

**STEWARTS**  
THE LEGAL SERVICE

# PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT



# Personal Independence Payment

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit designed to help those of working age with the additional costs incurred as a result of long-term ill-health or disability.



**PIP is a non-means tested disability benefit.  
It is made up of two components: one to help with daily living needs and one for mobility.**

## Criteria

In order to be eligible for PIP you must:

- Be aged 16 to 64;
- Have a long-term health condition or disability and have difficulties with activities related to “daily living” and/or mobility;
- Be living in Great Britain when you claim (although there are some exceptions, eg members and family members of the armed forces);
- Have been in Great Britain for at least two of the last three years;
- Be habitually resident in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands; and
- Not be subject to immigration control (unless you are a sponsored immigrant).

There is no automatic right to PIP and entitlement will be based on your personal circumstances and the impact that any condition or disability has on your ability to live independently.

To determine entitlement to the daily living and mobility components, you will be assessed by an independent health professional in relation to your ability to complete a number of key everyday activities. This assessment will also determine whether you are entitled to the standard rate or enhanced rate.

The assessment considers how well you can complete these activities, whether you need to use aids and appliances to do so and whether you need help from another person. Help includes supervision, prompting or physical assistance.

You must also have had the disability condition and/or difficulties for three months and expect them to last for at least nine months from the time of your application. However, different rules apply to those who are terminally ill.

“Not only are they extremely professional, they are caring and supportive, giving us the confidence to look to the future.”

**(CC a former client)**

**The activities which are assessed are:**

### **Daily living activities**

1. Preparing food;
2. Taking nutrition/eating and drinking;
3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition;
4. Washing and bathing;
5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence;
6. Dressing and undressing;
7. Communicating verbally;
8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words;
9. Engaging with other people face to face; and
10. Making budgeting decisions.

### **Mobility activities**

11. Planning and following journeys; and
12. Moving around.

You can score points for individual “descriptors” within set activities and there is a threshold of entitlement to a component of 8 points for the standard rate and 12 points for the enhanced rate.

However, once an award is made, a reassessment can be arranged by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) at any time and for any reason. The DWP usually renew claims one year before the award ends.

## Rate

The daily living and mobility components are paid at two rates:

### 1. **Standard rate**

This is based on your ability to carry out activities “limited” by your physical or mental condition.

### 2. **Enhanced rate**

This is based on the ability to carry out activities which are “severely limited” by your physical or mental condition.

## How is payment received

You can score points for individual ‘descriptors’ within set activities. To be entitled to the standard rate you must score between 8 -11 points and to be entitled to the higher rate, you must score 12 points or more.

Personal Independence Payment is paid into a bank, building society or credit union account every four weeks.

## Other benefits

Those who are entitled to PIP cannot claim Attendance Allowance, although if you are receiving PIP when you reach state pension age,

you will continue to receive PIP as long as you continue to satisfy the conditions.

If you have a short break in entitlement (less than 12 months) after state pension age and then become entitled again as a result of the same medical condition, you can submit a new claim for PIP.

PIP also overlaps with other non-means tested benefits such as Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and War Pension.

## **Carer’s Allowance**

If you are in receipt of either rate of the daily living component, your carer may be able to apply for Carer’s Allowance.

## **The Motability scheme**

Motability is a voluntary organisation that helps people who receive the enhanced rate mobility component gain access to a car through either a hire scheme or hire purchase scheme.

## **Blue badge**

You can apply for a blue badge, which will allow you to park your car in most places without charge or time limit. To be eligible, you must be in receipt of the mobility component and score 12 points for the “planning and following journeys” activity or eight points for the “moving around” activity.

“I was introduced to Stewarts at the most difficult time of my life and right from the start they were welcoming, patient, understanding and professional. I was treated with kindness and respect as they helped me negotiate a lengthy and complex legal process with calm, good-natured efficiency. Their compassion and skill made an intricate process easier to bear and their professional guidance was invaluable. They could not have been more compassionate, diligent and professional.”

(BW a former client’s partner)



### **Road tax**

Those who are in receipt of the enhanced rate of mobility component may be exempt from Vehicle Excise Duty (road tax) and those who receive the standard rate may be entitled to a 50% reduction.

### **Tax credits**

Entitlement to tax credits is enhanced for some groups by receiving PIP. Any rate of PIP is a qualifying benefit for the disability element of working tax credit and the disabled child element of child tax credit if awarded to a “qualifying young person”.

### **Council tax**

If you get either the daily living or mobility component, you may get money off your council tax bill.

## **How to claim**

You should telephone the Department for Work and Pensions to make a claim:

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Textphone: 0800 917 7777

You can find further information on PIP at

[www.gov.uk/pip](http://www.gov.uk/pip)

“If you had an injured family member, you’d want to take them to Stewarts every time.”

Chambers

“The phenomenal Stewarts remains the standout firm for claimant personal injury.”

The Legal 500

“They are unbeatable in terms of results and client care.”

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