



About the Personal Independence Payment assessment

What people told us

December 2011



Easy Read

DWP

Department for
Work and Pensions

Important

Green writing

In this easy-read booklet we sometimes explain what words mean.

The first time we mention any of these words, it is in **bold green** writing. Then we write what the words mean in a blue box. If any of the words are used later in the booklet, we show them in **normal green** writing.

These words and what they mean are also in a Word List at the back of the booklet.

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What this booklet is about

The government is planning to change **Disability Living Allowance** to a new benefit called **Personal Independence Payment** from 2013.

Disability Living Allowance

This is money that someone with a disability or a health condition may be able to get to help them pay for the help and support they need.

Personal Independence Payment

This is a new benefit to help disabled people live full, active and independent lives. Disabled people who can get the benefit will get money to help them pay the extra costs of being disabled.



The **assessment** for **Personal Independence Payment** will help us work out which people need the most support to live full, active and independent lives.

Assessment

This is the method the Department for Work and Pensions will use to work out if a person can get **Personal Independence Payment**.

This booklet tells you what people told us about the **Personal Independence Payment assessment** in the summer. It says what we have changed since we wrote the first report in August 2011.



This booklet does not say how we will deliver the **assessment**.

What people told us

We spoke to about 60 disabled people's groups in the summer and we got more than 170 letters from both groups and people. There were 6 main points made about the **Personal Independence Payment assessment**.

Point 1

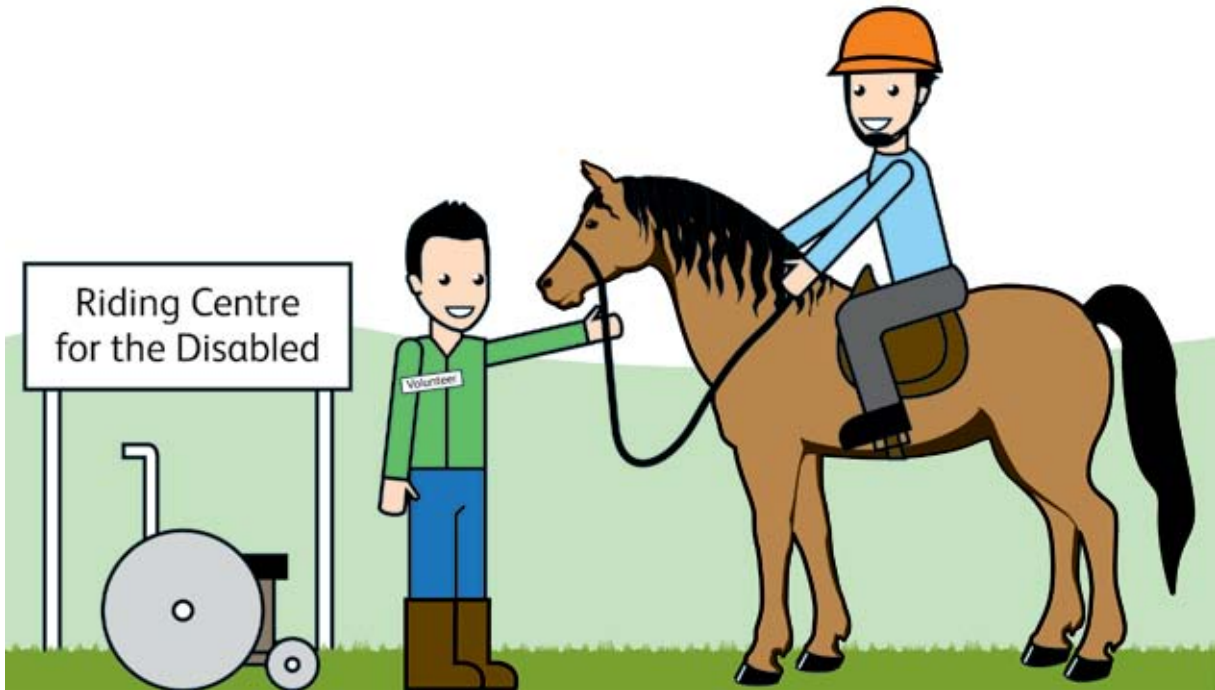
People thought that what we said in the first booklet did not cover the costs to do with disability properly. People thought that we should also include these things.

- Gas, electric and water bills.
- How easy it is to use transport, like buses and trains.
- How easy it is for disabled people to get around and do things in their home.



Point 2

People said that the rules should include extra activities, like leisure or community activities, social relationships and housework.



Point 3

People thought that the rules were too basic and did not really look at whether disabled people can live full, active and independent lives.

Point 4

People did not always like the way the first set of rules looked at what support a disabled person might need. They said these things.

- The rules did not think about people watching over disabled people to make sure an activity is done safely.

- The rules expected too much support from another person.
- The rules did not look at night-time needs and daytime needs separately.

Point 5

People thought it was a good idea to look at whether a person can talk to other people or communicate with other people using aids or with support from another person. But a lot of people thought that the level for this in the first set of rules was too basic.



Point 6

Some people said that we should not just look at whether a person can plan and buy food. People thought we should also look at whether a disabled person is able to look after their own money and buy and pay for other things when they need to.

Writing this new booklet

We have not been able to deal with everything we were told about the **Personal Independence Payment assessment**.

But a lot of the things we were told have helped us to make a better plan.

We think that the new rules will let us make a fairer **assessment** of a person's ability to live a full, active and independent life.

Some of the changes we have made

The rules now look at whether a disabled person needs someone to watch over them to make sure they carry out an activity safely.



The activity called Planning and buying food has been taken out and a new activity called Making decisions about money has taken its place.

The activity called Talking and listening to others has been changed and made into 2 activities. One activity is called Talking and listening to others and reading information. The other activity is called Taking part with other people.

These 2 new activities will let us make a better **assessment** about how well a disabled person can communicate with other people.



The first set of rules looked at aids and appliances that people already use. The second set also includes simple aids and appliances that some people could be expected to use. This is like the rules we have at the moment for **Disability Living Allowance**.

This makes sure that disabled people who choose to use aids and appliances to help them look after themselves are treated fairly.

The new set of assessment rules

We want the **assessment** rules to be easy to understand and help disabled people who can get the benefit to get the right amount of support.

We do not want **assessment** rules that look at the type of **impairment** a person has. We want **assessment** rules that look at how an **impairment** affects a person's life.

Impairment

This is something about the way a person does things. It may be things like being unable to walk well, not being able to see or hear other people clearly, not being able to think hard for a long time, or not being able to remember things.



The 11 everyday activities and giving points

We will look at whether people can take part in everyday life. The **assessment** will do this by looking at how a person's **impairments** affect the way they can do 11 everyday activities.

The **assessment** will look at how well a person can do the 11 everyday activities. People will be given a number of points depending on how well they can do each activity. People who cannot do the activities very well will get the most points.

Personal Independence Payment will have two parts – one part to help with living costs and the other to help with getting about. Each part can be paid at 2 amounts – the standard rate and a higher amount for people with greater needs.

The total number of points a person gets will show which parts and rates of **Personal Independence Payment** they can have. The new assessment rules include our first ideas on points for each of the 11 activities.

We have not yet decided how many total points people will need for each part and rate of **Personal Independence Payment**. We are now starting to think about this.

The 11 activities we want to include are shown below.

Preparing and cooking food

This now looks at whether a person can make a simple meal using fresh ingredients. It is about whether their **impairment** affects their ability to do these things. It is not about whether a person knows how to cook.

It includes if a person can open packets, serve food, peel and chop food and cook or heat food.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.



Feeding and drinking

This looks at whether a person can eat or get food and drink in other ways, like through a tube into the stomach.

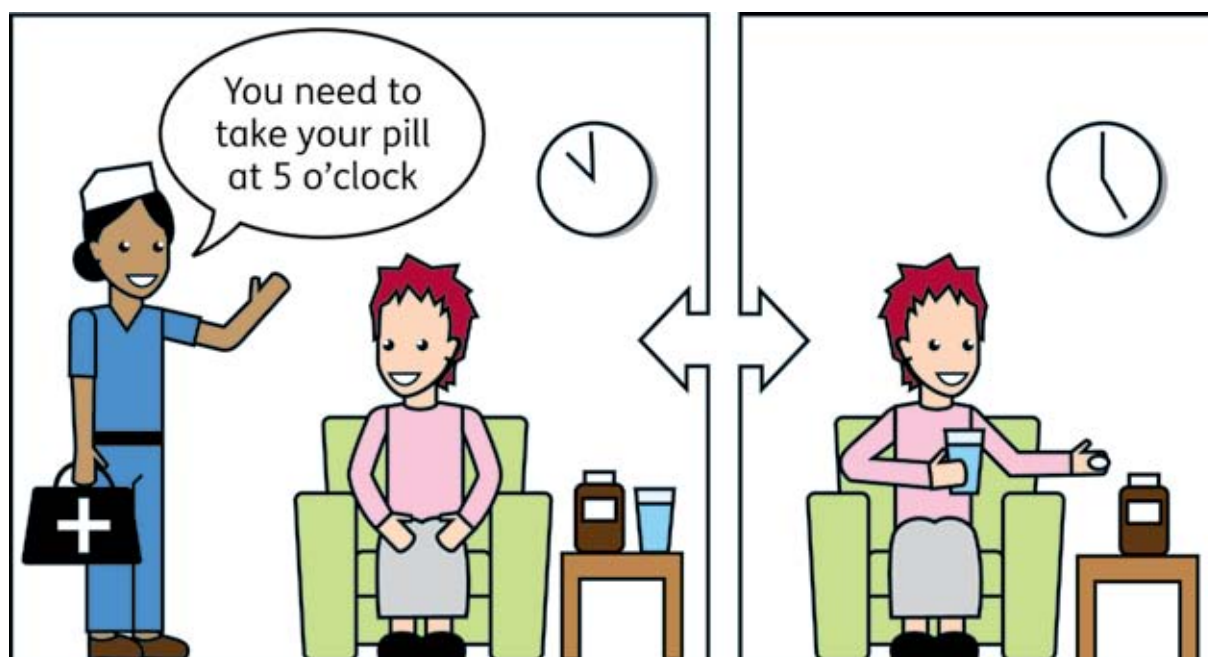
We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 10 points.

Taking medicines, looking after health and doing treatments

This new activity looks at whether a person can do these things which a health expert says are important or helpful.

- Take their medicine, for example tablets.
- Look for any changes in their health condition.
- Take care of any long-term treatments that need to be done at home.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.



Keeping clean and getting ready

This looks at whether a person can clean the top half of their body, and whether they can brush their teeth and wash their hair.

It includes the way people look, which is called their appearance, and if they are clean.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.

Using the toilet and controlling body waste in other ways

This looks at whether a person can get on and off the toilet. It also looks at whether a person can go to the toilet and clean themselves afterwards.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.

Dressing and undressing

This looks at whether a person can choose the clothes they want to wear. It also looks at whether they are able to get dressed and undressed. It now includes if a person needs someone to help them choose clothes.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.



Talking and listening to others and reading information

This new activity looks at whether a person can say and understand spoken information. It also looks at whether a person can use written information.

A person can use aids and appliances to do these things or have support from another person. Support can now be from someone who knows the person well or it can be from someone who has been trained to help.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 12 points.



Taking part with other people

This new activity looks at whether a person can communicate and become friends with other people and understand body language.

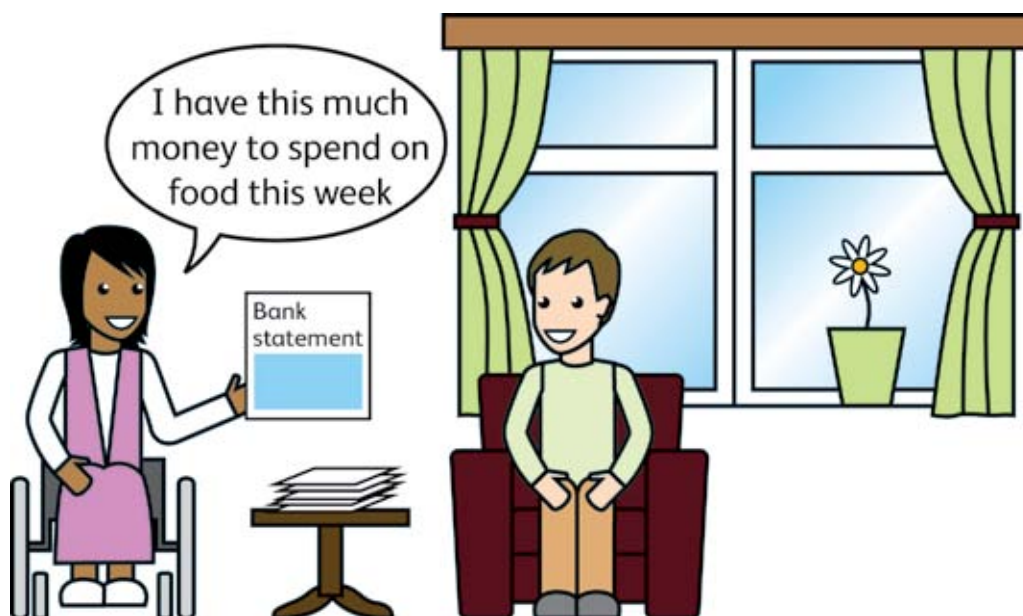
It includes whether doing this upsets the person and whether the person needs support from another person. Support can be from someone who knows the person well or it can be from someone who has been trained to help.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 8 points.

Making decisions about money

This new activity looks at whether a person can make decisions about their money.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 6 points.



Planning a journey and following the plan

This looks at whether a person can plan a trip and follow the planned route for the trip. It is about a person being able to think about a plan, making the plan and then following the planned route.

It includes whether planning the trip or following the planned route for the trip upsets the person a lot. It now includes if the person needs a support dog to help them.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 15 points.

Moving around

This looks at whether a person can move around over different distances and whether they need aids and appliances or support from another person.

We think that the most points a person should get on this activity is 15 points.



Testing the changes we want to make

We did some testing over the summer with about 900 people from Great Britain and 180 people from Northern Ireland.

We did this to see if the new set of rules met people's needs and if we had missed any areas of need. It helped us to make some changes to the first set of the **assessment** rules. We also found that the new set of rules was better at meeting people's needs than the first set.

What we learned will help us understand how the new rules will affect people who claim **Personal Independence Payment**.

The testing helped our ideas for points for each of the 11 activities. We still need to decide how many total points people will need for each part and rate of **Personal Independence Payment**.



Will we need to make more changes to these rules?

We know that we may have to make some more small changes.

We will talk about this with disabled people's groups and we will have a proper **consultation** when we have ideas about the total number of points people will need to get the different amounts of **Personal Independence Payment**.

Consultation

This is when we ask people what they think about our plans.

Before we have the **consultation**, you can tell us what you think about the changes we have made.

You can tell us what you think in 2 ways.

You can send an email to pip.assessment@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

You can post a letter to

DLA Reform - Assessment Development
Department for Work and Pensions
2nd Floor - Area B
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA.

Word list

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ISBN: 978-1-908523-22-8

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Published by the Department for Work and Pensions

December 2011