

Personal Independence Payment

If you are claiming DLA for a child, they will normally be invited to claim PIP when they reach 16, and their DLA will end.

Normally the DWP will write to explain this to you when the child is 15 years and 7 months old, again at 15 years 10 months, and will write to the child when they are 16 to invite them to claim PIP.

During the current pandemic there may be delays in this process so as long as you haven't had these letters your DLA should continue in most circumstances.

What is Personal Independence Payment (PIP)?

PIP is a benefit for adults who have a physical or mental disability and need help taking part in everyday life or find it difficult to get around.

PIP is tax-free, is not means tested, and does not depend on national insurance contributions. It is not affected by earnings or other income.

PIP has 2 parts -

a daily living component - for help taking part in everyday life

a mobility component - for help with getting around.

Each component may be paid at 2 levels - a *standard rate* and an *enhanced rate*

Who qualifies for PIP?

To claim PIP you must:

Be over 16 and under state pension age

Meet the residence and immigration
conditions

Have had the needs or difficulties for
at least 3 months

Pass the PIP assessment

Make a claim

Claiming PIP

To start a claim for PIP you must call the PIP claims line (tel. 0800 917 2222).

If you are calling for someone else (e.g. your child) they need to be present when you make the call or you need to state that you are also requesting to be an **appointee** for them. The DWP will verify that you are suitable to be an appointee.

You will be asked for their personal and contact details, NI number, and other information such as nationality, residency, names and contact details of relevant healthcare professionals if any, bank account details.

The date of this call is the date the claim starts. If they are transitioning from DLA the DLA should continue until the PIP decision is made.

They will send a form to complete and return.

The PIP assessment

The form asks a series of questions about activities and what difficulties you have with them.

This is used, along with a face to face assessment with a medical professional, and any supporting information, to allocate points for the levels of difficulty you have.

According to the points allocated you may be awarded one or both PIP components (mobility and daily living) at a certain rate.

You can appeal against a decision if you disagree with it.

PIP and other benefits

If someone gets the enhanced rate mobility component of PIP they may be eligible to join the **motability scheme**.

With the enhanced rate mobility component of PIP they may be able to qualify for a **blue badge**.

If someone gets the daily living component of PIP at either rate someone else may be able to claim **carer's allowance** for caring for them.

If someone gets PIP they or their family may get increased allowances for universal credit or tax credits.