

A RISKY BUSINESS!

THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO GET MORE PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT (PIP)

GETTING YOUR PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT AWARD INCREASED

This factsheet provides information and advice for people who are considering asking the DWP for a higher level or extra rate of PIP because they think their care and/or mobility needs have increased.

If you are one of these people, you should read all of this leaflet carefully before you contact the DWP.

- For those in receipt of DLA see leaflet *Pb29 DLA*.
- For those in receipt of Attendance Allowance see leaflet *Pb29 AA*.
- For those in receipt of DLA aged 65+ see leaflet *Pb29 65+*.
- For those in receipt of Child DLA see leaflet *Pb29 Child*.

CAN I GET MY EXISTING PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT AWARD INCREASED?

If you already receive PIP but think that your condition has got worse since it was awarded, you can ask for your award to be increased (unless, of course, you already get the highest rate).

You can contact the PIP Unit and you will then be sent a new form to complete.

Personal Independence Payment

If you are getting PIP, there are two possible ways your award could be changed. PIP has two “components” – Daily Living and Mobility. If you are only getting one of these, you could ask for the other one to be added on.

Both components have more than one level of payment – standard and enhanced. You could ask for the level of either component (or both) to be increased.

IS THERE ANY RISK INVOLVED?

Once you have asked for your benefit to be reconsidered, the DWP have the right to change all of it, which means it can be reduced as well as increased.

Even if you only ask for one component to be looked at, the DWP can still look at the other one if it believes that the evidence suggests you may no longer be entitled.

BE CAREFUL !

Even if you think your condition has not improved, the DWP may take a different view.

HOW MUCH COULD I LOSE?

This depends on your personal circumstances. Some people risk losing a great deal. This is because other benefits may depend on entitlement to PIP, so if your PIP is reduced or lost you could have less Income Support/ESA and even less help with your rent or Council Tax as well as less PIP.

For example, income-related benefits such as Income Support/ESA, Pension Credit and Housing Benefit are increased for some claimants by adding on “premiums” or “additions”. These are often triggered by PIP.

Disabled Person

Any level of PIP	=	Disability Premium
PIP Daily Living	=	Severe Disability Premium (for some claimants)
PIP Daily Living Enhanced Rate	=	Enhanced Disability Premium

Carer

Carers Allowance	=	Carer Premium
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Carers Allowance can only be claimed by a carer looking after someone on PIP Daily Living (or Attendance Allowance or DLA middle or higher rate Care)

Cautionary Tale:

Viola gets PIP Daily Living, but not Mobility. Her partner, George, gets Carer's Allowance and Income Support.

She applies for the Mobility component of PIP – possible gain is £21.80 per week [at 2016/17 rates].

Result: Viola is awarded standard rate Mobility but the Daily Living component is reassessed and lost.

This means George can no longer get Carers Allowance or Income Support as a carer. He will have to sign on and look for work to claim Jobseekers Allowance

Their income will be reduced.

They are, therefore, £67.90 per week worse off.

Housing Benefit can also be further affected if the person claiming loses PIP Daily Living and has adult sons or daughters living at home. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction are usually reduced if you have other adults living with you and your partner but no deduction is made if you get PIP Daily Living.

BENEFIT CAP

Some people who have high levels of Rent Rebate (such as those with 3 or more children) may be affected by the Benefit Cap. However, where a household contains someone on PIP the Cap does not apply. So, if you lose PIP that exemption may also be lost, and some may then be hit by the Benefit Cap.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you think you have more care and/or mobility needs now than you had when you were last awarded PIP, TAKE ADVICE BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING. Go to your local advice agency (see page 6) first and make sure you understand exactly what is at risk for you.

Check the rules to see if you really may be entitled to an increase of benefit – the fact that your condition is worse doesn't necessarily mean that you can get more benefit.

Talk to your doctor. The DWP may ask her/him for a report so you need to be sure you will have medical evidence to support your claim – not only the increase but what you are getting now.

If you do ask for more benefit, make sure you fill in the new claim form with full details of all your daily living and mobility needs, not just the extra help you think you need. Ask your advice agency for help with the forms.

WHAT IF MY BENEFIT IS REDUCED?

Ask your local advice agency (see overleaf) about how to appeal against the decision. You only have one month from the date on the decision letter so don't delay!

FUTURE CHANGE: UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit is replacing 6 working-age income-related benefits over the next few years. However Universal Credit does not have the same extra premiums as the benefits it is replacing. As long as you stay on PIP (or DLA) any such extras you get will continue, so if you move onto Universal Credit your level of benefit should be protected. However, if you come off PIP (or DLA) you will lose those extras. Get advice if this applies to you.

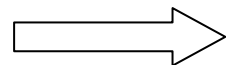
AND FINALLY...

The purpose of this factsheet is not to prevent people from getting more benefit.

On the contrary, we believe you should be able to get the allowances increased if you are entitled, so we are not saying, don't try at all.

What we are saying is:

GET ADVICE FIRST!



For further information contact any of the following agencies:

CITIZENS ADVICE

Rugby

1st Floor, Chestnut House
North Street
Rugby, CV21 2AQ

North Warwickshire

The Parish Rooms
Welcome Street
Atherstone, CV9 1DU

Bedworth & Nuneaton

(Covers Nuneaton & Bedworth)
Old Market Tavern
25 Congreve Walk
Bedworth, CV12 8LX
(To book appt in Nuneaton
call 024 7635 1049)

Warwick District

10 Hamilton Terrace
Leamington Spa, CV32 4LY

Stratford-upon-Avon

25 Meer Street
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6QB

Switchboard number for ALL CAs: 0344 855 2322

For Carers Advice, Information and Support

Warwickshire Carer Wellbeing Service

9 Lawford Road, Rugby, CV21 2DZ

Tel: (024) 7610 1040

e-mail: carerssupport@carerstrusthofe.org.uk

www.carerstrusthofe.org.uk

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