



Personal Independence Payment

What is Personal Independence Payment?

Personal Independence Payment is a benefit for people in or out of work with long-term physical or mental health conditions. To apply, you must complete the PIP 2 form, which asks questions about your health condition.

Who Qualifies?

To apply for Personal Independence Payment you must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged 16 or over, but under state pension age if you have never claimed Personal Independence Payment before
- Have a long-term physical or mental health condition expected to last longer than 12 months
- Have difficulty doing certain tasks or getting around because of your health condition
- Have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years

How is it Assessed?

There are two components: Daily Living and Mobility. Both components can be paid at either standard or enhanced rate, depending on your needs. The Department of Work and Pensions will give you a score for each activity based on your ability to perform each activity.

For each activity, you need to get 8 points for the standard rate and 12 points for the enhanced.



1. Daily Living

The Daily Living section of the Personal Independence Payment form looks at your ability to complete everyday activities. You are assessed on the following activities:

- Preparing food
- Eating and drinking
- Managing medications or treatments
- Washing and bathing
- Using the toilet
- Dressing and undressing
- Reading
- Managing your money
- Socialising and being around other people
- Talking, listening and understanding

2. Mobility

The Mobility section of the Personal Independence Form looks at your ability to do the following activities:

- Working out a route and following it
- Physically moving around
- Leaving your home

Tips for Completing the Form

1. Applying the Criteria

For each activity, your inability to undertake the activity must be due to the effects of your health condition and not a matter of preference. Health conditions or disabilities may be physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, or any combination of these.



For example, someone with a severe depressive illness may physically be able to prepare food and feed themselves, but may lack the motivation to do so and therefore require prompting from another person.

2. Reliability and Time Periods

When you are answering the questions, consider whether you can perform the activity reliably, which means asking yourself 'Can I carry out this activity safely and repeatedly in a reasonable time period?'. If it takes you more than twice as long to perform the activity than it would a non-disabled person, then you cannot perform the activity reliably.

However, if you take medication in the morning and this allows you to perform the activity, although you would not be able to carry out the activity otherwise, you will be considered as still being able to carry out the activity reliably.

Health conditions can fluctuate throughout the day, month and year, but if your condition affects your ability to complete a task more than 50% of the time, then answer the question with that in mind. Think about your worst day and how your condition impacts your ability to perform the everyday tasks.

3. Supporting Evidence

When completing the form, it is important to remember that the Personal Independence Payment Assessors are not assessing the severity of your condition. They are assessing how your health condition impacts your ability to live independently. They will consider a variety of evidence.



Alongside your PIP 2 form, it is advisable to submit other evidence, such as:

- A factual report from your GP
- Evidence from other health professionals whose care you are under
- Other evidence from professionals supporting you e.g. social worker, occupational therapist

4. Aids and Appliances

The assessment takes into account that you may need to use an aid such as a walking stick, magnifying glasses, wheelchair, stoma, commode etc., to carry out a task, even if you do not own or use the aid or appliance.

The Personal Independence Payment assessor will consider whether it is reasonable to expect you to use an aid that you do not usually use. Reasonable in this case means that the aid or appliance is:

- Widely available
- No or low cost
- Would be recommended by a healthcare professional
- Can be easily stored
- Can be easily used

5. Support From Other People

The assessment takes into account that you may need support from other people to carry out an activity reliably and safely, whether you're actually receiving support or not. This includes:

- Supervision - you may require supervision for the duration of the activity, in order for you to do it safely.
- Prompting - you may require prompting from someone to encourage you to undertake or complete a task.



- Assistance - you may require another person to help you to perform all or part of an activity.

6. Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are not considered to be an aid but the additional barriers and costs of needing a dog are taken into account. For example, you may need an assistance dog to ensure that you can follow a route safely.

How to Apply

Call the Personal Independence Payment new claims form phone line to start your application.

- Call: 0800 917 2222
- Textphone: 0800 917 777
- Relay UK (if you cannot hear or speak on the phone): 18001 then 0800 917 2222

You should receive your PIP 2 form by post within 2 weeks. You have 4 weeks to complete and return the form from when the Department of Work and Pensions sent it. If you need more time, you must inform them as soon as possible. It is advisable that you make a copy of your form before posting it. Once submitted, the Department of Work and Pensions will decide if you need to attend an assessment with a healthcare professional.

How We Can Help

If you live in the Barnsley borough and would like some advice on Personal Independence Payment, you can:

- Email us at first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk
- Or call our Advice Line on 01226 240273