# Government Considers Overhaul of Personal Independence Payment System for Future-Proof Disability Benefits



The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is considering major changes to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) system, as seen in a recent official consultation. The government aims to develop a more future-proof disability benefits system, moving away from the current 'one-size-fits-all' model. This follows the publication of a Modernising Support Green Paper, recommended after the Prime Minister's announcement of extensive welfare reforms.

Currently, around three million people in the UK claim PIP, which supports those struggling with daily tasks due to disabilities or medical conditions. PIP offers a daily living component and a mobility component, with potential payments of up to £184.30 per week. Eligibility is assessed based on how a person's condition affects their daily life, rather than the condition itself. The consultation is still ongoing, and until any changes are implemented, the current PIP assessment process remains in place.

Minister for Disabled People, Health, and Work, Mims Davies, confirmed that there will be no immediate changes to PIP or health assessments. All scheduled assessments and payments will continue as usual.

The PIP assessment process involves evaluating a claimant's ability to perform daily and mobility activities. The rate paid is determined by how limited or severely limited the individual is in these activities. The assessment can be conducted in person, over the phone, or via video call, with the option for the claimant to have someone present and to record the assessment. The DWP has stated that it has reduced the time taken to process new claims from 26 weeks in August 2021 to 15 weeks currently.