

To: Chief Executive of HSC Board & HSC Trusts;
Copies to: Directors of Finance,
Directors of Social Services of HSC Board
and Trusts

Circular HSC (ECCU) 2/2016

16 June 2016

Introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

1. Summary

This circular advises that:

- i. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for eligible people aged 16 to 64.
- ii. People aged 65 and over will continue to receive DLA, provided they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.
- iii. These changes come into operation on 20th June 2016.

Annex A contains fuller details.

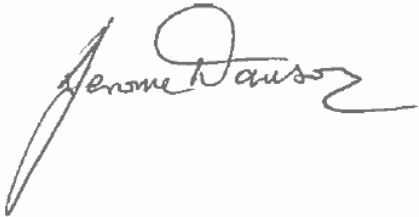
2. Action

- i. To note the contents of this circular.
- ii. In respect of the financial assessment process in relation to the provision of personal social services in residential or nursing home accommodation, a Health and Social Care Trust should treat PIP in the same manner as it would DLA.

3. Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this letter should be directed to:

Department of Health
Elderly and Community Care Unit
Castle Buildings
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0776
Email: eldcommcare@health-ni.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerome Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerome Dawson
Elderly and Community Care Unit

Background

1. As a result of Welfare Reform being taken forward by the Department for Communities, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a new benefit being introduced from 20th June 2016. PIP is for people with a long-term health condition or impairment and aims to support those in greatest need. From the 20th June 2016, PIP will replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for eligible people aged between 16 to 64 years. PIP is intended to help towards some of the extra costs that come from having a long term health condition or disability that is expected to last 12 months or longer.
2. The roll-out of PIP will commence on a phased basis from 20th June 2016. People aged between 16 to 64 years will no longer be able to claim DLA. Existing DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 years, whose benefit is due to come to an end or who report a change in their care or mobility needs, and existing DLA claimants who are approaching age 16 will be contacted about reassessment for PIP. During the reassessment process any DLA award will remain in place until eligibility for PIP is determined.
3. Claimants aged between 16 to 64 years and in receipt of an indefinite or lifetime award for DLA will not be contacted until December 2016 at the earliest, and will be invited to claim PIP by December 2018.
4. Entitlement to PIP will be based on the effect that a long term health condition or disability has on the person's daily life and not the condition or disability itself. PIP will be made up of two parts (components), a Daily Living component and a Mobility component. Each component will have two rates, standard and enhanced. The PIP rates for 2016/17 are available at the following link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480317/proposed_benefit_and_pension_rates_2016_to_2017.pdf
5. Like DLA, the PIP benefit is not means tested and is non-taxable and non-contributory. This means that entitlement to the benefit is not dependent on a person's financial

status or on whether they have paid National Insurance contributions. PIP is not restricted to people who are out of work and it can be paid to those who are in full or part-time work as well.

6. The introduction of PIP does not apply to individuals aged 65 or over on 20th June 2016 in receipt of DLA. Claimants in this category will continue to receive the DLA benefit provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.

7. Further information in regard to PIP can be found by contacting the Department for Communities at:-

Department for Communities
Lighthouse Building
1 Cromac Place
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 2JB

Telephone: 028 9082 9000 or 0300 123 9221

Textphone: 0300 123 1008