

Understanding PIP

Horsham Matters Resource Guide Version 2 | September 2026

What is Personal Independence Payment (PIP)?

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a non-means-tested benefit for people aged 16 to State Pension age who have a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability.

It is designed to help with the extra costs of living with a disability or health condition.

You can receive PIP whether you are working or not. The amount awarded depends on how your condition affects you, not your diagnosis.

PIP is made up of two parts:

- Daily Living Component - for help with everyday activities
- Mobility Component - for help with getting around

Each component has:

- Standard rate
- Enhanced rate

Weekly Award Rates	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 - March 2027
Standard Daily Living	£73.90	£76.70
Enhanced Daily Living	£110.40	£114.60
Standard Mobility	£29.20	£30.30
Enhanced Mobility	£77.05	£80.00

Who can Claim PIP?

You can claim PIP if:

- You are aged 16 or over
- You are under State Pension age
- You have had difficulties for at least 3 months, and these difficulties are expected to last at least 9 months or more. (This is known as the qualifying period.)
- You have lived in England, Scotland or Wales for at least 2 of the last 3 years and not subject to immigration control.

How PIP can Affect Other Benefits

PIP is not means-tested and:

- It is not affected by income or savings
- It is tax-free

Receiving PIP can increase other benefits, for example:

- You might be entitled to additional elements with Universal Credit (UC) such as LCW, LCWRA and the Work Allowance.
- May receive an extra amount in the New Style Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) known as additional 'premiums.'
- If you receive PIP before you reach State Pension age, it could mean you receive extra money in your Pension Credit award.
- It may allow someone caring for you to claim Carer's Allowance and/or the Carer's Element with UC.
- If you are out of work, you will be exempt from the weekly benefit cap.
- It can entitle you to passport benefits, such as:
 - Blue Badge
 - Motability Scheme (if enhanced mobility awarded)
 - Council Tax reductions
 - Vehicle Tax exemption (if enhanced mobility awarded)
 - Free bus pass or Disability Rail Card

Claiming PIP: What to Expect

1. Start the claim by phone or post. PIP new claims phone number: 0800 917 2222 (Mon – Fri 8am-5pm) or send a letter to: Freepost DWP PIP 1. You will need to provide information about you and your disability/condition.
2. You will receive a 'How your disability affects you' form (PIP2).
3. Complete and return the form (usually within 1 month). An extension can be requested. Contact the PIP enquiry line: 0800 121 4433 (Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm) to request an extension.
4. You may be invited to a health assessment. This can take place face to face, video link, or over the phone.
5. You will receive a decision letter once the assessment is completed.

The whole PIP process can take up to 4-6 months or in some cases - longer. If your claim is successful, you will receive a back payment from either the date you made your claim or the date you became eligible, depending on the qualifying period.

If you are unhappy with the decision, you can appeal by requesting a mandatory reconsideration and following the DWP appeals process. It is strongly recommended to get support from an advisor to help provide guidance with your appeal. For more information, see the Horsham Matters Resource Guide on DWP Appeals Process.

Remember: If you need help or further guidance with making a claim for PIP, speak with a member of our support team at Horsham Matters for a referral to an advisor.

Call or WhatsApp: 0300 124 0204

Email: support@horshammatters.org.uk

Helpful Links

- Horsham Matters – Support: <https://www.horsham-matters.org.uk/get-help-now/>
- PIP - Easy to read guide: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-pip-what-it-is-and-how-to-claim-it-easy-read-guide>
- PIP - GOV UK Web page: <https://www.gov.uk/pip>
- Benefits calculator: <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>
- DWP Challenge a decision: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/challenge-a-decision-made-by-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-dwp>
- Horsham District Council (HDC), Council Tax Support: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/council-tax/council-tax-support-discounts-and-exemptions>
- HDC – Apply for a Blue Badge: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/parking/disabled-parking/apply-for-a-blue-badge>
- WSCC Disabled person's bus or railcard information and application form: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/lizc4bq2/encts_disabled_application_form.pdf
- WSCC Household Support: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/household-support-fund/>
- Age UK, Horsham: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/westsussexbrightonhove/activities-and-events/horsham-district/>
- Carers Support West Sussex: <https://www.carerssupport.org.uk/>
- Prevention Assessment Team: <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/services/prevention-assessment-team>