# UK disability benefit cuts risk plunging 6% of Welsh population into poverty by 2030



Amid growing unrest and concern, the UK Government's proposed £5 billion cuts to disability benefits are set to significantly impact vulnerable populations in Wales. According to data from Policy in Practice, these reforms could see incomes reduced by as much as £466 million annually by 2029-30, affecting approximately 6% of the Welsh population. The implications of these cuts are expected to be particularly severe, with estimates suggesting that Personal Independence Payment (PIP) recipients could face losses of £4,200 to £6,300 each year.

In response to these proposals, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) initially scheduled a series of in-person consultations, including a crucial event in Cardiff. However, an unexpected venue cancellation prompted the DWP to pivot towards virtual events. This decision has drawn sharp criticism from advocacy organisations, notably Disability Wales, which expressed its dismay on social media platform X. The organisation stated, "This decision silences disabled people across Wales - those who would be most affected by these devastating changes," emphasising that online alternatives fail to provide the meaningful engagement necessary for individuals grappling with potential benefit cuts.

Political backlash has also been swift. Sioned Williams, the Plaid Cymru shadow social justice secretary, condemned the government's actions as indicative of "Labour's contempt towards Wales." She underscored that the proposed changes could exacerbate existing inequalities and lead to a substantial increase in poverty among disabled individuals and their families. Williams asserts that the cuts not only threaten financial stability but also undermine the rights of those who are already facing significant challenges.

The DWP defended its approach, insisting that it remains committed to supporting those who need assistance the most. A spokesperson claimed, "We will never compromise on protecting people who need our support," and asserted that the reforms are designed to ensure long-term viability and fairness. Nevertheless, many are sceptical of these assurances, questioning how the reforms align with the drastic cuts being proposed.

Further analysis reveals that Wales, along with the northern regions of England, will bear a disproportionate burden of these reforms. Researchers note that these areas will encounter three times the economic impact compared to wealthier regions such as London and the South East, foreboding a deepening cycle of deprivation and increasing pressure on local services to support those in need.

Additionally, broader concerns have been raised regarding the planned elimination of the Work Capability Assessment in 2028, changes to PIP assessments, and the introduction of stricter eligibility criteria. These measures, according to Disability Wales, may not only leave around 375,000 individuals across the UK ineligible for PIP but also contribute to a sharp increase in inequality for disabled people in Wales, potentially pushing an additional 250,000 residents into relative poverty by the end of the decade.

As the DWP works to rearrange its consultation events, advocacy groups and political leaders are calling for urgent dialogue and visibility for the voices of sick and disabled individuals. The outcome of these discussions could prove vital in shaping a welfare system that genuinely addresses the needs of one of the most vulnerable demographics in society.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mrjx43gkno), [[5]](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/apr/24/wales-and-north-of-england-face-disability-cuts-double-whammy)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mrjx43gkno), [[2]](https://www.disabilitywales.org/press-release-fear-and-anger-across-wales-as-uk-governments-heartless-cuts-to-disability-benefits-slashes-support-and-regresses-rights/), [[4]](https://www.disabilitywales.org/a-message-of-solidarity-following-proposed-benefit-cuts/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.westwaleschronicle.co.uk/blog/2025/03/20/senedd-members-denounce-devastating-benefit-cuts/), [[7]](https://cofnod.senedd.cymru/Plenary/14877?lang=en-GB)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mrjx43gkno), [[6]](https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/thinking-wales/spring-statement-2025-some-implications-for-wales/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0mrjx43gkno> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.disabilitywales.org/press-release-fear-and-anger-across-wales-as-uk-governments-heartless-cuts-to-disability-benefits-slashes-support-and-regresses-rights/> - Disability Wales has expressed deep concern over the UK Government's proposed £5 billion cuts to disability benefits, warning that these changes could leave many disabled individuals in Wales significantly worse off. The organisation highlights that the cuts may result in up to £4,500 annual losses for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) recipients and potentially render around 375,000 individuals across the UK ineligible for PIP altogether. Disability Wales calls for a reconsideration of these plans to prevent further hardship and inequality for disabled people in Wales.
3. <https://www.westwaleschronicle.co.uk/blog/2025/03/20/senedd-members-denounce-devastating-benefit-cuts/> - Senedd members have strongly criticised the UK Government's proposed £5 billion cuts to disability benefits, describing them as devastating for disabled people in Wales. Sioned Williams, Plaid Cymru’s shadow social justice secretary, raised concerns that the cuts could lead to annual losses of between £4,200 and £6,300 for individuals on Personal Independence Payments (PIP). The debate highlighted the potential for these reforms to push hundreds of thousands of people into poverty and called for urgent action to mitigate the impact.
4. <https://www.disabilitywales.org/a-message-of-solidarity-following-proposed-benefit-cuts/> - Disability Wales has issued a message of solidarity with disabled individuals across Wales in response to the UK Government's proposed benefit cuts. The organisation outlines the key proposals, including the scrapping of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) from 2028, changes to PIP assessments, and stricter eligibility criteria. Disability Wales is actively challenging these proposals through consultations, correspondence with Welsh MPs and Members of the Senedd, and collaboration with other advocacy groups to ensure the voices of disabled people are heard.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/apr/24/wales-and-north-of-england-face-disability-cuts-double-whammy> - An analysis by Policy in Practice reveals that the UK Government's proposed £5 billion cuts to disability benefits will disproportionately affect Wales and northern England. The research indicates that these regions will experience three times the economic impact and have twice as many residents affected compared to London and the south-east. The study warns that the reforms could entrench existing patterns of deprivation and calls for local authorities to prepare for rising service demand and protect vulnerable populations.
6. <https://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/thinking-wales/spring-statement-2025-some-implications-for-wales/> - Cardiff University's 'Thinking Wales' blog discusses the implications of the UK Government's Spring Statement 2025 for Wales, focusing on welfare changes. The blog highlights cuts to sickness and disability benefits, including increased thresholds for Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and the freezing of Universal Credit health elements for new claimants. The analysis suggests that these cuts will have significant and concentrated effects, with the potential to push an additional 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, into relative poverty by 2029-30.
7. <https://cofnod.senedd.cymru/Plenary/14877?lang=en-GB> - The official record of the Senedd's plenary session on 19 March 2025 includes discussions on the UK Government's proposed cuts to disability benefits. Sioned Williams, Plaid Cymru’s shadow social justice secretary, criticised the plans, stating that they would leave many disabled people in Wales considerably worse off. She referenced estimates that individuals on Personal Independence Payments (PIP) could lose between £4,200 and £6,300 annually. The debate underscored concerns about the potential impact of these cuts on the most vulnerable citizens in Wales.