



WELFARE
CHANGES

choice 

Personal Independence
Payment (PIP)



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positive change

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WHAT IS THE PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT?



Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a new benefit replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people aged between 16 and state pension age. PIP and DLA cannot be claimed at the same time.

What does the change mean?

PIP was introduced in Northern Ireland on 20 June 2016. Entitlement to PIP is based on the effect a long term health condition has on your daily life and not the condition itself.

PIP is made up of two parts: Daily Living and Mobility. Each part has two rates, standard and enhanced. If you qualify for PIP, you will get money for one or both components.

If you are aged between 16 and state pension age you can no longer make a claim for DLA, instead you should make a claim for PIP.

If you are an existing DLA claimant aged between 16 and state pension age and your benefit is due to come to an end or if you report a change in your care or mobility needs, you will be invited to claim PIP.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child under 16 years who is receiving DLA the Government will write to you and your child in plenty of time before they turn 16 to explain how to apply for PIP, when to claim and what will happen to DLA.

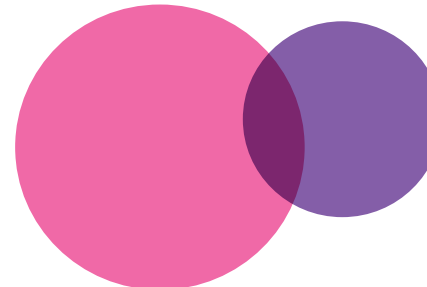
The Northern Ireland Executive has put in place some measures to support people who are currently receiving DLA and who are financially worse off after they have been assessed for PIP. You may be entitled to a supplementary payment for up to one year if your payments are reduced by over £10.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

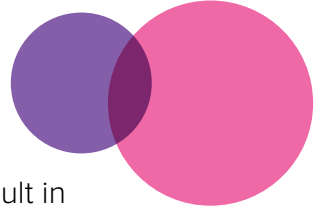
You can find out how Welfare Changes might affect you in a number of ways:

- 1 Phone our Services Centre: **0300 111 2211**
- 2 Email our Services Centre: **enquiries@choice-housing.org**
- 3 Visit Choice's website: **www.choice-housing.org**
- 4 Visit the Government's Welfare Changes website: **https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/welfare-changes**
- 5 Contact the Independent Welfare Changes Helpline on **0808 802 0080**



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As you may be aware, Welfare Changes will result in changes to the benefits system in Northern Ireland. Some of the current benefits will cease to exist and new benefits and payment systems will be introduced.

Some of the changes have already taken place and others will follow in forthcoming months.

Choice is advising its customers about the changes introduced as a result of welfare reform. We will be outlining the main changes, what they mean and when they will come into effect and undertaking regular advice clinics to inform tenants of upcoming changes and how they can prepare for them.

MAKE THE CALL



To check if you're getting all the money you're entitled to Make the Call free to the Benefits Advice Line on **0800 232 1271**



or alternatively, text **CHECK to 67300** and an advisor will call you back. All calls are confidential and a friend or relative can even make enquiries on your behalf.

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