I’ve Been Awarded PIP, What Else Can I Claim?

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Introduction
If you are reading this guide then we hope that means you have been awarded PIP – congratulations!

For many it is not an easy process but as well as increasing your income there are some other advantages to receiving PIP. We have set out some of the other things you can claim and ways you may be able to increase your income further in this guide.

Caution - benefit rules are complicated!
We know that anything to do with benefits is very complicated, but please don’t read this guide and feel that you can’t cope with following it through. It could mean quite a big increase in your income.

If you are struggling with this information, be assured that you are not alone, but there are advice organisations and welfare rights advisers who can help. See the Help section at the end of this guide.

But even if you are confident you can follow all this information, please do not rely solely on this guide for making sure you get all the benefits you are entitled to. Always try to get a benefit check done by an advice agency at least once a year to ensure you are getting everything you should and also to make sure you are not claiming anything you should no longer be receiving.

About this guide
We’ve divided this guide into four sections.

1 Any rate of PIP – this looks at what else you may be able to claim if you are awarded any rate of either component of PIP.

2 PIP mobility component – this looks at the Motability scheme, exemptions and reductions to vehicle excise duty and Blue Badges.

3 PIP daily living component – this looks at any additional help that you may receive if you get PIP daily living component.

4 Benefits for carers – this looks at any additional help you may be able to claim if you care for someone who receives PIP. But please be aware that claiming carer’s allowance may reduce the amount of benefit the disabled person receives. There are more details on this below.

1 Any rate of PIP
If you have been awarded PIP either daily living or mobility and at any rate then the rules below will apply to you:

Extra additions to means-tested benefits
If you are on a low income you may already be receiving one or more means-tested benefits such as Income Support, Housing Benefit, Income -based Jobseeker’s Allowance. Means-tested benefits are those which are paid to top up your income to a basic level which is intended to give you enough to live on. If you have too much income or savings you will not be eligible for means-tested benefits.
If you are awarded any level of PIP; your means-tested benefits can increase as set out below.

**Income Support**
If you are awarded any rate of PIP your Income Support will be increased by an extra amount because you are disabled, called a *Disability Premium*. Although your Income Support and PIP are both administered by the Department for Work and Pensions you should contact them when you get your PIP award to make sure they also increase your Income Support.

You can do this by telephoning your local Jobcentre Plus. The telephone number should be on your Income Support benefit award letter or you can find it online by searching ‘find my local Jobcentre Plus’.

**Housing Benefit**
If you are awarded any rate of PIP your Housing Benefit may be increased. If you are already getting all your rent covered by the local authority then you will not have your Housing Benefit increased, but if you are having to pay some of your rent because of other income or savings that you have, then you may be able to get more Housing Benefit.

You can find out if you are eligible for more Housing Benefit by reporting the award of PIP to your local authority. They will need to see your PIP award letter as proof of the award. They will then recalculate your Housing Benefit adding an extra amount to the calculation called a *Disability Premium*.

**Jobseeker’s Allowance**
You may have been awarded PIP and also be seeking work and claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance. If you are receiving Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (that is the means-tested part of Jobseeker’s Allowance) you may get an increase when PIP is awarded. This is similar to the increase awarded to claimants of PIP and Income Support.

You will need to notify your local Jobcentre Plus that you have been awarded PIP. If you are not sure whether your Jobseeker’s Allowance is income-based or based on National Insurance Contributions then the jobcentre should be able to tell you.

**Employment and Support Allowance**
*Please note:* You cannot receive the disability premium described above when you are receiving Employment and Support Allowance

If you have a choice about whether to claim Employment and Support Allowance or another means-tested benefit, such as Income Support, it is important to get advice from a welfare rights adviser or advice agency before making this decision. This is because you may receive more Income Support and possibly more Housing Benefit when the disability premium is included in the calculation.

**Local Council Tax Relief Schemes**
The national scheme to help low income families to pay their Council Tax, known as Council Tax Benefit, was abolished from 1 April, 2013. This has been replaced by local schemes run by each local authority. This means that the rules about who gets help with their Council Tax are different depending on where you live.
In many areas, working age people (people aged between 18 and 64) now have to pay a proportion of their Council Tax even if they are not working.

In most local authority areas, families with a disabled person in the household will continue to receive help with all of their Council Tax if their income is sufficiently low. An award of PIP will be evidence of disability in some local authority areas.

In order to find out what rules apply where you live, you will need to contact your local authority for further information, or seek advice from a local advice agency.

**Working Tax Credit.**
Working Tax Credit is paid by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs to working people on low incomes. You do not need to have a disability in order to claim Working Tax Credit but the rules on qualifying are different if you are a disabled worker.

In order to qualify for the extra help for disabled workers you must:

- Work for 16 hours per week AND
- Have a disability which makes it more difficult for you to find work. You can find a list of the descriptors which HMRC considers put you at a disadvantage in finding work at [www.hm.gov.uk/taxcredits/tc956.pdf](http://www.hm.gov.uk/taxcredits/tc956.pdf) and in Appendix 1 (below) AND
- Be receiving, or have been receiving, a sickness or disability benefit. You can find a full list of these benefits listed at [www.hm.gov.uk/taxcredits/tc956.pdf](http://www.hm.gov.uk/taxcredits/tc956.pdf)

Receiving PIP at any rate is a qualifying benefit for the extra help for disabled workers.

**What if I don’t already get a means-tested benefit?**
If you are not already receiving Income Support, Housing Benefit or Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance but your income is still very low you may qualify for one or more of these benefits now that you have been awarded PIP. You can find out whether you may qualify by getting advice from an advice agency or by using the benefit checker which you can find at [http://www.turn2us.org.uk/benefits_search.aspx](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/benefits_search.aspx)

**2 PIP mobility component**
If you have been awarded the mobility component it will either be because you have difficulty planning and following journeys or because you have a physical disability which means that you are unable to walk more than a very short distance, or possibly for a combination of these two reasons.

You will have been awarded either the standard rate (8 points) or the enhanced rate (12 points). The rate that you have been awarded will affect some of the other things that you can claim.

**Motability**
The Motability scheme is operated by a registered charity called ‘Motability’. You can read more about them on their website [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

Under the Motability scheme you can lease a car, scooter or powered wheelchair. Also included are insurance, servicing, breakdown cover and some adaptations.
Even if you are unable to drive you can still get a Motability vehicle. You will be able to nominate up to two drivers.

**Please note:** In order to qualify for a Motability vehicle you must have an award of enhanced rate mobility with at least 12 months remaining.

If you go into hospital your PIP, both daily living and mobility, will stop after 28 days. However, if you go into residential care your mobility component may continue to be paid.

You can find your nearest Motability dealer and look at vehicle options on the Motability website above.

**Vehicle Excise Duty (road tax)**
If you have been awarded the enhanced rate of mobility component (12 points) you will qualify for full exemption from road tax on your car.

If you have been awarded the standard rate of mobility component (8 points) you will be able to get a 50% reduction in your road tax.

You will still need to get a tax disc for your car and display the ‘nil value’ tax disc on the car. The vehicle must be registered in your name, or the name of your nominated driver, and must only be used for your needs.

Your award notification letter will include a proof of award letter which you can take to the Post Office as proof of the exemption.

If you have already paid road tax for your car for the current year you can also claim a refund of the remaining part of the tax paid. You will need to get form V14 from the DVLA website or the Post Office.

Further information on road tax can be found on [www.gov.uk/browse/driving/car-tax-discs](http://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/car-tax-discs)

**Blue Badge**
The Blue Badge scheme is operated by your local authority.

If you have been awarded PIP with at least 8 points from the Moving Around section then you will automatically qualify for a Blue Badge. You will still need to apply to your local authority (see below) and you will need to provide proof of your award with your application.

Even if you have not been awarded enough points to qualify automatically for a Blue Badge you can still apply for one from your local authority. You will have to fill in a form giving details of the problems you have with walking.

You can complete the form on line at [www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge](http://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge) or you can telephone your local authority and ask for a form.

**3 PIP daily living component**
If you have been awarded the daily living component this will be because you need assistance, prompting or supervision with some or many aspects of daily living.
You will have been awarded the standard rate (8 points) or the enhanced rate (12) points.

An award of any rate of PIP can increase your entitlement to other benefits or give you eligibility for the first time – see above.

There are also extra increases associated with an award of PIP daily living component.

Any rate of daily living component
If you are awarded daily living component, standard or enhanced this can increase the amount of means-tested benefits as set out below.

Income Support
If you do not live with another adult, over 18, who is a member of your family, and no-one is receiving Carer’s Allowance (see below) for looking after you then you can receive an extra amount added to your Income Support called a ‘severe disability premium’. This is paid as well as the disability premium which you are awarded for receiving any rate of PIP.

If the only other adult you are living with is a member of your family and you are both receiving the daily living component of PIP you will both qualify for this extra amount, as long as no-one is actually receiving Carer’s Allowance for looking after either of you.

Housing Benefit
The rules above for Income Support also apply to Housing Benefit. So if you are the only adult family member in the household or the only other adult family member in your household is also receiving PIP daily living component, then you will get extra Housing Benefit if you are not already getting all your rent covered by the local authority.

In addition, as well as your partner, you may have other members of your family living with you who are over 18. Usually if there is any family member over 18 living with you then they will be expected to make a contribution towards the rent, and you will receive reduced Housing Benefit for this reason. These are called ‘non dependent deductions’. There is no non dependent deduction for your partner. If you are awarded PIP daily living component then there will be no non dependent deduction for any family member living in your household.

Jobseeker’s Allowance
The rules for getting extra Jobseeker’s Allowance are the same as the rules for Income Support

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
If you are getting income-related Employment and Support Allowance you can also qualify for the ‘severe disability premium’. The same rules apply as for Income Support.

Please note: you cannot receive the basic disability premium if you are receiving Employment and Support Allowance see above
Pension Credit
If you are over pensionable age you may receive Pension Credit rather than Income Support. If you are awarded daily living component of PIP the rules for getting extra Pension Credit are the same as the rules for Income Support.

Please note: you cannot receive the basic disability premium if you are receiving Pension Credit

Enhanced rate daily living component of PIP
If you have been awarded the enhanced rate of daily living component of PIP (12 points) then, in addition to the disability premium and the severe disability premium, you should also receive a further extra amount of means tested benefits called the ‘enhanced disability premium’. This will add more extra money to any of the means-tested benefits above.

What if I don’t already get a means-tested benefit?
If you are not already receiving Income Support, Housing Benefit, Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit but your income is still very low you may qualify for one or more of these benefits now that you have been awarded PIP.

You can find out whether you may qualify by getting advice from an advice agency or by using the benefit checker which you can find at: http://www.turn2us.org.uk/benefits_search.aspx

4 Benefits for carers

Carer’s Allowance
Carer’s Allowance is a benefit which is paid to someone who cares for a disabled person. In order to qualify for Carer’s Allowance the disabled person must fit certain rules and so must the carer:

- The disabled person must be in receipt of either rate of daily living component of PIP
- The carer must
  - Be aged over 16
  - Not be in full time education
  - Have lived in the UK for 2 out of the last 3 years with no restriction on claiming benefits
  - Be caring for a disabled person for at least 35 hours per week
  - Not be earning more than £100 per week

The carer does not need to live with the disabled person or be a member of their family.

A carer who looks after more than one disabled person will only be entitled to one payment of Carer’s Allowance.

Most carers who qualify for Carer’s Allowance will receive a weekly benefit. It doesn’t matter whether the carer has savings or other income (except if they earn more than £100 per week from working). Carer’s Allowance is taxable.

For more information on carer’s allowance see https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/eligibility
Anyone who qualifies for Carer’s Allowance will also receive automatic National Insurance Credits which can help the carer to have a good record of contributions when they claim their State Retirement Pension.

You can apply for Carer’s Allowance by telephoning the Carer’s Allowance Unit on 0845 6084321 or by downloading a form from https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance where you will also find more information on Carer’s Allowance.

The contact details for the Carer’s Allowance Unit can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance-unit

What if I already get another benefit myself?
If you are a carer who qualifies for Carer’s Allowance, you may not be paid the allowance if you are receiving certain other benefits. These include:

- Contributory Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Maternity Allowance
- Bereavement or widow’s benefits
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Contribution-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- State Retirement Pension

If you are one of the people affected by this rule you can still make a claim for Carer’s Allowance. You will receive a letter telling you that you qualify for Carer’s Allowance but that you will not be paid any money because of the other benefits that you are already getting. Even though you won’t get this extra money it can increase payments of some means-tested benefits. This is called having an ‘underlying entitlement’ to Carer’s Allowance.

Carer’s Allowance and means-tested benefits
If you also qualify for Income Support, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance the calculation of these benefits can include an extra amount because you are a carer who is eligible for Carer’s Allowance. This extra amount will be included in your means-tested benefits whether you receive Carer’s Allowance or have an underlying entitlement to Carer’s Allowance.

You will need to notify the Department for Work and Pensions and the local authority when you have been awarded Carer’s Allowance or when you have the letter telling you that you are entitled but won’t receive any money. You will need to provide your award letter as evidence.

What if I don’t already get a means tested benefit?
If you are not already receiving Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit or Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance but your income is still very low you may qualify for one or more of these benefits now that you have been awarded Carer’s Allowance or are entitled to it but not being paid. You can find out whether you may qualify by getting advice from an advice agency or by using the benefit checker which you can find at: http://www.turn2us.org.uk/benefits_search.aspx
Will Carer’s Allowance affect the disabled person’s benefits?
In most cases Carer’s Allowance will not affect the benefits of the disabled person.

Caution!
If the disabled person is receiving extra means-tested benefit because they get the ‘severe disability premium’ described above, then they will lose this premium if their carer is paid Carer’s Allowance.

You should make sure you get advice before claiming Carer’s Allowance in this situation. See the Help section at the end of this guide.

The disabled person will not lose the severe disability premium if the carer is not paid Carer’s Allowance but only has an ‘underlying entitlement’ to Carer’s Allowance – described above.

Carer’s Credit
A carer who is looking after a disabled person for fewer than 35 hours per week, or where the disabled person is not getting PIP may still be eligible for Carer’s Credit. You will need to be caring for a disabled person for at least 20 hours per week.

Carer’s Credit is a National Insurance Credit for carers which may help you to qualify for more State Retirement Pension when you reach retirement age.

You can apply for Carer’s Credit by completing an application form which you can get from the Carer’s Allowance Unit by telephoning 0845 6084321. Or you can download a form from https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

If the person you care for is not getting PIP then you will need to get a health or social care professional to sign the Care Certificate on the form.

Help
Advice agencies.
These may be able to help with benefit calculations and with information about how to claim different benefits. However, advice agencies may be almost impossible to get through to on the phone, have no appointment system and long queues. If you can’t get through to your local agency on the phone, try writing to them explaining your circumstances and asking if they do home visits, or if they can telephone you at home and offer advice. You can usually find numbers for advice agencies in your local Yellow Pages in one or more of the following sections: disability information and services; information services; social service and welfare organisations; counselling and advice.

Visit our website: http://www.benefitsandwork.co.uk/help for information on where to find further help.
Appendix 1: Disability that puts you at a disadvantage in getting a job.

At least one of the following descriptions must apply to you:

- When standing you cannot keep your balance unless you continually hold onto something
- You cannot walk a continuous distance of 100 metres along level ground without stopping or without suffering severe pain even when you use your usual walking aid such as crutches, walking frame, walking stick, prosthesis or similar
- You cannot use either of your hands behind your back, as if you were putting on a jacket or tucking a shirt into trousers
- You cannot extend either of your arms in front of you, as if you were shaking hands with someone, without difficulty
- You cannot, without difficulty, put either of your hands up to your head as if putting on a hat
- Due to a lack of ability in using your hands, you cannot pick up a coin that is 2.5 centimetres or less in diameter, such as a 10 pence coin, with one hand
- You find it difficult to use your hands or arms to pick up a full, one-litre jug and pour from it into a cup
- You cannot turn either or your hands sideways through 180 degrees
- If you live in England and Wales – you are registered as blind or partially sighted on a register compiled by a Local Authority
- If you live in Scotland – you have been certified as blind or as partially sighted and you are also registered as blind or partially sighted on a register maintained by, or on behalf of, a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1994
- If you live in Northern Ireland – you have been certified as blind or partially sighted. Because of this, you are also registered as blind or partially sighted on a register maintained by, or on behalf of, a Health and Social Services board
- You cannot see to read 16 point print at a distance greater than 20 centimetres, even if you are wearing your usual glasses
- You cannot hear a phone ring when you are in the same room as the phone even if you are using your usual hearing aid
- You have difficulty hearing what someone two meters away is saying, even when they are talking loudly in a quiet room and you are using your usual hearing aid
- You have a mental illness that you receive regular treatment for under supervision of a medically qualified person
- Due to mental disability, you are often confused or forgetful
- You cannot do the simplest addition and subtraction
- Due to mental disability you strike people or damage property, or are unable to form normal social relationships
- People who know you well have difficulty in understanding what you say
- When a person that you know well speaks to you, you have difficulty in understanding what that person says
- At least once a year, during waking hours, you are in a coma or have a fit where you lose consciousness
- You cannot normally sustain an eight-hour working day or a five-day working week, due to a medical condition or, to intermittent or continuous severe pain
As a result of an illness or accident you are undergoing a period of habilitation or rehabilitation. This does not apply to you if you have been getting a disability element of Working Tax Credit in the past two years.