

## What is Personal Independence Payment (PIP)?

PIP is a benefit that helps people who have long term disabilities that affect them in every-day life, for example you find it difficult to move around or manage in every-day life because of a disability.

If you need help to communicate because you are deaf or have a hearing loss, you may be able to get Personal Independence Payment (PIP), to help get the support you need.

## Can I apply for PIP?

To apply for PIP you **must** be aged 16 or over and you have **not** yet reached state pension age.

You **must** also have a health condition or disability where you:

- Need help with everyday living or getting around, or both for at least 3 months.
- You know you need this help for

more than 9 months. (there are different rules if you are terminally ill please check the Government website for more details.)

Normally you need to be living in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 years in the last 3 years. You also need to apply while living in one of these countries.

PIP is **not** means-tested so it does not matter how much you earn or if you have any savings.

Full guidelines can be found on the following government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/pip/eligibility>

## How do I apply?

There are three steps to follow:-

1. Apply by telephone, textphone or Relay Uk or video relay.
2. Fill in the 'How your disability affects you' form.
3. Have your needs assessed by a medical professional.

## Step 1: Applying.

### Phone to apply by yourself:

Telephone: 0800 917 2222

Textphone: 0800 917 7777

Relay UK or video relay if you use sign language: 18001 then 0800 917 2222.

### Phone with someone's help:

If you need someone to help you, you can ask DWP to add them to your call when you:

- phone
- use Relay UK or video relay service if you use sign language.

**Note:** If someone is helping you you cannot use a textphone to make the call. Also you must be with them during the call.

### Information you need before you make the call:

- your contact details, for example telephone number
- your date of birth
- your National Insurance number - this is on letters about tax, pensions and benefits
- your bank or building society account number and sort code
- your doctor or health worker's name, address and telephone number

- dates and addresses for any time you've spent abroad, in a care home or hospital. It will take about two weeks to receive your form.

## Step 2: Fill in the 'How your disability affects you' form.

You will receive notes with your form to help you fill it in.

If you are applying because of your hearing loss or deafness, when answering the questions to do with daily living give information about the difficulties you experience with communication and explain about the help you **need** (not the amount of help you get). Use the 'extra information' boxes to give more details.

Think about the different situations you have to face every day, for example:

- using public transport
- when you use public services like visiting the doctor, dentist etc
- while at work, in meetings, and training sessions
- when you are shopping
- being part of social activities, having conversations etc

You should give as much information as you can about how long you need this support for and give details.

When you have filled in your form, return it in the envelope provided

More advice on filling your form can be found on the CAB website below:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-claim/fill-in-form/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-claim/fill-in-form/)

### **Step 3: Have your needs assessed by a medical professional.**

An independent health professional will assess the level of help you need. In most cases, this means a face-to-face medical assessment.

You will be asked questions about what help you need with everyday activities, this includes the help you need in communicating with people.

PIP is awarded in 2 parts, mobility and daily living and there are two rates - standard and enhanced.

Each question has a set amount of points, the assessor will use your answers to decide the amount of points you receive. These points will determine whether you are eligible for a claim and what rate you will receive.

Normally you will be asked to attend an interview or someone will visit you to assess you before they make their decision.

Once the answers have been returned and assessment completed they will then check all the relevant GP, hospital records and other supporting evidence that you have provided.

You will be told what the decision will be usually within 8 weeks. You will receive a letter telling you whether you can or cannot get PIP. If you can get PIP your letter will also tell you which parts you get, which rate and the amounts.

## **Where can I get help with my PIP application?**

If you need help with your PIP application please contact us for information. We can provide help with:

- contacting PIP to start your application
- explaining the meaning of the questions in the form

- translating from English to sign language (BSL)
- assisting you in filling out the form
- explaining the process and answering any questions you may have,
- finding out what other benefits you may be entitled to, and ensuring that the assessment provides the necessary communication support you need.

You can contact us on the details below or through our website:

[www.ideaflife.weebly.com](http://www.ideaflife.weebly.com)

***iDeaf - London Deaf Information Service bringing a change to the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people.***

Address: 218 Tollgate Road, Beckton, London, E6 5YA

Email: [ask.ideaf@gmail.com](mailto:ask.ideaf@gmail.com)

Website: [ideaflife.weebly.com](http://ideaflife.weebly.com)