

## Personal Independence Payment (PIP)



If you have been receiving DLA around your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday you will receive a letter asking you to apply for PIP. This is something **YOU** have to do rather than your parents. You can find it here:

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

The first part asks some basic questions about how you manage common tasks. An interview will then be arranged either at your home, school or college and this informs their decision.

### The Application Form

**The questions are simple and the boxes for your reply are small BUT will expand. You MUST add lots of detail about what you need help and support with, or they will assume you can do tasks independently with no extra support or equipment.**

For example, 'Can you prepare a simple meal?' Your answer may be yes, but make sure you add 'as long as...' or 'only if...' or 'but I need...'

So, if you have a hearing loss give specific examples e.g. you need to tell them you wouldn't hear a pan boiling over or a smoke alarm beeping indicating that it needs a new battery and isn't working.

If you have a vision loss explain that in order to be independent e.g. that you need to use additional equipment to make sure you don't overfill mugs and bowls.

**Assume that the assessor has no deaf awareness training or understanding of VI and be VERY explicit** and the assessors may assume that you have no extra needs and therefore don't need the PIP support.

### The Interview

The assessor will go through the questions on the form. Make sure you **answer fully**. You will be in your home or school in a quiet space that you are familiar with. For example: 'Can you walk across a room unaided?' You can physically but you **MUST** explain that you would have difficulties in noise and busy situations especially in unfamiliar places.

Just because you can see or hear well enough in the interview and are a confident, independent teenager in a 'safe' and familiar environment, assessors are assuming, when your interview goes very smoothly, that this is the case when you are out and about every day in new, busy and noisy places. Make sure you tell them about the day-to-day challenges.

### Get Help! Be Prepared

- **Talk to your Teacher of the Deaf / Vision or Multisensory Impaired as they can help you with the form**
- **Make sure you send LOTS of additional information:** from EVERYONE that is involved with your support.e.g. school,college, doctor, audiologist, paediatrician, eye clinic, TOD/ VI MSI....
- Use the **advice from the NDCS, RNIB and NATSIP** – the links are below.
- **Practise answering the questions!** Be careful NOT to give YES/NO answers, expand on different situations, have specific examples ready to explain.

## The Response

Currently HALF of all applications are turned down. DON'T PANIC. You can ask them to have another look at your application and submit extra information.

### **YOU ONLY HAVE A MONTH TO ASK THEM TO REVIEW YOUR CASE**

Talk to your specialist teacher and look at the response to your application. What has the assessor assumed and what information can you add to counter this? You can only submit additional information which has not already been sent.

Here is an example of a wrong assumption by the assessor - Because you didn't need any language repeating or rephrasing in your interview they assume you don't have any day to day communication difficulties!

About **THREE QUARTERS** of reviews and appeals are successful so DON'T GIVE UP!

## **Links to help: Whether you have VI or HI it is worth looking at both!** **(NDCS is free to join as you need to log in to access documents)**

To fill in the forms:

<https://www.nib.org.uk/personal-independence-payment-toolkit>

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/?returnUri=%2finformation-and-support%2fyour-rights%2fpersonal-independence-payment-pip%2fhow-does-my-child-claim-personal-independence-payment%2f>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Claiming-Personal-Independence-Payment/Start-your-PIP-claim>

Skybadger is VERY user friendly too: [https://skybadger.co.uk/2017/08/11/personal-independence-payment/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAhojzBRC3ARIsAGtNtHVROIzFfRzCMmy6nXDhDliehJsUWNTifBagHrEdgc5KffOqogcPo0UaAiUcEALw\\_wcB](https://skybadger.co.uk/2017/08/11/personal-independence-payment/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAhojzBRC3ARIsAGtNtHVROIzFfRzCMmy6nXDhDliehJsUWNTifBagHrEdgc5KffOqogcPo0UaAiUcEALw_wcB)

Supporting Evidence:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/your-rights/personal-independence-payment-pip/what-supporting-evidence-should-my-child-include-with-their-claim/>

Appeals:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/?returnUri=%2fdocuments-and-resources%2fappealing-a-disability-living-allowance-dla-or-personal-independence-pip-decision-england-scotland-and-wales%2f>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Challenging-a-Personal-Independence-Payment-decisi/What-are-my-options>