



PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

Personal Independence Payment - PIP

Eligibility

To be eligible for PIP you must:

- Be aged between 16 and 64
- Have a long term health condition or disability
- Have difficulty getting around or carrying out everyday tasks.
- Have had your health condition for more than 3 months and still expect to have it in 9 months.

PIP combines two components:

- Mobility: if you need help getting around or going out.
- Daily Living: if you need help with everyday tasks such as:
 - Washing
 - Dressing
 - Communicating
 - Managing medication
 - Making decisions

How to apply

To make an initial application for PIP you must contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 0800 917 2222. There will be information that they require during this call so be prepared prior to making the call. If you are currently on DLA you may have received a letter to advise you of the change to PIP but you will still have to make this call. You will need the following information:

- Your Name and contact details
- Date of Birth
- National Insurance Number
- Bank Account details
- GP or Health Worker details to include name, address and telephone number.
- Details of any hospital stays, or stays in a care home in the past 52 weeks.
- Any overseas stays in the past 52 weeks

They will also ask questions about how your health condition affects you. Be aware that this call can last up to 25 minutes so allow enough time for this.

If you are successful in this phone call, an application form will be sent to you to complete, which is then used to determine entitlement. You will have 1 month to return this, however you can ask for an 'extension' to the date given if you require support to complete it.

How your entitlement is calculated

Your entitlement is based on a points system. Points are awarded over 12 activities. Each activity has a number of levels of ability. The number of points that you are awarded will decide whether or not you will receive PIP and, if so, what level – standard or enhanced rate.

Once the form is returned and the DWP have looked at it, you will receive a scoring based on how much help you need and in what area; mobility or personal care.

You may have to attend a medical assessment in order for the DWP to prepare a final score, but you will receive a letter to notify you of the date and time. If you are unable to attend this assessment, you can ask for it to be at home. At the assessment, the representative will look at your application and questions about the answers that you have given may be asked, if they are unsure of anything to ensure that you receive the correct number of points.

Documents to download to support you in your application

Personal Independence Payment booklet produced by GOV.UK

www.gov.uk/pip

This contains information on the whole process of application including face-to-face consultation, and appeal if necessary.

How to appeal a decision made by the DWP.

www.householdguide.co.uk/how-to-appeal-a-decision/

PIP Replacing DLA

www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Personal-Independence-Payment/I-get-DLA-when-will-I-move-to-PIP

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – table of activities, descriptors and points

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/Migrated_Documents/adviceguide/pip-9-table-of-activities-descriptors-and-points.pdf

Information from Citizens Advice:

PIP Help Sheet Assessment

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Documents/Advice%20\(public\)/pip-helpsheet-assessment.pdf](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Documents/Advice%20(public)/pip-helpsheet-assessment.pdf)

Filling in the claim form – contains drop down lists to help you complete your answers.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/help-with-your-claim/fill-in-form/

Another charity which supports SCI people and will assist you with any welfare benefit enquiry is Aspire. For more information visit their website, www.aspire.org.uk or call 020 8420 6711.

Disclaimer

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Revised November 2018 (TS)



About SIA

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the leading national user-led charity for spinal cord injured (SCI) people. Being user led, we are well placed to understand the everyday needs of living with spinal cord injury and are here to meet those needs by providing key services to share information and experiences, and to campaign for change ensuring each person can lead a full and active life. We are here to support you from the moment your spinal cord injury happens, and for the rest of your life.

For more information contact us via the following:

Spinal Injuries Association
SIA House
2 Trueman Place
Oldbrook
Milton Keynes
MK6 2HH

T: 01908 604 191 (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm)

T: 0800 980 0501 (Freephone Advice Line, Mon – Fri, 11am – 1pm/2pm – 4.30pm)

W: www.spinal.co.uk

E: sia@spinal.co.uk

Charity No: 1054097

Brought to you by:





Please support SIA

SIA relies on fundraising, donations and gifts in wills to provide services that help spinal cord injured people rebuild their lives.

With your help, we can provide the right support to spinal cord injured people and their families and friends so they can enjoy a full and independent life after injury. Your donation today will go towards changing someone's life.

I would like to give: £15 £20 £53 other amount £.....

Method of payment

I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF voucher made payable to Spinal Injuries Association.

I would like to pay by Mastercard/Visa/Maestro/Switch (delete as appropriate)

Card number

Start date Expiry Date Security Code

Signature Date/...../.....

Name.....

Address

.....

Postcode Tel no.....

Email address.....

Please gift aid my donation

If you tick the box it means for every £1 you donate we can claim an extra 25p from the taxman, at no extra cost to you. You need to pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least

equal to the tax we reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs – currently 25p in every £1 you give.

Please **post** your donation to: FREEPOST SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION, **do not email this form**. You can also donate online at www.spinal.co.uk.

Thank you for your support!

NB Any financial details that you provide will be securely destroyed once your donation has been processed. You can find out more about how SIA uses your data and protects your privacy here: www.spinal.co.uk/sia-privacy-policy .