

Personal Independence Payment - Toolkit

Information Guide 9: For Residents and Advisers

10th December 2024

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk

1. Introduction

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit for people aged 16 or over but under State Pension Age (see State Pension Age on page 2) who need help with their:

- 'daily living' - personal care/daily living; and/or
- 'mobility' - getting around/general mobility

because of a physical or mental condition.

This 'toolkit' is designed to enable people to assess potential entitlement to PIP based upon the disability-related qualifying rules.

Should you want more general information on PIP including information on how claims should be made and how assessments are conducted then please see Information Guide 8: Personal Independence Payment.

PIP has two separate components. Depending on a person's needs, they may qualify for an award of the 'daily living component' and/or the 'mobility component'.

There are TEN different 'activity' areas for the 'daily living component' and TWO different 'activity' areas for the 'mobility component'.

Within each 'activity' area there are a number of individual 'descriptors', each outlining a test of functional ability and each deriving a separate point score. Full details of all the 'activity' areas and individual 'descriptors' may be found on pages 3 to 8.

Qualification and the actual amount paid is determined by a point score system.

Daily Living Component:

£108.55 per week - enhanced rate - 12 points

£72.65 per week - standard rate - 8 points

Mobility Component:

£75.75 per week - enhanced rate - 12 points

£28.70 per week - standard rate - 8 points

Put simply, the greater the points score the greater the amount of PIP that may be awarded.

A person's point score is achieved by adding together the highest scoring 'descriptor' achieved from each of the separate 'activity' areas for the 'daily living component' and the 'mobility component'.

In order to qualify for the 'standard rate' of the 'daily living component' or 'mobility component' a person needs to score at least **8 points** for their 'daily living' needs or **8 points** for 'mobility' needs. To get the 'enhanced rate' of the 'daily living component' or 'mobility component' a person will need a score of at least **12 points** for their 'daily living' needs or **12 points** for their 'mobility' needs. See 5. The Assessment and Point Scoring for more information. See also 5. Special Rules below for people who are terminally ill.

State Pension Age: A person must be aged 16 or over and normally under State Pension Age to be able to apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). State Pension Age is the age at which a person can claim State Pension. The State Pension Age has been 66 for both men and women since October 2020. It is expected to rise from 2026 in stages until by 2028 the State Pension Age for both men and women will be 67. It is then expected to rise again to 68 between 2037 and 2039. If a person is older than State Pension Age, then they will only be able to apply for PIP as a fresh claim if they had been getting either PIP or Disability Living Allowance within the previous 12 months. Do seek further information and advice as necessary.

PIP Assessing Entitlement

For the purposes of the 'daily living component' and the 'mobility component' a person should only be treated as having the ability to undertake the tasks described in a particular 'descriptor' if they may do them:

- **safely** - meaning: in a manner, unlikely to cause harm to themselves or to another person, either during or after completion of the activity

- **to an acceptable standard** - meaning: not defined
- **repeatedly** - meaning: as often as the activity being assessed is reasonably required to be completed
- within a **reasonable time period** - meaning: no more than twice as long as the maximum period that a person without a physical or mental condition which limits that person's ability to carry out the activity in question would normally take to complete that activity.

Use of Aids and Appliances:

A person's ability to carry out an activity should be assessed:

- (a) on the basis of their ability whilst wearing any 'aids or appliances' which they normally wear or use; or
- (b) as if they were wearing or using any 'aids or appliances' which they could reasonably be expected to wear or use.

Aids or Appliances: Includes any device which improves or replaces the claimant's impaired physical or mental function; and includes a prosthesis. However, it does not include wheelchair use in assessing the ability to move around. In considering whether it is 'reasonable' to expect a person to use an aid or appliance the issues of availability, cost and cultural considerations should be considered. No account should be taken of an aid or appliance if the person does not have it and it would be expensive to purchase.

A person does not need to be unable to undertake a particular task 24 hours a day or for 7 days a week. If a person is unable to undertake a particular task reliably throughout the day (i.e. during at least some part of the day or night) and on more than 50% of days/nights, then it should be considered that they are unable to undertake the activity at all.

Therefore, if a person's ability to undertake a particular activity is dependent upon how they are feeling then it is important to highlight how their condition may vary during the day or day-to-day.

2. The Assessment and Point Scoring...

The following provides details of the Activity areas for the 'daily living component' and the 'mobility component'. When assessing entitlement, please be aware that certain words and phrases which feature within some 'Descriptors' have been underlined. This is to indicate that the meaning of those words and phrases are defined. See page 6 for more information.

A particular descriptor will only apply if the person is able to meet the conditions of that descriptor on over 50% of days over during the 'required period' - that is the period 3 months before they claimed and for at least 9 months after the date of their claim. If a person is able to satisfy more than one descriptor in a particular activity area on over 50% of days during the required period, then it is the highest scoring descriptor which applies. If a person is able to satisfy two or more descriptors for a cumulative total of more than 50% of days, then the descriptor which would apply is the one satisfied on the greatest number of days. If two or more descriptors apply on an equal number of days, then it is the one which scores the highest number of points which counts.

DAILY LIVING COMPONENT

1. Preparing food

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Can <u>prepare</u> and <u>cook</u> a <u>simple meal</u> <u>unaided</u> . | 0 |
| b. Needs to use an <u>aid</u> or <u>appliance</u> to be able to either <u>prepare</u> or <u>cook</u> a <u>simple meal</u> . | 2 |
| c. Cannot <u>cook</u> a <u>simple meal</u> using a conventional cooker but is able to do so using a microwave. | 2 |
| d. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to either <u>prepare</u> or <u>cook</u> a <u>simple meal</u> . | 2 |
| e. Needs <u>supervision</u> or <u>assistance</u> to either <u>prepare</u> or <u>cook</u> a <u>simple meal</u> . | 4 |
| f. Cannot <u>prepare</u> and <u>cook</u> food. | 8 |

2. Taking nutrition

- | | |
|--|----|
| a. Can <u>take nutrition</u> <u>unaided</u> . | 0 |
| b. Needs: | 2 |
| (i) to use an <u>aid</u> or <u>appliance</u> to be able to <u>take nutrition</u> ; or | |
| (ii) <u>supervision</u> to be able to <u>take nutrition</u> ; or | |
| (iii) <u>assistance</u> to be able to cut up food. | |
| c. Needs a <u>therapeutic source</u> to be able to <u>take nutrition</u> . | 2 |
| d. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to <u>take nutrition</u> . | 4 |
| e. Needs <u>assistance</u> to be able to manage a <u>therapeutic source</u> to <u>take nutrition</u> . | 6 |
| f. Cannot convey food and drink to their mouth and needs another person to do so. | 10 |

3. Managing therapy or monitoring a health condition

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Either: | 0 |
| (i) does not receive <u>medication</u> ; or <u>therapy</u> or need to <u>monitor a health condition</u> ; or | |
| (ii) can manage <u>medication</u> or <u>therapy</u> or <u>monitor a health condition</u> <u>unaided</u> . | |
| b. Needs any one or more of the following: | 1 |
| (i) to use an <u>aid</u> or <u>appliance</u> to be able to <u>manage medication</u> ; | |
| (ii) <u>supervision</u> , <u>prompting</u> or <u>assistance</u> to be able to <u>manage medication</u> | |
| (iii) <u>supervision</u> , <u>prompting</u> or <u>assistance</u> to be able to <u>monitor a health condition</u> . | |
| c. Needs <u>supervision</u> , <u>prompting</u> or <u>assistance</u> to be able to <u>manage therapy</u> that takes no more than 3.5 hours a week. | 2 |

d. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 3.5 but no more than 7 hours a week.

4

e. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 7 but no more than 14 hours a week.

6

f. Needs supervision, prompting or assistance to be able to manage therapy that takes more than 14 hours a week.

8

4. Washing and bathing

a. Can wash and bathe unaided.

0

b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to wash or bathe.

2

c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to wash or bathe.

2

d. Needs assistance to be able to wash either their hair or body below the waist.

2

e. Needs assistance to be able to get in or out of a bath or shower.

3

f. Needs assistance to be able to wash their body between the shoulders and waist.

4

g. Cannot wash and bathe at all and needs another person to wash their entire body.

8

5. Managing toilet needs or incontinence

a. Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided.

0

b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence.

2

c. Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs.

2

d. Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs.

4

e. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel.

6

f. Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel.

8

6. Dressing and undressing

a. Can dress and undress unaided.

0

b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to dress or undress.

2

c. Needs either -

2

(i) prompting or assistance to be able to dress, undress or determine appropriate circumstances for remaining clothed; or

(ii) prompting or assistance to be able to select appropriate clothing.

d. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their lower body.

2

e. Needs assistance to be able to dress or undress their upper body.

4

f. Cannot dress or undress at all.

8

7. Communication verbally

a. Can express and understand verbal information unaided.

0

b. Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to speak or hear.

2

c. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand complex verbal information.

4

d. Needs communication support to be able to express or understand basic verbal information.

8

e. Cannot express or understand verbal information at all even with communication support.

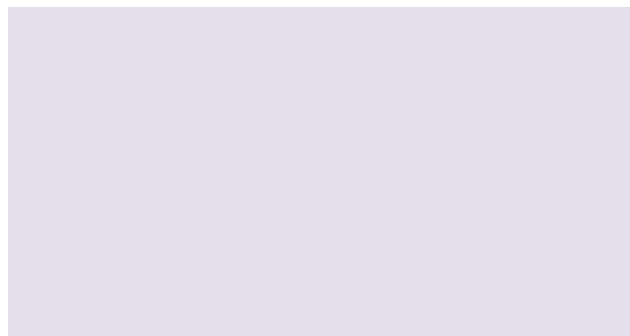
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8. Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

a. Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses.

0

b. Needs to use an <u>aid</u> or <u>appliance</u> , other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to <u>read</u> or understand either <u>basic</u> or <u>complex</u> written information.	2
c. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to <u>read</u> or understand <u>complex written information</u> .	2
d. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to <u>read</u> or understand <u>basic written information</u> .	4
e. Cannot <u>read</u> or understand signs, symbols or words at all.	8



MOBILITY COMPONENT

1. Planning and following a journey

9. Engaging with other people face to face

a. Can <u>engage</u> with other people <u>unaided</u> .	0
b. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to <u>engage</u> with other people.	2
c. Needs <u>social support</u> to be able to <u>engage</u> with other people.	4
d. Cannot <u>engage</u> with other people due to such <u>engagement</u> causing either: (i) overwhelming <u>psychological distress</u> to the claimant; or (ii) the claimant to exhibit behaviour which would result in a substantial risk of harm to the claimant or another person.	8

a. Can plan and follow the route of a journey <u>unaided</u> .	0
b. Needs <u>prompting</u> to be able to undertake any journey to avoid overwhelming <u>psychological distress</u> to the claimant.	4
c. Cannot plan the route of a journey.	8
d. Cannot follow the route of an unfamiliar journey without another person, <u>assistance dog</u> or <u>orientation aid</u> .	10
e. Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming <u>psychological distress</u> to the claimant.	10
f. Cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an <u>assistance dog</u> or an <u>orientation aid</u> .	12

10. Making budgeting decisions

a. Can manage <u>complex budgeting decisions</u> <u>unaided</u> .	0
b. Needs <u>prompting</u> or <u>assistance</u> to be able to make <u>complex budgeting decisions</u> .	2
c. Needs <u>prompting</u> or <u>assistance</u> to be able to make simple <u>budgeting</u> decisions.	4
d. Cannot make any <u>budgeting</u> decisions at all.	6

2. Moving around

a. Can <u>stand</u> and then move more than 200 metres, either <u>aided</u> or <u>unaided</u> .	0
b. Can <u>stand</u> and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres, either <u>aided</u> or <u>unaided</u> .	4
c. Can <u>stand</u> and then move <u>unaided</u> more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	8
d. Can <u>stand</u> and then move using an <u>aid</u> or <u>appliance</u> more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10

- e. Can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres, either aided or unaided. 12
- f. Cannot, either aided or unaided: 12
- (i) stand; or
- (ii) move more than 1 metre.

Complex budgeting decision

Means: decisions involving:

(a) calculating household and personal budgets

(b) managing and paying bills

(c) planning future purchases

Complex verbal information

Means: information in the claimant's native language conveyed verbally in either more than one sentence or one complicated sentence

Complex written information

Means: more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text in the claimant's native language

Cook

Means: heat food at or above waist height

Dress and undress

Includes put on and take off socks and shoes

Engage socially

Means:

(a) interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner

(b) understand body language

(c) establish relationships

Managing incontinence

Means: manage involuntary evacuation of bowel or bladder, including use of a collecting device or self-catherisation, and clean oneself afterwards

Managing medication

Means: take medication where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in the claimant's health

Managing therapy

Means: undertake therapy where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in the claimant's health

Meaning: Words and Phrases

Aided

Means: with the use of an aid or appliance or with supervision, prompting or assistance

Aid or appliance

Means: any device which improves or replaces the claimant's impaired physical or mental function and includes a prosthesis

Assistance

Means: physical intervention by another person and does not include speech

Assistance dog

Means: a dog trained to guide or assist a person with sensory impairment

Basic verbal information

Means: information in the claimant's native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence

Basic written information

Means: signs, symbols and dates written or printed standard size in text in the claimant's native language

Bathe

Includes get into or out of an un-adapted bath or shower

Communication support

Means: support from a person trained or experienced in communication with people with specific communication needs, including interpreting verbal information into a non-verbal form and vice versa

Medication	<p>Means: medication to be taken at <u>home</u> which is prescribed or recommended by a registered:</p> <p>(a) doctor</p> <p>(b) nurse</p> <p>(c) pharmacist</p>	Simple meal	Means: a cooked one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients
Monitor a health condition	<p>Means:</p> <p>(a) detect significant changes in the claimant's health condition which are likely to lead to a deterioration in their health; and</p> <p>(b) take action advised by a</p> <p>(i) registered doctor</p> <p>(ii) registered nurse</p> <p>(iii) health professional who is regulated by the Health Professions Council without which the claimant's health is likely to deteriorate</p>	Social support	Means: support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people to engage in social situations
Orientation aid	Means: a specialist aid designed to assist disabled people to follow a route safely	Stand	Means: stand upright with at least one biological foot on the ground
Prepare	Means: in the context of food - make food ready for cooking or eating	Supervision	Means: the continuous presence of another person for the purpose of ensuring the claimant's safety
Prompting	Means: reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person	Take nutrition	<p>Means:</p> <p>(a) cut food into pieces, convey food and drink to one's mouth and chew and swallow food and drink; or</p> <p>(b) take nutrition by using a therapeutic source</p>
Psychological distress	Means: distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment	Therapeutic source	Means: parenteral or enteral tube feeding, using a rate-limiting device such as a delivery system or feed pump
Read	Includes read signs, symbols and words but does <u>not</u> include Braille	Therapy	<p>Means: therapy to be undertaken at <u>home</u> which is prescribed or recommended by a:</p> <p>(a) registered</p> <p>(i) doctor</p> <p>(ii) nurse</p> <p>(iii) pharmacist.</p> <p>(b) health professional regulated by the Health Professional Council but does not include taking or applying, or otherwise receiving or administering, medication (whether orally, topically or by any other means), or any action which, in the person's case, falls within the definition or 'monitor a health condition'.</p>
Simple budgeting decisions	<p>Means: decisions involving:</p> <p>(a) calculating the cost of goods; and</p> <p>(b) calculating change required after a purchase</p>		

Toilet needs

Means:

- (a) getting on and off an un-adapted toilet
- (b) evacuating the bladder and bowel
- (c) cleaning oneself afterwards

Unaided

Means: without

- (a) the use of an aid or appliance; or
- (b) supervision, prompting or assistance

3. Special Rules

If a person is considered to be 'terminally ill' then 'special rules' will apply in respect of their PIP claim.

A person will be considered to be 'terminally ill' if they are suffering from a progressive disease and their death in consequence of that disease can be reasonably expected within 12 months (formerly six months prior to 3.4.2023). Do seek further information and advice as necessary.

Where this applies, the person will not have to satisfy the 'required period' condition. See 4. The Assessment and Point Scoring for more information. Further, the person should automatically be awarded the 'daily living component' at the 'enhanced rate'. If the person is then able to meet the conditions for the 'mobility component' then this should also be awarded.

4. Information Guides and Fact Sheets

The Welfare Rights Service produces the following Information Guides and Fact Sheets on Social Security benefits and welfare reform.

Benefits Information Guides:

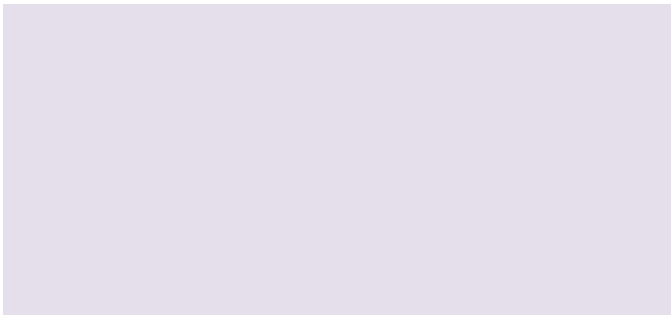
1. Universal Credit
2. Universal Credit - Claims and Payments
3. Universal Credit - The Claimant Commitment
4. Universal Credit - Sanctions and Hardship Payments
5. Universal Credit and Vulnerable People - Claims and Payments
6. Universal Credit - Manage Migration
7. Universal Credit and The Work Capability Assessment - Toolkit
8. Personal Independence Payment
9. Personal Independence Payment - Toolkit
10. Form Filling: PIP2
11. Form Filling: ESA50 / UC50
12. DWP Social Fund
13. The Spare Room Subsidy
14. The Benefit Cap
15. Disputes and Appeals
16. Going to Appeal: First-tier Tribunals

Benefits Fact Sheets:

1. Benefits and Work


2. Benefits and Disabled Children
3. Benefits and Young People
4. Benefits and Older People
5. Benefits and People from Abroad
6. Private Tenants and Universal Credit
7. Volunteering and Benefits

The information in our guides and fact sheets is designed to provide details of the different benefits that may be available to people in a variety of situations including when they are in work, unable to work due to ill-health, unemployed or retired. It also seeks to inform people of the steps that may be taken should they wish to dispute a decision made surrounding their benefit entitlement.



A copy of the Information Guides and Fact Sheets may, together with other topical benefit information, be obtained from our [Social Security Benefits](#) page on the City of Wolverhampton Council website.

Please also watch out for our periodical **Benefits Bulletins** which provide news on the latest developments surrounding benefits and welfare reform. These are also available on the website.

 Telephone: (01902) 555351

 Email: WRS@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Note: The details provided in this and our other Information Guides and Fact Sheets is meant to provide an overview on important and topical issues relating to Social Security benefits and welfare reform. The details should not be treated as an authoritative statement of the law. The details may be subject to change by new regulation and/or case law. Do seek further information and advice as necessary.

Welfare Rights Service
Specialist Support Team
City of Wolverhampton Council