uk

0800 124 4222

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