



Welfare Reforms  
Personal  
Independence  
Payments

# Personal Independence Payments

Are you currently receiving DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE?

PIPs has now replaced Disability Living Allowance for **working age** claimants in Northern Ireland. This benefit provides extra money to help with everyday life if you have a disability or illness.

## Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) - the new disability benefit and what you need to know.

PIPs is a non means tested benefit. Your income or savings are not taken into account and it is assessed purely on how you meet your care (daily living) and mobility needs

From 20 June 2016 anyone of working age (16-64) wishing to claim a disability benefit has to claim the new PIPs.

## How is PIPs assessed?

PIPs involves a points based assessment and you will have to score a certain number of points to qualify.

There are two components that are assessed - mobility and daily living.

To qualify for the standard rate of benefit on either of these components, a claimant must score at least 8 points. A score of 12 points is needed to qualify for the enhanced rate. Changes to the rates and their new names under PIPs are shown below:



Disability living Allowance Rates and names	Personal Independence Payments Rates and names
High Rate Mobility £57.45	Enhanced Rate Mobility £57.45
Low Rate Mobility £21.80	Standard Rate Mobility £21.80
High Rate Care £82.30	Enhanced Rate Care £82.30
Middle Rate Care £55.10	Standard Rate Care £55.10
Low Rate Care £21.80	<b>No longer available under PIPs</b>

PIPs is a non means tested benefit.  
Your income or savings are not taken into account and it is assessed purely on how you meet your care and mobility needs.

### **What happens to current DLA claimants?**

There are currently two types of disability awards - time bound awards and indefinite (also known as "lifetime") awards.

Claimants on lifetime awards will be contacted from December 2016 onwards to transfer to PIPs. It is expected that all working age claimants of disability benefits should be claiming PIPs by December 2018. The Social Security Agency has advised that the order in which people are contacted will be determined by a random selection process.

People claiming time bound awards will either:

- be picked up by the random selection process and asked to claim PIPs
- OR, if their claim comes to an end before this happens, they

will have to claim PIPs rather than being reassessed for DLA.

### **Help and Advice**

The Northern Ireland Assembly has set up a fund to help those affected by the planned changes to the benefits system.

If you do not qualify for PIPs when moving from DLA you may be entitled to a top up through this fund for up to one year. This will give you time to appeal the decision if appropriate.

For further advice, call our in-house money advice team on 028 9087 7047.

Other useful numbers:

**PIPs new claims:**  
**0800 012 1573**

**PIPs enquiry line:**  
**0300 123 9221**

Clanmil Housing Association  
Northern Whig House  
3 Waring Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 2DX

Tel: 028 9087 6000  
Fax: 028 9087 6001  
Textphone: 028 9032 9914  
Repairs Line: 028 9087 6019

 [housing@clanmil.org.uk](mailto:housing@clanmil.org.uk)  
 @ClanmilHousing  
 Clanmil Housing  
 [www.clanmil.org](http://www.clanmil.org)  
 clanmil\_housing