

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) form filling tips for deaf adults

Anyone who is 16 – 64 who is claiming for the first time must now claim PIP instead of DLA. If you are requesting an increase in your DLA award, you may remain on DLA if you are not yet required to claim PIP. Go to www.gov.uk/pip-checker to see if you are required to claim PIP.

Many deaf people use friends and family informally to help with communication. Although this may be something that happens everyday, it is important that this help is explained when completing either a DLA or PIP form.

DLA Care Component or PIP Daily Living Component

When completing the care section or daily living section you may want to discuss for example:

- Whether you find it difficult hearing what strangers are saying. Do you need help communicating with strangers who do not understand? Do you find it difficult to hear what friends or family are saying?
- Do you find it difficult to understand gestures or body language used by hearing people and need to have them explained?
- Do you need general conversation explained to you, especially if there are several people speaking and you cannot see who is talking? Do you need someone to repeat what is said and explain it to you?

- Do you need TV programmes explained when they are subtitled? Can you follow TV programmes that are not subtitled? Do you need important information from the radio passed on to you?
- If you rely on lip-reading, do you find yourself in situations where you are unable to see the face of the person speaking? When you are lip-reading do people use words and phrases that have to be explained to you?
- Even though you may be able to lip-read well, do you have reasons why you still cannot communicate in all situations? Do you find you can only lip-read a trained lip-speaker?
- If you cannot lip-read, do you need an interpreter or other communication support? If you have some hearing, do you still need some sounds and speech explained to you?
- Do you feel vibrations or hear a noise and have to ask what made the sound? Do sounds such as traffic, alarms and announcements have to be brought to your notice and explained?
- Do you need someone to explain what children are saying to you because they cannot sign or speak clearly enough for you to lip-read them? Does someone need to let you know when a child is crying or distressed?

- If you use a hearing aid, do you find yourself in situations when you need help to understand what is being said, e.g. outdoors in crowded places when other people are speaking?
- When you use an interpreter, the interpreter has to have breaks. Say how often and for how long. These breaks can mean that communication can take much longer. It is important to say that there are no appropriate alternatives to interpreters i.e. using handwritten notes, if full and proper communication is to take place.
- If you use sign language and you have difficulties understanding written English, you may need someone to explain written information such as:
 - Simple leaflets
 - Brief letters
 - Bills and receipts
 - Letters or leaflets with diagrams
 - Newspapers
 - Food labels
 - Public transport information
 - Advertisements.

Discuss any of these difficulties on the form.

DLA Mobility Component or PIP Mobility Component

You will qualify for the lower rate mobility component of DLA if you need someone to guide or watch you when you travel on **unfamiliar outdoor routes**. You may also qualify, if you are profoundly deaf and rely on sign language or if you need an escort to travel with you to **places you do not know well**.

You may qualify for the standard rate of PIP mobility component if you cannot follow the route of an **unfamiliar journey** without another person, assistance dog or orientation aid. You may qualify for the enhanced rate of the mobility component if you cannot follow the route of a **familiar journey** without another

person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid.

When completing the mobility section you may want to explain why you need someone with you in the above situations or if you use an assistance dog or orientation aid, for example:

- Do you know when traffic is approaching? Can you hear warning sounds, such as car horns or sirens?
- Do you need someone to explain loudspeaker announcements?
- Do you ever travel on your own in places you do not know well?
- Can you understand and follow street maps or written directions or do you need help to do this?
- Can you read or understand street signs, bus numbers, timetables or destination boards?
- Do you need an interpreter (or another person) to communicate with hearing people?
- Can strangers understand your speech when you ask for directions? If a hearing person gives you directions, do you have difficulties understanding? Can you lip-read strangers if they are explaining directions to you?

You may qualify for the higher rate of the mobility component of DLA if you have a physical disability or you are registered blind.

You may also qualify for the enhanced rate mobility in PIP if you have a physical disability.

If you need further advice on DLA or PIP, you can contact Nottinghamshire County Council for more information using the details provided below or have a look at our DLA and PIP web pages and fact sheets.

Contact information:

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Monday to Friday: 8am to 8pm

Saturday: 8am to 12 noon

(Calls cost 3p a minute from a BT landline.

Mobile costs may vary).

Email: enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk

Website: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Minicom: 01623 434993

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the
information in a different language or format.