

CURRENT POSITION

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was closed to new claimants aged 16 and over in 2013. Anyone with personal care needs or limited mobility should claim its replacement, Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

DLA for children (under16) remains - see Pb19A.

Over the next few years DLA for current claimants will cease, and they will have to apply for PIP. Those with a renewal date will make the change at the renewal point; those without a fixed renewal date will be told when their DLA will cease sometime from 2015. Please note that transfer to PIP is **not** automatic – if you do not claim PIP your DLA will cease anyway. See our leaflet Pb95 DLA-2-PIP.

The following is therefore for information only – adults can no longer claim DLA for the first time.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE is made up of two parts, or components - the Care component and the Mobility component. Both can be claimed separately or together.

CARE COMPONENT: QUALIFYING RULES

You need to show that at least one of the following applies to you (A-D are daytime needs, E-F are night-time needs):

- A. **You need help with bodily functions frequently throughout the day**
'Bodily functions' means things like seeing, hearing, moving about (for example climbing stairs or getting up from a chair), washing, bathing, dressing, undressing, eating, drinking, toileting, medication etc.

'Help' can be either physical help or it can be spoken help, for example prompting, reminding, encouraging or describing things to someone who is blind, or interpreting for someone who is deaf.
- B. **You need continual supervision throughout the day, in order to avoid the risk of substantial danger to yourself or others**
The danger has to be one which could occur at any time. It could be, for example, from falling, self-harm, epileptic attacks, blackouts, aggression, dangerous behaviour, an inability to react to danger (e.g. someone who is paralysed), lack of awareness of danger etc.
- C. **You need help with bodily functions in the day, but only for about 1 hour in total rather than throughout the day**
- D. **You need help to prepare a cooked main meal for yourself**
This could apply, for example, to someone with learning disability, or who is blind, or who has a physical condition, such as arthritis, or who has a mental illness and/or disability which means s/he gets confused, forgetful or depressed etc.
- E. **You need help in the night in connection with bodily functions**
The help has to be either 'prolonged' i.e. lasting at least 20 minutes (count the time the carer would need to be out of bed) or 'repeated' i.e. more than once.

F. You need someone to be awake during the night to watch over you in order to avoid substantial danger to yourself or to others

This could apply, for example, if you have epilepsy or hypoglycaemic attacks and someone has to wake up in the night to check on you. It could also apply if you wander round the home at night and cannot safely be left to do this unsupervised.

This watching over must be either 'prolonged' i.e. for at least 20 minutes (it is the amount of time the carer would need to be awake that counts) or 'at frequent intervals' i.e. repeated throughout the night.

Care Component Rates

		<u>2016/17</u>	
		Weekly	4-weekly
C or D	Lowest rate care component	£22.00	£88.00
A or B or E or F	Middle rate care component	£55.65	£222.60
(A or B) plus (E or F)	Highest rate care component	£ 83.10	£332.40

MOBILITY COMPONENT: QUALIFYING RULES

Higher rate

- A)** You have a physical disability which means you are
- unable to walk, **or**
 - virtually unable to walk (this could apply if your ability to walk is extremely limited because of pain or breathlessness or fatigue, or because your walking is very slow, or awkward etc), **or**
 - both deaf and blind, **or**
 - severely visually impaired, **or**
 - without feet
- OR**
- B)** You are severely mentally impaired, **and**
- have severe behavioural problems, **and**
 - qualify for the highest rate of the care component

RATE: £58.00 (2017/18) - £232.00 4-weekly

Lower rate

For the lower rate you have to show that, although you are physically able to walk, you have a physical or mental disablement which means you cannot walk out of doors in unfamiliar areas without guidance or supervision.

RATE: £22.00 (2017/18) £88.00 4-weekly

GENERAL NOTES

1. If DLA is in payment at your 65th birthday it will remain in payment. Anyone making a new claim from the age of 65 claims Attendance Allowance instead.
2. If you are already on DLA you should think very carefully before asking for it to be looked at again – you will be assessed under PIP & the award could be reduced instead of increased. See the WWRAS leaflet 'A Risky Business' (Pb29) for further advice.

The information in this factsheet is correct as of April 2017

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