



Personal Independence Payment

A Guide for Advisors on the impact of Personal Independence Payment on Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit



Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk





Personal Independence Payment is a new benefit replacing Disability Living Allowance for people aged 16 to 64 years.

The introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is part of a wider reform of the welfare system. PIP better reflects today's understanding of disability, which has changed a lot since Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was introduced.

PIP will be introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016. This will be for new claims to PIP and existing DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 years whose DLA award is due to come to an end or who report a change in their needs.

All remaining DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 years will be randomly selected for assessment and invited to claim PIP. This will happen over a number of years between December 2016 and December 2018.

DLA will remain for children up to the age of 16 years, whether they are existing or new claimants. The parent or guardian of existing DLA claimants will be contacted before their child turns 16 to tell them what they need to do. We'll write to them and their parent/guardian in plenty of time to explain how to apply for PIP, when they need to claim by and what will happen to their DLA.

People aged 65 and over on 20 June 2016 will continue to receive DLA provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

This guide explains how Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit will be affected when PIP is introduced.

HOW DOES PIP AFFECT CARER'S ALLOWANCE / CARER'S CREDIT?

If someone is awarded the Daily Living component of PIP their carer can access other help and services. Both the standard and enhanced rate of the Daily Living component of PIP will passport to Carer's Allowance / Carer's Credit.

WHO CAN CLAIM CARER'S ALLOWANCE OR CARER'S CREDIT?

People providing at least 35 hours of care a week to someone who is awarded the Daily Living component of PIP may be able to claim Carer's Allowance subject to the other qualifying conditions being met.

Carer's Allowance should not be claimed until the person being cared for is awarded the Daily Living component of PIP at either rate. Carer's Allowance must be claimed within three months of the PIP decision being made or this could result in loss of benefit. Carers who don't qualify for Carer's Allowance may qualify for Carer's Credit.

People providing at least 20 hours of care a week to someone who is entitled to the Daily Living component of PIP may receive Carer's Credit. This is a National Insurance credit that helps build entitlement to State Pension.

For more information about qualifying conditions for Carer's Allowance visit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/carers-allowance or for Carer's Credit visit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/carers-credit.

How will existing Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit claimants be affected by PIP?

PIP will start to replace DLA for disabled people in Northern Ireland aged 16 to 64 years from **20 June 2016**. This will be for new claims to PIP and also for some existing DLA claimants:

- those who report a change due to their health condition or disability on or after 20 June 2016
- children who turn 16 years of age on or after 7 November 2018
- those with fixed period DLA awards due to expire on or after 7 November 2016.

All remaining DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 years will be randomly selected for assessment and invited to claim PIP. This will happen over a number of years between December 2016 and December 2018.

During this reassessment process the claimant will continue to receive their DLA award until their eligibility for PIP is determined, provided they make a claim when requested to do so and fully engage with the process.

Providing the Carer continues to meet the other qualifying conditions, they will continue to be entitled to their Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit during this period.

Current Carer's Allowance or Carer's Credit claimants will not be affected by the introduction of PIP if they:

- care for someone aged 65 years or over on **20 June 2016**
- are caring for someone until they reach age 16
- care for somebody who is in receipt of Attendance Allowance.

All other carers will continue to receive Carer's Allowance / Carer's Credit provided they continue to meet the qualifying conditions and the person they care for qualifies for the Daily Living component of PIP at either rate.

The Northern Ireland Executive has put in place some measures to support carers who are financially worse off after the person they care for has been assessed for PIP.

A person will no longer be entitled to Carer's Allowance or Carer's Premium if the person in receipt of DLA, who they currently provide care for, doesn't qualify for PIP after their assessment. However, in these circumstances a supplementary payment equal to their rate of Carer's Allowance will be paid for up to one year.



Frequently asked questions

WHICH RATES OF PIP WILL PASSPORT TO CARER'S ALLOWANCE / CARER'S CREDIT?

Both the standard and enhanced rates of the Daily Living component of PIP will passport to Carer's Allowance and Carer's Credit.

HOW WILL THE PERSON I CARE FOR KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO CLAIM PIP?

Every DLA claimant aged 16 to 64 years will be contacted and advised how and when to make a claim to PIP.

The majority of existing DLA claimants will not be contacted until **December 2016** or later.

IF THE PERSON I CARE FOR IS AWARDED PIP WILL CARER'S ALLOWANCE / CARER'S CREDIT BE BACKDATED TO THE CLAIMANT'S AWARD DATE?

CARER'S ALLOWANCE

For new claims to PIP, Carer's Allowance can be backdated to the date PIP is awarded to the person you are caring for, providing it is claimed within three months of the PIP decision and all other entitlement conditions are met.

If you currently receive Carer's Allowance for a person who is in receipt of DLA and they are reassessed for PIP, your Carer's Allowance will continue to be paid if the person you are caring for qualifies for the Daily Living component of PIP at either rate, and all other entitlement conditions are met.

CARER'S CREDIT

For new claims to PIP, Carer's Credit applications can be backdated to the start of the tax year before that in which an application is received if the person you are caring for was in receipt of a qualifying benefit (Armed Forces Independence Payment/ Constant Attendance Allowance /PIP /DLA care component at the middle or highest rate) or if they have been certified by a suitable health or social care professional as requiring the hours of care being provided each week.

If you are currently in receipt of Carer's Credit for a person who is in receipt of a qualifying benefit or if they have been certified by a suitable health or social care professional as requiring the hours of care being provided each week,

and they are reassessed for PIP, your Carer's Credit entitlement will continue if the person you are caring for qualifies for the Daily Living component of PIP at either rate or you have a Carer's Certificate and all other entitlement conditions are met.



HOW DO I CLAIM CARER'S ALLOWANCE/ CARER'S CREDIT?

You can:

- Claim online (Carer's Allowance only) at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/carers-allowance-eligibility>
- Call the Disability and Carer's Service from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

Telephone 0300 123 3356

Textphone 028 9031 1092

- Write to

Disability and Carer's Service
Castle Court
Royal Avenue
Belfast, BT1 1HR

For further information please see:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/carers-allowance

USEFUL LINKS

Carer's Allowance

www.nidirect.gov.uk/carers-allowance-introduction

Carer's Credit

www.nidirect.gov.uk/carers-credit

PIP

www.nidirect.gov.uk/pip

This information is for guidance only & should not be relied on as a full statement of the law about PIP.

Further Information

There is information on all aspects of Welfare Changes and PIP available at www.nidirect.gov.uk/welfarechanges