You will be aware that Disability Living Allowance ([DLA) is ending](https://www.gov.uk/dla-ending) for people who were aged between 16 and 64 on 8th April 2013. DLA claimants will continue to get DLA until the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) writes to them about when it will end and to invite them to apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Since October 2013, DWP has been inviting existing DLA claimants with fixed term awards, those reaching age 16 or those reporting a change in circumstances, to claim PIP. This national roll out of natural reassessment was successfully completed in July.

On 25 June, Ministers announced that from July the Department would start national PIP roll out - the reassessment of all remaining people on DLA - in a controlled way. This was followed in August and September with additional postcodes and increased volumes.

Operating on a smaller scale has proved to be the right approach, enabling us to monitor the service closely to ensure the process is operating efficiently before increasing volumes.

We are announcing today that **from October 2015,** in accordance with previously published plans, we will be extending the remaining stage of national PIP rollout in a controlled way - learning as we go - so that DLA claimants, chosen at random and living in **all areas of Great Britain,** will now start to be selected.

We will however retain the flexibility to be able to adjust the volume of invitations issued in any postcode to match assessment provider capacity, thereby ensuring that we do not see backlogs building up.

**Scotland**

The Smith Commission did recommend that the responsibility for some benefits, including Personal Independence Payment, be devolved to the Scottish Government. However, until a new Scotland Bill has passed through the UK Parliament, we do not know the timetable for powers transferring over to the Scottish Parliament. Therefore, we are continuing with our current rollout plans which are in line with the current legislation. We have informed the Scottish Government of our plan.

**PIP performance**

The latest release of the [official statistics for PIP](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics) (published on 16 September) reflect the significant progress made over the past year. The average new claimant now only waits 5 weeks for an assessment. Claims are now being processed at over 3 times the rate they were in January 2014. We are committed to building on this progress and this provides us with a strong foundation for the further roll out of PIP.

**Impact for local organisations**

When claimants start to receive the notification they may contact your organisation to ask for help in:

* deciding whether they should claim PIP
* making the initial claim for PIP
* completing the Part 2 form about how their condition affects them in their daily living.

There is more information about PIP on Gov.UK within the PIP Toolkit. A Claimant Factsheet and Claimant journey are included within the PIP toolkit to support you in helping the claimant understand what happens next and what they need to do.

[The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) toolkit - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners/the-personal-independence-payment-pip-toolkit)

If you have any questions about the content of this e-mail please contact Elaine Devlin – Partner Support Manager on 01383 813803.

We welcome feedback from you on how things are progressing or if you are experiencing any issues.

Thank you