Information NOW
Information for people in Newcastle upon Tyne

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

What is Personal Independence Payment?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) helps towards some of the extra costs resulting from ill-health or disability. It is based on how a person's condition affects them, not the condition they have.

Personal Independence Payment is gradually replacing **Disability Living Allowance** for adults.

Am I eligible for Personal Independence Payment?

Personal Independence Payment is for adults aged 16 to pension age, who have an illness or disability which effects their daily living and/or mobility. You will be assessed to find out if you are eligible for PIP. To be eligible you will:

- have had difficulties with daily living or getting around (or both) for 3 months
- expect these difficulties to continue for at least 9 months (unless you're terminally ill with less than 6 months to live)

If you are pension age or over and want to make a new claim you should claim **Attendance Allowance** instead. Those already getting PIP when reaching pension age can continue to get it.

How much Personal Independence Payment may I receive?

Personal Independence Payment is not means tested or taxed. This means your financial situation is not taken into consideration when applying for the benefit.

PIP is made up of two components:

- daily living
- mobility for help with getting around

Each component can be paid at **standard rate**, or **enhanced rate** for those with the greatest needs.

How do I apply for Personal Independence Payment?

- New claims must made to the **Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Claim Line**.
- Queries about existing claims should be made to the **Disability Benefits Helpline.**

Read the **Guide to making a PIP claim** from **Disability Rights UK** for more information.

Turn2us helps people with a low income to find funds and grants to apply for when you need money for essential things in life. They provide a benefits calculator, grants search and online Personal Independence Payment (PIP) helper tool.

Assessment

Once you have completed your claim form the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will pass your claim to a health professional.

Most people will then be asked to attend a face-to-face consultation with the health professional at an Examination Centre. You can take someone along for support. Home visits may be available if necessary.

The assessment provides you with the opportunity to explain your support needs in your own words. The health professional will send their conclusions to the DWP.

Decision

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will use the information in your claim form and from the health professional, plus anything else that has been provided to make a decision on your claim. You should try to provide as much evidence and information about your needs as you can.

If your claim is turned down or you do not get the rate you were expecting, or the award is not as long as you think it should be for, you can ask the DWP to reconsider their decision. You must ask for a reconsideration within a month of the decision. You can appeal after that.

But be warned that if the DWP reconsider an amount they may reduce it as well as increase it or keep it the same.

See also the article **How to challenge a benefit decision**.

End of Life

The Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill means that people considered by a clinician as having 12 months or less to live can have fast-tracked access to this benefit. The extended fast-track access means those eligible are not subject to a face-to-face assessment, or waiting period, with the majority of individuals receiving the highest rate of those benefits.

How are other benefits affected?

Receiving Personal Independence Payment may provide access to other help including:

- **Blue Badges**
- **Concessionary travel passes**
- **TaxiCard**
- **Motability**
- Carers may also receive **Carers Allowance** because the person they are caring for is receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.

Receiving PIP may also increase the amount you receive from other benefits such as **Employment and Support Allowance** or **Jobseeker's Allowance** and **Pension Credit** and it can exempt you from welfare reforms such as the **benefit cap**

Where to get benefits advice

You can get benefits advice from a local independent service. They can help guide you through the application process and explain how some benefits may impact upon another. Services in Newcastle include:

- **Citizens Advice Newcastle (CAN)**.
- **Newcastle Welfare Rights Service** have **self help material** on their website
- **Search Newcastle** give benefits advice to older people in the West of Newcastle
- **Disability North** give disability related benefit advice, help with appeals and representation at tribunals

Search for Benefits advice organisations

Location:
Postcode:
Search

Other Useful Information

Money Advice Service provides online information on the full range of benefits that you may be entitled to.

Payment Exception Service was introduced as cheques are no longer used to pay state benefits and Pension credit.

The Cinemas Exhibitors' Association (CEA) Card helps to ensure cinemas make reasonable adjustments for you if you need them because of a disability. With the card you can claim a free ticket for a carer or person accompanying you to the cinema. The card costs £6. You can apply if you receive Disability Living Allowance; Attendance Allowance; Personal Independence Payment or Armed Forces Independence Payment or are registered as blind.

Advicenow produce guides that are easy-to-read and practical. They explain what you need to know, where you need to go, and what you need to do to solve your problem.

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Useful Organisations

Citizens Advice Newcastle (CAN)

Email: citycab@newcastlecab.org.uk

Website: http://citizensadvice-newcastle.org.uk

Telephone: 0808 223 1133

Address: 4th Floor, City Library, NE1 8AX

Newcastle Welfare Rights Service

Email: welfare.rights@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfarerights

Telephone: 0191 277 2627

Address: **POSTAL ADDRESS ONLY - No face-to-face advice is given here, NE7 7LX

Cinemas Exhibitors Association (CEA) Card

Email: info@ceacard.co.uk

Website: www.ceacard.co.uk

Telephone: 01244 526016

Address: CEA Card, CH7 5BW

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

Telephone: 01244 526016

Money Helper

Email: pensions.enquiries@moneyhelper.org.uk

Website: https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

Telephone: 01244 526016

Address: Holborn Centre, EC1N 2TD

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Claim Line

Website: https://www.gov.uk/pip/how-to-claim

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Address: Personal Independence Payment New Claims, WV99 1AH

Turn2us

Email: info@turn2us.org.uk

Website: www.turn2us.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Address: Unit 9, CF15 7QQ

Disability Service Centre

Website: www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline

Telephone: 0800 121 4600

Advicenow

Website: www.advicenow.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 121 4600

Address: Law for Life: the Foundation for Public Legal Education, SE1 7NJ

Disability North

Email: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

Website: www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 2840480

Address: The Dene Centre, NE3 1PH

Encephalitis Society

Email: comms@encephalitis.info

Website: https://www.encephalitis.info/

Telephone: 01653 692 583

Address: 32 Castlegate, YO17 7DT

North East Law Centre

Email: reception@nelawcentre.co.uk

Website: www.nelawcentre.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 230 4777

Address: 2nd Floor, 10 - 13 Saville Row, NE1 8JE

Related Articles

Attendance Allowance

Carer's Allowance

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Income Support

Nexus TaxiCard Scheme – Accessible Transport

Payment Exception Service

How to challenge a benefit decision

Blue Badge Scheme