



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial
Correspondence
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

www.gov.uk

ministers@dwp.gov.uk

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

Our ref: MC2024/41022

23 May 2024

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 17 May to the Secretary of State on behalf of a number of your constituents about Personal Independence Payment (PIP). I am replying as the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for taking the time to write in raising this issue. I write to you with the latest update and I hope they will find the following comments to be helpful.

In the decade since PIP was introduced in 2013, the nature of health and disability has changed. Many more people are applying for PIP with mental health conditions than when it was first introduced. We need to ensure the benefit reflects this change in caseload.

We believe that it is the right time to look again at ensuring Government support for people with long-term health conditions and disabilities is focused where it is most needed. We also believe there may be better ways of supporting people to live independent and fulfilling lives whilst also ensuring that the system is fair to the taxpayer. We want to understand whether there are other forms of support that may be more suitable for everyone, including people with mental health conditions.

We are looking at different options to reshape the current welfare system so that we can provide better targeted support to those who need it most.

In particular, we want to explore what the types of extra costs disabled people or people with long-term health conditions have, recognising each individual has different costs and experiences.

We are considering whether there are other ways of the Department for Work and Pensions supporting people with disabilities and long-term health conditions apart from providing regular cash payments such as through vouchers, receipts, a catalogue, or one-off grants. The possibility of providing vouchers is just one of the many options we are consulting on.

We would also like to explore how existing services and offers of support available to disabled people and people with long-term health conditions could be better aligned.

We are considering some of these options through our 12-week consultation which was published on Monday 29 April and will close on Monday 22 July at 11:59pm.

We encourage your constituents to respond to the consultation which can be found online at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/modernising-support-for-independent-living-the-health-and-disability-green-paper so that we are able to hear from as many disabled people, people with health conditions, their representatives, and local stakeholders as possible on these important issues.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mims".

Mims Davies MP
Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work