

Transferring to **Personal Independence Payments (PIP)** from Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Following the introduction of PIP, we are experiencing a high level of requests for support from those who are being transferred from DLA to PIP. A lot of these requests come from those who had lifetime awards granted at a time when the criteria was less strict.

The assessment for a PIP award is different from DLA and is calculated by a points scoring system, both for the daily living and mobility components. A lot of existing DLA claimants have joined the Motability scheme and there have been a lot of reports in the press about the high number of people who have lost this entitlement and also their vehicles.

With PIP, to be entitled to the enhanced mobility rate the claimant must only be able to mobilise up to 20m or between 20m and 50m and need support to avoid overwhelming psychological distress. The standard rate, which does not allow the claimant to join the Motability scheme, is for those who can only mobilise between 20m and 50m. This is calculated by looking at the form, the supporting information and the medical report carried out by the assessor.

We are also supporting a lot of members with appeals and attending tribunals. The process of appeal is called Mandatory Reconsideration and this is where a formal request is made to the DWP to review their decision. If the claimant is still not happy with this reviewed decision, they can request it is heard at an independent tribunal. The tribunal will look at all the evidence that has been presented to the DWP and make a judgement based on whether the DWP made an error in law in making their decision.

It is important to be honest when completing the PIP application form and at assessment as there is a risk of being prosecuted for fraud by the DWP.



Currently there is a scheme in place for people who lose their Motability vehicles following transition from DLA to PIP. This is in the form of a one off payment of £2,000 to be used towards the cost of purchasing another vehicle. Your local Motability dealership will have full details of the scheme and will provide support in applying for the payment. For more information on Motability in general please visit www.motability.co.uk or call 0300 4564566.

If you would like to discuss your individual application for PIP then please contact your EB Community Support Manager using the details on the back of this magazine or call 01344 771961 to get in touch.

Miranda Hartley – DEBRA EB Community Support Manager