

## Benefits Series

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### Guidelines to claiming Personal Independence Payment from age 16

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Date: April 2024 | Information updated annually

Please see our website for up-to-date information: [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk)

If you have concerns, please ring the DSA's Benefits Adviser: Helen Wild

Monday & Thursday 10am-4pm Tuesday & Wednesday 10am-12.30pm | Telephone: 0333 1212 300

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# What is Personal Independence Payment?

## Introduction to PIP

- PIP is a benefit for adults from age 16 designed to help with the extra cost of a long-term illness or disability.
- PIP can be spent in any way you wish
- PIP is not means tested, so any savings or capital that you have will not affect the award.
- Receiving PIP may increase your Universal credit or Tax credit.

The benefit is awarded on a **points-based system**, the descriptors and points awarded for each activity are listed below. It is like the work capability assessment that features in ESA and Universal Credit.

There is no day/night distinction as there was with DLA care and the mobility criteria is more generous than DLA.

We are finding that many of our members who were receiving middle rate care and lower rate mobility under DLA, now qualify for the enhanced daily living component (equivalent to the higher rate care DLA) and in a lot of cases, the enhanced rate of the mobility component under PIP.

PIP is made up of two parts, the [daily living component](#) and the [mobility component](#)

- The daily living component is paid to someone who needs extra help with personal care. The extra care needs should have been needed for 3 months prior to claiming and be expected to last at least for the next 9 months. There are 2 rates, standard and enhanced.
- The mobility component is paid to someone who needs help with getting around. There are 2 rates, standard and enhanced.

You can receive the care component, or the mobility component, or both.

**If you live in Scotland, a new Scottish benefit called Adult Disability Payment will replace PIP. Further information can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/adult-disability-payment>**

## How much is PIP this year?

April 2024 to 2025

		Per week
Daily Living component:	Standard rate	£ 72.65
	Enhanced rate	£ 108.55
Mobility component:	Standard rate	£ 28.70
	Enhanced rate	£ 75.75

## What about income and savings?

You can claim PIP no matter what your income or savings are. It is not means-tested.

## What if I claim other benefits?

An award of PIP will not reduce other benefits you may already receive. It is paid on top of these. If you are still claiming Tax Credits or have moved onto Universal Credit, as with DLA, you may receive extra money because your child is receiving PIP. You are still able to claim [Carers Allowance](#) if your son or daughter are receiving the daily living component and you satisfy the carer conditions.

## **When to make a claim**

Age 16 years is the earliest time you can claim for PIP.

The level of benefit awarded depends on the young person's actual needs. It is not awarded for the diagnosis. When making a claim, provide as much detail as you can. It is helpful to give examples which illustrate each applicable descriptor and compare with what would generally be required (or not) at this age.

You will be invited to make a claim for PIP when your young person is approaching age 16.

## **Existing DLA for child claims and PIP**

DWP will write to parents or guardians of young people who are currently getting DLA when the young person is approaching 16 years of age. The letter will explain that the young person will need to claim PIP when they turn 16 years old.

The letter will also ask whether the young person will need an appointee when they turn 16 and the bank account details for their PIP to be paid into after they turn 16

***Claiming PIP is not optional. If you do not respond to the PIP letter, even though you may have a long time left on your DLA award, your DLA will stop. If you send the information requested back to DWP, DLA will continue to be paid until the PIP award is decided.***

## **How to make a claim**

DWP may not have contacted you yet and you may wish to move to PIP now rather than waiting.

- England and Wales 0800 917 2222.
- Northern Ireland 0800 012 1573.

If you are not yet the appointee, you will need to make the call in the presence of the claimant. The call will last around 15 minutes, during which time you will be asked for basic personal and contact details. It may be useful to gather these together before calling – National insurance number, GP/ consultant details, banking details etc.

This is an initial enquiry and not the actual detailed claim form regarding care and mobility needs (called *How your disability affects you*). This will be sent to you via post after the phone call.

In most cases, after completing the 'How your disability affects you' form, you will be invited for a face-to-face assessment. These have been taking place over the phone and video calls.

## Help with the '*How your disability affects you*' form

The form may appear lengthy, but we believe it is easier to complete than the DLA one. Please call if you need advice and we can help you to complete it.

Our benefits adviser is available on 0333 1212 300

Monday & Thursday 10-4 pm.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10-12.30 pm.

## Which rate of PIP would be appropriate?

Because everyone's needs vary, the award depends on the amount of extra care or mobility needs. In our experience, PIP is more beneficial for our members than DLA. People with Down's syndrome will receive the enhanced rate of the mobility component if they are unable to plan and follow a *familiar* journey unaided. For those who have difficulty only with *unfamiliar* journeys, this would indicate a standard rate award.

If your young person has physical problems walking, an award can be based on distance covered but in the main, many of our members will qualify under the 'planning and following a journey' section.

Many of our members are awarded the enhanced rate of the daily living component. There is no longer a day and night distinction and so many people are finding that they are moving from middle rate care DLA and onto the enhanced rate of daily living component under PIP because of how the new points-based system works.

There are also '[non-disability conditions](#)' such as how long you've been ill or disabled, and how long you've lived in the UK.

## Length of award and Renewal Claims

Most PIP claims are now made for a limited time, often for a period of three years to five years. Indefinite awards can be made if a fixed term award is not appropriate. Indefinite awards are usually reviewed every ten years. You will need to make a renewal claim to get another award of PIP.

Complete the renewal claim form in detail, as if it were the first claim. The DWP will refuse or reduce benefit on renewal claims if they do not have the full information.

You should be sent claim forms to make a renewal claim about 6 months before your PIP runs out. If you have not received a form for renewing PIP, ring the Disability Service Centre on 0800 121 4433 and ask for one. Explain that you are making a renewal claim.

It is important to send the renewal claim back before the current award runs out. If you send them back in good time, then the new award should start as soon as the old one finishes. If you return them only a week or so before the current award expires, there could be a gap in your payments. You will get a back payment once they have dealt with the claim.

If you send back the renewal forms *after* your current award ends, you will not get backdating for the time between the first award ending and when they get your renewal claim. It is a good idea to give them a call to let them know the form is on its way or if you need more time.

As a precaution, send the form back using a 'signed for' service. This will give you peace of mind and you can also track the post.

## **Definitions for the activity descriptors**

For each descriptor to apply you must only be assessed as able to carry out a task if you can do so **reliably**.

- This means *safely* (unlikely to cause any harm to themselves or anyone else),
- to an acceptable standard,
- *repeatedly* (as often as reasonably required for that particular activity) and
- *in a reasonable time period* (no more than twice the time it would generally take someone).

If you are unable to complete an activity reliably as above, you should be treated as not being able to do it at that level at all.

Definitions of the help you need from other people:

**Assistance:** This is physical intervention by another person. It does not include help with speech. The person intervening must be physically present to help with some or all of the activity in question.

**Prompting:** This means if someone needs reminding or encouragement to carry out or complete an activity or have it explained to them. It can be done in your presence or over the phone. Prompting part of an activity counts

**Supervision:** This would mean having a person present continuously to keep the person safe whilst they are carrying out the activity.

**Unaided** – You can perform an activity unaided if you do not require the use of any aids or appliances (any device that improves, provides, or replaces your impaired function), or need assistance, prompting or supervision from another person.

## **Filling in the form**

Understanding which information DWP needs to make the decision, makes the form easier to complete. Use the descriptors above and give an example that illustrates your situation.

Please call the DSA benefits adviser on 0333 12 12 300 for any help you need.

- Keep a copy of your completed form. It helps if you are not happy with the decision, and it can also serve as a prompt when you come to do a renewal claim. Also return the form by recorded post so that you have proof of receipt.
- If you need to write more you can continue a separate sheet of paper and attach it to the form, make sure you also write the name, date of birth or reference number on this loose sheet (in case it becomes detached).
- It may be helpful to think about your young person in comparison with other young people of the same age you know.

# **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)** **descriptors and points** (points are in bold)

## **Daily Living Component Activities**

For the Daily living activities, add together the highest score from each activity heading that applies. The points are in bold at the end of the descriptor.

**You need to score at least 8 points for the standard rate**

**You need to score at least 12 points for the enhanced rate**

The points can be scored from one activity heading or from any of the headings added together.

### **Preparing food.**

*The activity looks at preparing a simple meal for one person using fresh ingredients, cooking at waist height. Think about safety using a hob, also safety of using a microwave if the hob is not an option. Is it a safer option or does it present different hazards? Would metal dishes be placed in a microwave without thought? Is there a safety issue around food preparation – knives, hot water, potential fire risk and safety awareness. It is a good idea to give an example of something that has happened to explain this.*

- a. Can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided.  
**0**
- b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.  
**2**
- c. Cannot cook a simple meal using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave.  
**2**
- d. Needs prompting to be able to either prepare or cook a simple meal.  
**2**
- e. Needs supervision or assistance to either prepare or cook a simple meal.  
**4**
- f. Cannot prepare and cook food.  
**8**

### **Taking nutrition**

*How does your young person eat or drink? Can they cut up their food into adequate sizes? Do you need to cut their food up for them? Do they put too much food into their mouth at once? Do they chew it sufficiently before swallowing it or is there a risk of them choking if they are not monitored? Is there an issue with over-eating or under eating or forgetting to eat? Give an example in the box provided.*



- a. Can take nutrition unaided. **0**
- b. Needs –(i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to take nutrition; or(ii) supervision to be able to take nutrition; or(iii) assistance to be able to cut up food. **2**
- c. Needs a therapeutic source to be able to takenutrition. **2**
- d. Needs prompting to be able to take nutrition. **4**
- e. Needs assistance to be able to manage a therapeutic source to take nutrition. **6**
- f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so.**10**

## **Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition**

***This section covers help with medication and whether your young person can recognise a change in their condition, for example if they are epileptic or have diabetes. Only prescribed or health professional recommended medication and therapy counts.***

***If there is risk of overdose or serious illness of incorrectly administered medication, give an example. Tell them what could or what has happened in the past.***

- a. Either–(i) does not receive medication or therapy or need to monitor a health condition; or  
(ii) can manage medication or therapy or monitor a health condition unaided.  
**0**
- b. Needs any one or more of the following:(i) to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage medication.  
(ii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage medication  
(iii) supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to monitor a health condition.  
**1**
- 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 than7 hours a week.  
**4**
- e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than14 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**

## **Washing and bathing**

***Most descriptors focus on bathing and showering. Unless there are physical problems, most of our members may score points in the supervision/prompting descriptor. Some people may need help with washing shampoo out of their hair or making sure that they have washed to an acceptable standard. Some people may take longer than needed in the shower or bath and need prompting that it is time to get out and dry themselves.***

**Think about what needs to be done each time as it is very easy to overlook the help that is required as it is the regular routine.**

- 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**

## **Managing toilet needs or incontinence**

***If your young person needs help because they cannot adequately wipe themselves after using the toilet, you must explain and give an example here. This descriptor is only concerned with help at the toilet, not with dressing or undressing***

- 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. **4**
- e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel. **6**
- f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel. **8**

## **Dressing and undressing**

***If your young person has Velcro fastenings because they cannot manage laces and/or buttons, this is classed as an aid, and you should score points. They may need prompting or dissuading from wearing clothing appropriate for the weather and may also need reminding that something needs washing.***

- 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) prompting to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or(ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing. **2**
- d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body. **2**
- e. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body. **4**

f. Cannot dress or undress at all. **8**

## **Communicating verbally**

***This descriptor is about your ability to hear and speak and problems you may have talking and understanding in your first language.***

***Aids considered would be hearing aids.***

***Communication support does not have to be given but there must be a need for it.***

***It can be provided by a trained or experienced person and could potentially include a family member or close friend***

***An example of basic verbal information could be help with saying 'I want a sandwich'***

***Complex verbal information would be verbal information in your first language in the form of more than once sentence or a more detailed sentence. 'I would like a cheese and tomato sandwich please, but could I have salad cream instead of butter'.***

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided.                                      | <b>0</b>  |
| b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear.                               | <b>2</b>  |
| c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information. | <b>4</b>  |
| d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information.   | <b>8</b>  |
| e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support.     | <b>12</b> |

## **Reading and understanding symbols and words**

***This descriptor focuses on your ability to be able to read and understand what you have just read.***

***Basic written information includes signs, symbols numbers and dates of written or printed information. It could be a warning sign or an exit sign for example.***

***Complex written information may be help with understanding words in a text or help with a recipe***

***Someone who has lost their sight would be assessed as unable to read.***

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using signs, spectacles or contact lenses                                | <b>0</b> |
| b. Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information. | <b>2</b> |
| c. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information.  | <b>2</b> |
| d. Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information.  | <b>4</b> |
| e. Cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all.  | <b>8</b> |

## **Engaging with other people face to face**

***This activity deals with your ability to interact with others in a socially appropriate manner. It considers engaging with people you do not know well as well as those that you do. It must be difficulties because of your condition, not because of shyness.***

***For someone who has no social boundaries and needs constant reminding about it, this would be an example of being unable to engage with people at all. Some people may need prompting to meet up if they have depression and needed encouragement for example. For someone who only feels comfortable meeting up if they have someone that they know with them, this would be an example of needing social support.***

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a. Can engage with other people unaided.  | <b>0</b> |
| b. Needs prompting to be able to engage with other people.  | <b>2</b> |
| c. Needs social support to be able to engage with other people.   | <b>4</b> |
| d. Cannot engage with other people due to such engagement causing either –(i) overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant; or(ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person. | <b>8</b> |

## **Making budgeting decisions**

***Simple budgeting decisions would be calculating the cost of something and working out the change***

***Complex budgeting decisions would involve the calculation of household bills and budgeting***

***If you are unable to add or subtract and do not understand the value of money, then you should be assessed as being unable to make any budgeting decisions***

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a. Can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided.                               | <b>0</b> |
| b. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make complex budgeting decisions. | <b>2</b> |
| c. Needs prompting or assistance to be able to make simple budgeting decisions.  | <b>4</b> |
| d. Cannot make any budgeting decisions at all.                                   | <b>6</b> |

## **The Mobility component**

There are two rates of the mobility component:

- the standard rate
- the enhanced rate

### **Mobility Activities**

There are 2 activity sections, *planning and following a journey* and *moving around*

The mobility component *standard rate* is awarded if your ability to carry out mobility activities is limited by your physical or mental condition. If it is severely limited, then the *enhanced rate* will be awarded.

In both cases you must have needed this help for the past 3 months and likely to for the next 9 months

Add together the highest score from each activity heading that applies.

You need to score 8 points for the standard rate

You need to score 12 points for the enhanced rate

## Planning and following journeys

This activity will apply to most members.

It will assess your ability to plan and then follow a journey safely and reliably. If you would be unable to deal with small disruptions or deviations from a usual route, even on a familiar journey (for example a diverted bus) then this should be considered.

Psychological distress could be distress that is related to a long-standing health condition or cognitive impairment.

## A word about the blue badge

Scoring 12 points from the *planning and following a journey* section will not automatically guarantee a blue badge in England or Northern Ireland. However, if you live in Wales or Scotland, it does.

The only exception for automatic blue badge in this section, if you live in England or NI is, '*Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant*'.

Scoring 12 points in the *planning and following a journey* section would mean you would be 'subject to further assessment'. More detail can be found in our Blue Badge information sheet.

## 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. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot plan the route of a journey.  | 8  |
| d. For reasons other than psychological distress, 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. For reasons other than psychological distress, cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid. | 12 |

## Moving around

***This activity is about the physical act of walking, and, on flat ground, reliably being able to put one foot in front of another without being breathless or in pain.***

***The walking must be done safely, to an acceptable standard, repeatedly and in a reasonable time period. Abnormalities of gait are also considered. Traffic and road awareness are not considered in this section, this is covered in the previous descriptor. You will automatically qualify for a blue badge when you apply through your local authority if you score at least 8 points from this descriptor.***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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	<b>4</b>
c. Can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	<b>8</b>
d. Can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	<b>10</b>
e. Can stand and then move more than 1metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided.	<b>12</b>
f. Cannot, either aided or unaided, -(i) stand; or(ii) move more than 1 metre.	<b>12</b>

## The non-disability conditions

These apply to both the daily activity component and the mobility component.

**If you think you might be "subject to immigration control", get advice from a benefits adviser before you claim. If you are subject to immigration control, claiming benefit can affect the right to stay in the UK.**

## The "residence and presence conditions"

To make a PIP claim you:

- Must be habitually resident in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland AND
- Be present in Great Britain now AND
- Must have been present in Great Britain for a total of 104 weeks in the past 156 weeks (2 out of the past 3 years).

The rules about residence and presence are complicated. There are also complicated rules if you are from a European Economic Area country, as residence and presence in a EEA country may count towards residence and presence in the UK. If you are unsure about your own situation, get advice.

## The qualifying periods

To qualify for either component of PIP, you must have already satisfied one of the disability conditions for at least 3 months. This will already be presumed if you are moving over from DLA. You also must be likely to satisfy one of the disability conditions for the next 9 months-this is called the prospective test.

## **The special rules**

You may notice that there is information in the PIP claim pack about "special rules". These are for people who are terminally ill, that is, they are not expected to live beyond the next 6 months. The qualifying periods do not apply for the daily living component in these cases. The enhanced rate is automatically awarded, but you still must apply for the mobility component.

## **The assessment**

If it is decided that a face-to-face assessment is appropriate, then you will be asked to attend a local assessment centre. In limited circumstances, the assessment can take place in your own home. More recently, assessments are taking place over the phone and by video calls.

DWP will send a copy of the form that you have completed to one of the 'provider' organisations. This is currently the independent assessment services and Capita. It will depend on where you live as to which company carries the assessment out.

*Please remember that although the assessor is a 'healthcare professional' they may not know about Down's syndrome, so you need to let them know about how it affects your young person.*

### **After the assessment**

All the notes from the assessment are sent to the DWP case worker who will decide whether PIP should be awarded after looking at your questionnaire and the new report.

## **Challenging decisions**

### **What to do if you are unhappy with a decision**

When you apply for PIP, you may not be happy with the DWP decision. For example:

- You may be refused completely
- You may be given a rate you are not happy with
- You may be given a limited award, for example, only for two years
- The award may start from a date which you feel is not right

It is possible to get your decision changed.

Often when you ask for a revision, supersession, or appeal, the DWP say you could lose the benefit you already have. This is possible, but in practice, it is very rare.

## Reconsiderations and revisions

If you are within one calendar month of the date of a decision, you can ask for a reconsideration. This may lead to a revision of the award which takes effect from original date of claim if DWP agree that the decision was incorrect.

Your request for a reconsideration must be received within one calendar month of the day after the date on the decision letter. So, if the decision letter is dated 2 April, your request must be received by 2 May. If there is no corresponding date in the following month, your deadline is the last day of that month. For example, if your letter is dated 31 May, your deadline is 30 June.

This deadline can be extended in some circumstances. You can ask for **written reasons for the decision**. This extends your deadline for asking for a reconsideration by 14 days. However, often the written reasons are not very helpful, and it is not always clear whether the DWP consider they have already explained in the original decision letter. It is always best to ask for a reconsideration within the one-month deadline, even if you have asked for written reasons.

If you miss the one-month deadline, you can ask for a late revision in very limited circumstances. Don't delay and get advice in this situation.

### How do I get a reconsideration?

The easiest way to apply for a reconsideration is to download form CRMR1 from the gov.uk website, to fill in online, print and send in.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/challenge-a-decision-made-by-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-dwp>

If you intend to send in supporting information after submitting the form, you can tell DWP, and they will give you a date that they need it by. If you send it in later, a decision may be made without considering the new information. It is helpful to send in extra information at this stage.

You should think about.

- How your needs are relevant to the activity descriptors for PIP
- Explaining any information which looks inconsistent
- Explaining clearly how your needs vary (if they do)
- Sending reports from professionals who know you. Though be careful – often medical or education professionals describe things in a positive way, and this can be used to say that your needs are not excessive.

A different DWP decision maker will look at your case again. They may decide to change the decision. This is called a revision. It will take effect from the date of the original decision.



If DWP do not revise the decision, you can ask for an [appeal](#). You can do this within one month of the date of the reconsideration decision.

If you want to go to appeal, you must ask for a reconsideration (a revision or a supersession) first.

## **Supersessions**

If you want your award changed, but you are not within one month of a decision, you can ask for a supersession.

However, you can only get a supersession for certain reasons, for example, needs have increased, or you think the original decision was wrong because the DWP did not know important facts, or they made a mistake.

You need to write to the DWP, explaining the grounds for the supersession. Then you will usually have to fill in another form. This gives you the chance to include new information about the increased needs.

A DWP decision maker will look at the new form and decide whether to supercede.

If the decision is superceded, backdating of any increased benefit will only go back to the date you asked for the supersession.

If they will not change the decision, you then have the right to appeal. You have to ask for an appeal within one calendar month of the day after the date on the decision letter.

## **Appeals**

If the decision isn't revised or superceded, you can then ask for an appeal. You can do this within one calendar month of the day after the date of the revision or supersession decision.

Appeals are made to the Social Security and Child Support Tribunals of HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Going to appeal allows your case to be looked at by an independent body and gives you the chance to discuss your case to someone face to face, (if you decide to go to the hearing in person).

You need to include a copy of the reconsideration decision that you are appealing against.

<https://www.appeal-benefit-decision.service.gov.uk/benefit-type>

If you want to appeal, get advice. The process is complicated, and statistics show your chances of success are greater if you ask for help.

Contact the DSA Benefits Adviser on our helpline 0333 12 12 300.

If you challenge a DWP decision, keep copies of letters, and make a note of the dates of phone calls, a summary of what was said, and the name of the person you spoke to.

## PIP and other benefits

you may get more money once you get PIP. If your young person gets any rate of the daily living activity, you may be entitled to Carer's Allowance or a carer amount if you receive benefit.

### Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance (CA) is a benefit for people who are 16 and over, who regularly care for a disabled person.

You may get Carer's Allowance if:

- You are caring for someone who receives the middle or highest rate care component of Disability Living Allowance, or either rate of Personal Independence Payment daily living component, or Attendance Allowance.
- You are caring for someone 35 or more hours a week.
- You are not working and earning more than £151 a week (2024/2025). You can deduct tax, national insurance contributions, half of any personal pension contributions, and childcare costs, from your earnings. If you are earning and want to claim CA, check the details of these rules, either with the CA Unit or the DSA Benefits Adviser on 0333 1212 300.
- You are not a full-time student (attending a course for 21 hours or more a week).

### Carer's premium

If you are already getting Universal Credit, you will be able to have a carer amount added onto your UC if you satisfy the criteria.

### Blue Badge scheme

The Blue Badge scheme operates throughout England and Wales (except for parts of central London). It is run by local councils.

The Blue Badge scheme is to help people who have problems with walking to park where there are parking restrictions, for example, close to shops and public buildings. A car displaying a Blue Badge driven by person who has a disability or with a passenger who has a disability, can be parked in some, but not all, parking restricted areas.

The car doesn't have to be driven by the person named on the badge, but they need to be in the car, unless they have just been dropped off or are being picked up.

### Means-tested benefits

If you are getting means tested benefits, such as Universal credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseekers' Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit, you may get some extra money if your young person gets PIP.

Check with:

- your local DWP office (for Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit) or
- your local council (for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support) or
- the Tax Credit Helpline on 0345 300 3900 for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit

## **PIP and Carer's Allowance**

There is no change to entitlement for Carer's Allowance. Those caring for someone who receives the standard or enhanced rate of PIP daily living component will get Carer's Allowance (if they satisfy all the other conditions).

## **Motability scheme**

You will be eligible for a Motability car if you get the enhanced rate of the PIP mobility component. This can be the enhanced rate in either of the mobility activities.

## **Contact numbers**

### **Personal Independence payment helpline**

Tel: 0800 121 4433

### **Carer's Allowance Unit**

Tel: 0800 731 0297

### [Motability Car Scheme](#)

**[www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)**

Tel: 0300 456 4566

### [HMRC Tax Credits Helpline](#)

Tel: 0345 300 3900

Text phone: 0345 300 3909

Universal Credit

0800 328 1344

