

Touchbase

April 2012

Welcome to your monthly e-zine!



Welcome to the April 2012 edition of Touchbase. We have a larger edition this month, reflecting all the changes taking place in the Department. In particular, the Welfare Reform Bill received Royal Assent, which means it's now law. We focus on what this means and the forthcoming changes, such as the introduction of a benefit cap from April 2013.

The change theme continues with details about how some lone parents claiming Income Support will be affected by new rules from May 2012. For younger jobseekers, the Youth Contract will provide a range of support to help them get into employment, and the Innovation fund will support social investment projects for disadvantaged young people. We cover both these topics.

There are changes to Disability Living Allowance, and we have news about the implementation plans for Personal Independence Payment, its replacement.

Automatic enrolment starts from October 2012, encouraging people to save more for retirement. We have news on its introduction and where to get more information over the coming months.

Spring Online 2012 aims to get more older people online and DWP is supporting this by promoting training sessions. So much is now done online that it's a great opportunity that many people may be missing out on.

I hope you find Touchbase useful, and we welcome your feedback, suggestions and article ideas. Please send your comments to the email address below.

Remember, you and your colleagues can [register for an e-alert](#) which you'll receive when Touchbase is published on the DWP Advisers and Intermediaries website.



To provide feedback on Touchbase email corporate.stakeholders@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

In this issue

Welfare Reform Act 2012

Providing a 21st century welfare state

Youth Contract

Support for young people to secure a job

Benefit cap

Plans for limiting benefits

Tax Credit renewals

Renew by the 31 July 2012 deadline

Important changes to workplace pensions

Automatic enrolment changing how people save for later life

PIP implementation plans announced

How changes will affect existing and new claims

Income Support changes for Lone Parents

Help to look for work earlier

Social Justice Strategy

A new approach to tackling poverty

Innovation Fund

Improving the employment prospects of young people

Spring Online

Campaign aims to get older people online



Welfare Reform Act 2012



Providing a 21st century welfare state

On 8 March 2012 the Welfare Reform Bill received Royal Assent and became law. These reforms promise to change the lives of millions of households, with around 2.8 million low to middle income households better off and around 900,000 adults and children lifted out of poverty under Universal Credit.

The reforms also include:

- introducing a £500 per week household benefit cap

- a new Personal Independence Payment to replace Disability Living Allowance
- tougher penalties for benefit fraudsters, and
- introducing a new bedroom size criteria to make better use of our social housing stock

These changes will provide a welfare state fit for the 21st century that's both fair to claimants and the taxpayer.

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith said:

“I'm delighted this Bill, that will fundamentally change people's lives, has received Royal Assent – this is an historic moment for the Coalition Government and for my department.

“This Bill reforms virtually every part of our welfare system and I look forward to implementing the changes our country badly needs.

“The Universal Credit will mean that work will pay for the first time, helping to lift people out of worklessness and the endless cycle of benefits. Whilst those people who need our help and support will know they will get it without question.”

Key changes

2012

April: Employment and Support Allowance

A 365 day time-limit on contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for those in the work related activity group will come into effect from 1 May 2012. People affected immediately will see their entitlement end on 30 April 2012. More information on page [9](#).



April: Advance Notice of Benefit Cap

We will be sending out letters to give advance notice to people we believe may be affected by the new Benefit Cap which will be introduced from April 2013. More information page [4](#).



April: Local Housing Allowance

Local Housing Allowance rates will be frozen, ahead of changes in April 2013.



May: Lone Parent obligations extension

Starting from May lone parents who have a youngest child aged five or over and receive Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent, will need to move to Jobseeker's Allowance. As part of this they will receive extra help to return to the workplace. More information on page [6](#).



June: Direct Payment demonstration projects begin

A number of local authority and housing association partnerships will trial changing the way that housing benefit is paid in the social sector. The projects, running until June 2013, will trial how tenants can manage housing benefit monthly payments, to help prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit.

2013

April: Local Housing Allowance / Housing Benefit

Increases in Local Housing Allowance rates will be restricted to the Consumer Prices Index – as are other benefit rates. Housing Benefit rates for working-age tenants in the social rented sector will take account of whether the property is a reasonable size for its occupants, ensuring the taxpayer is not paying for bigger homes than people need.



April: Changes to the appeals process

to ensure more appeals against benefit entitlement decisions are resolved without being referred to the independent Tribunals Service.



April: Benefit cap introduced

preventing households receiving more than the average household income.



April to October 2013: PIP

April: DWP starts to accept the first new claims for PIP from claimants in parts of Northern England.

June: Other benefits centres administering new claims for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will start to take new claims for PIP.

October (until March 2016): DWP starts re-assessing existing DLA claimants for entitlement to PIP.

More information on page [5](#).



October onwards: Universal Credit

Universal Credit (UC) is at the heart of welfare reform. It will replace income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit for new claims. Between October 2013 and 2017 millions of claimants will be migrated onto the Universal Credit – where they will get to keep more of their money – so that work pays.

Youth Contract

Support for young people to secure a job

What is the Youth Contract?

The Youth Contract is a package of support worth almost £1 billion to help young unemployed people to prepare for work and find a job. Over three years from April 2012 the Youth Contract will provide nearly half a million new opportunities for young people and will enhance the get Britain working measures with an increased focus on young people. We aim to build on the fantastic support many employers have already offered.

Key elements

The key elements are:

- 160,000 wage incentives worth up to £2,275 each for employers who recruit an 18 to 24 year old through the Work Programme.
- An extra 250,000 voluntary work experience (available across Great Britain) or Sector-based Work Academy places (available in England and Scotland).
- A further 20,000 Apprenticeship Grants for employers, to encourage small and medium employers to recruit their first 16 to 24 year old apprentice, taking the total number to 40,000 (in England only).
- Additional support through Jobcentre Plus by way of more adviser time and weekly contact.
- An opportunity to have a careers interview with the National Careers Service (in England).
- Around £120m to help the most vulnerable 16 and 17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) in England back into education, training or a job with training.

Wage incentives

Work Programme providers will deliver wage incentives. They will work with employers to identify employment opportunities and issue claim forms when an 18 to 24 year old starts suitable



“160,000 wage incentives worth up to £2,275 each for employers who recruit an 18 to 24 year old through the Work Programme.”

employment. After 26 weeks the employer can claim the full payment from DWP who will validate the claim and make the payment into the employer's bank account

We recognise that in some circumstances an earlier payment might help a small business with 50 or fewer employees and they can choose to make a claim after 8 weeks of employment. A payment of £700 which equates to 8 weeks of the wage incentive will be made.

Voluntary work experience and sector-based Work Academy places

Voluntary work experience placements give young unemployed people the chance to gain valuable work experience, improve their CV and skills. Voluntary work experience also provides them with a new potential route onto an Apprenticeship.

Sector-based Work Academies are designed to meet immediate and future recruitment needs, as well as helping to recruit a workforce with the right skills to sustain and grow businesses.

They are made up of three components:

- Pre-employment training
- Work Experience placements, and
- Guaranteed job interview.

There will be an extra 250,000 voluntary work experience / Sector-based Work Academy places over the next three years in England and Scotland.

Apprenticeship Grants for Employers

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) in England are offering an Apprenticeship Grant worth £1500 for small and medium employers to take on their first apprentice aged 16 to 24. The [National Apprenticeship Service](#) (NAS) website provides more information and a guide through the steps to set up an Apprenticeship.



Read more about the [Youth Contract](#) and how employers can get involved (DWP website)

Benefit cap

Our plans for limiting benefit and how we will tell people about the changes

From April 2013 a cap will be introduced on the total amount of benefit that working age people can receive. This will help to equalise the income of average working families and those receiving out of work benefits.

The benefit cap is not the same as the changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) which have been taking place since April last year.

Households (the benefit recipient, partner and children who they are responsible for and who live with them) will be exempt from the cap where someone is:

- entitled to Working Tax Credit
- in receipt of War Widows and Widowers Pension, or
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Personal Independence Payment from April 2013), Attendance Allowance or Constant Attendance Allowance.

Our working assumption is that the cap will be set at £350 a week for single adults with no children and at £500 a week for couples (with or without children) and lone parents with dependant children.

In the first instance the cap will be administered jointly by DWP and local authorities and be deducted from Housing Benefit payments. In the long term it will form part of the new Universal Credit system.

Notifying and supporting claimants

Finding work and qualifying for Working Tax Credit is the best way to ensure the cap doesn't apply to claimants and their families. It's important that claimants potentially affected by the cap are aware of the impact it could have on them. You can help them to understand this and encourage them to respond proactively by finding work.

We want to give all existing claimants who could potentially be affected as much notice as possible and offer them appropriate support to change their circumstances and get into work. We plan to send a letter to all claimants potentially affected by the cap. The letters are expected to be sent from the end of April 2012 and may result in you receiving queries about this.

Claimants will need to be aware of which benefits they receive and how much their award is for, in order to understand how the cap might affect them. They can get this information from their award letters or by contacting the departments that pay their benefits.

 [You can read more information about the Benefit cap \(DWP website\)](#)

Tax Credit renewals

People need to renew by 31 July 2012 deadline

HMRC and Jobcentre Plus are encouraging people to renew their tax credits before the deadline of 31 July 2012. As in previous years, Jobcentre Plus claimants will be among the first to receive their renewal packs, starting from week commencing 24 April 2012.

People who have been in continuous receipt of the following for all of the 2011 to 2012 tax year will have their award auto-renewed:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA(IB))
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR))
- Pension Credit

These people will be sent form TC603R (Annual Review form) and only need to contact HMRC if their circumstances have changed. Guidance notes provided with the form will tell them what changes they need to report. They will not receive a new Tax Credit award notice and must retain this form as proof of ongoing entitlement. This will affect approximately 830,000 people.

If someone has received a form TC603D or TC603D-2 (Tax Credits Renewal Declaration), they must provide a declaration to HMRC before 31 July 2012 or their payments will stop and they will have to pay money back.

Jobcentre Plus will help people who ask for help to complete their renewal form. Past experience has shown that people come to Jobcentre Plus to ask for a crisis loan if their Tax Credit payment is stopped. This can be avoided if they renew their Tax Credit claim on time.

Tax credits can be renewed by:

- ringing the Tax Credits Helpline on 0345 300 3900, or
- returning completed renewal notices in the post.

 [Read more information about Tax Credits \(HMRC website\)](#)

Important changes to workplace pensions

Automatic enrolment will change how people save for later life

Starting from October 2012 the government is introducing new legislation to encourage more people to save for their retirement. Employers will be legally required to automatically enrol eligible workers into a workplace pension. Both workers and employers will pay in, and the government will also contribute in the form of tax relief.

Why introduce automatic enrolment?

The changes are being made because people are living longer. People are now likely to spend more than 20 years in retirement but at the same time, the numbers saving in a pension is declining. At least 7 million people in the UK are not saving enough to meet their retirement aspirations. Relying on the state pension alone may mean a fall in living standards and disposable income for some.

Automatic enrolment into a workplace pension will provide an easy way for people to save and help them to maintain their lifestyle in later life.

When will the reforms impact employers?

Starting with larger companies first, from October 2012. Medium and small employers will follow in stages over several years.

What needs to be done now?

Employers and advisory organisations can make sure they understand the basic information on the changes. Support and guidance is available on the Business Link website. This includes useful products to help employers communicate the changes to their workforce in a clear and straightforward way.

The Pensions Regulator will be writing to all employers in advance of their automatic enrolment start date to inform them of when they need to take action and what they need to do to comply.

DWP is also running a communications campaign to explain the changes to employers and individuals. The campaign will include national and trade press, outdoor, radio and online advertising with links through to detailed information online.



Take a look at more information about [Workplace Pensions](#) (Business Link website)

Personal Independence Payment implementation plans announced

How changes will affect existing and new claims

We can confirm our staged implementation plans for Personal Independence Payment (PIP), including how we'll organise the Disability and Carers Service to deliver the new benefit.

New claims to Personal Independence Payment

From April 2013 Bootle Benefits Centre will start accepting new claims for Personal Independence Payment from claimants in areas including Merseyside, North West England, Cumbria, Cheshire and North East England.

The remaining network of benefit centres currently administering new claims for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will start to take on new claims for PIP from June 2013, when evidence is in place that processes are working as intended. In addition this network will handle continuing DLA claims for children.

We are reviewing our operational structure in readiness for PIP and existing regional boundaries for our benefit centres may change.

“A person already getting DLA will need to make a claim for the new benefit.”

Reassessing existing Disability Living Allowance claimants for Personal Independence Payment

A person already getting DLA will need to make a claim for the new benefit. We will write to them to let them know when and how they can make a claim.

If a person's DLA award becomes subject to change after October 2013, for example if they have a change in their condition, or new evidence comes to light which means that we may need to look at their entitlement again, we will ask them if they want to claim PIP.

It will not be possible to review their DLA award. If they decide not to claim PIP, their DLA award will end.

Blackpool Benefits Centre, formerly known as the Disability Contact and Processing Unit, based at Warbreck House, Blackpool, will administer all reassessment activity.

We will shortly be consulting on these arrangements and other features of PIP. We will also begin to draft Regulations under the powers we have in the Welfare Reform Act 2012.



Read the detailed policy briefing about [reassessment](#) (DWP website)



Changes to Income Support for Lone Parents from 21 May 2012 (Lone Parent Obligations Extension)

Lone parents will start getting help to look for work earlier

Lone parents on Income Support whose child is aged five or over were informed by letter in March 2012, that starting from May 2012, if they are able to work they will need to move from Income Support to Jobseeker's Allowance. As part of this they will receive extra help to return to the workplace. Previously this change happened when their child was aged seven.

Those lone parents with a health condition or disability which limits their capability for work may be able to claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

Work and Pensions Minister Maria Miller said:

"We are determined to help more lone parents take their first steps into work, because we know that work is the best route out of poverty. That is why lone parents with younger children will now have additional access to the help and support they need, rather than being trapped on benefits."

"Getting a good balance between work and family responsibilities is important for every parent. Jobcentre Plus advisors will actively support lone parents so that they can get that balance right too."



Lone Parent Advisers at Jobcentre Plus will be on hand to give one-to-one advice on the range of support available including:

- training opportunities
- childcare
- help with job applications, and
- details of part-time or family friendly working in their area.

Work Programme providers will also be able to tailor flexible support to each lone parent's individual needs.



Take a look at more information about the changes for lone parents (Directgov website)

Social Justice Strategy

Tackling poverty has a new approach

The Social Justice strategy, launched by Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 13 March 2012 is a challenging new approach to tackling poverty.

The Strategy sets out the Government's commitment to tackling multiple disadvantage by addressing the root causes of the problems. The published strategy paper **Social Justice: transforming lives** defines what is involved in Social Justice and sets out some new principles and approaches. It includes real life stories about how these principles give people in the poorest communities the support and tools they need to turn their lives around.

We want to thank all of our stakeholders who took the time to share their thoughts and opinions on what Social Justice meant to them. We received a very positive response to the Social Justice survey in February 2012. For us to be able to analyse the results we have now closed the survey. We will use the information provided to inform future communication activity and the design of any supporting products.



Take a look at our Social Justice Online Hub (DWP website)



DWP Bereavement Service

Improvement to how we serve bereaved customers

People now only have to contact DWP once to report a death, following the launch of DWP's Bereavement Service in March 2011. The DWP Bereavement Service is a telephony based service administered by The Pension Service.

On 27 June 2011 a telephony system was introduced that routes calls to the next available agent regardless of their location. It was initially introduced to provide cover from 4pm to 8pm Monday to Friday. This proved to be successful and on 26 September 2011 it was extended to be available from 8am until 8pm.

Customer Improvements

The Bereavement Service is connected to the Tell Us Once (TUO) service, a cross government programme that enables people to inform the government once of a birth or death. Both services are delivering improvements for customers.

The DWP Bereavement Service offers:

- A consistent service as the customer only has to contact DWP once to report a death. The information is shared across the relevant business areas.
- A joined up customer focussed service, centred on their specific needs. Bereavement Service staff deal with the notification of the death and ensure that all bereaved customers are offered the service to check eligibility for up to 12 other DWP benefits.
- Completion of Social Fund Funeral Payment and Bereavement Benefit claim forms over the phone. The

customer doesn't need to sign the form or complete long and detailed benefit forms. Legislation was changed to allow this.

People using the Tell Us Once service benefit as the service notifies local authorities and numerous government departments, including:

- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- Identity and Passport Service, and
- Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

Customer Feedback

The findings from the DWP Insight Team evaluation in December 2010 highlighted that the service really meets customer needs. Here are some quotes from people who have used the service:

"I was impressed that it was all done in one call"

"I was surprised that a Public Service was that good and sympathetic and the staff were really well trained. It really made a difference to something I was dreading. I was treated like a human being".



Take a look at further details on [how to report a bereavement \(Directgov website\)](#) and on the [Tell Us Once service \(Directgov website\)](#)

Innovation Fund

Hoping to improve the employment prospects of young people

On 12 May 2011 the Government announced a package of measures to help address youth unemployment. These included a new Innovation Fund of up to £30 million over three years for social investment projects supporting disadvantaged young people and those at risk of disadvantage, particularly those aged 14 and over.

The Innovation Fund is available to generate new and innovative ideas and solutions to support the reversal of the rising trend of youth unemployment. Each social investment partnership will have considerable freedom to determine what activities each young person will undertake in order to help them into education and training and ultimately employment, without prescription from central government.

A social investment partnership will comprise of one or more investors and one or more delivery bodies. In some cases the partnerships may also include an intermediary organisation.

"The Innovation Fund is available to generate new and innovative ideas and solutions to support the reversal of the rising trend of youth unemployment."

The Innovation Fund will improve the employment prospects for young people by supporting disadvantaged young people to participate and succeed in education or training in order to achieve better employment outcomes. It will not duplicate any existing DWP or Department for Education programmes. The provision will be genuinely innovative and deliver support which would not otherwise be available.

The Innovation Fund is being procured in two bidding rounds. Round one has now been completed and we have announced that we are awarding six contracts which will go live in March this year. These are:

- Private Equity Foundation
- APM Ltd
- Stratford Development Partnership for Regeneration
- Indigo Project Solutions
- Nottingham City Council, and
- Triodos Bank plc

Round two is well underway and we will be awarding contracts in summer.



Find out more about the [Innovation Fund \(DWP website\)](#)



You can also email [DWP Innovation Fund Policy](#) if you have any questions

50+ Works

Positive findings for site supporting older jobseekers

DWP recently published the findings of a review of www.50plusworks.com. This is a free to use website designed to assist staff in provider organisations and Jobcentre Plus who are helping older jobseekers to return to work. The good practice guide and toolkit on the website was developed and is operated by The Age and Employment Network (TAEN). The development of 50+ Works was co-financed by DWP and European Social Fund (ESF) Technical Assistance.

The report found that:

- The website has been well received by its target audience and is seen as the reference tool of choice by providers working with older jobseekers.
- It is a comprehensive and convenient tool for advisers working with older jobseekers, having everything needed in one place, saving time and effort.

- The good practice guide and toolkit is appreciated as a completely free resource. In comparison, other advisory and skills based web-tools typically offer limited features for free and attempt to sell additional services.
- It has been used within provider organisations to train advisory staff. In turn, these staff have used specific sections of the website in conversations with older jobseekers, for example in challenging their own views that they are unemployable because of their age.
- The website receives an average of nearly 500 users per week.



Please take a look at the full report about [50plusworks](http://www.50plusworks.com) (DWP website)



Movement of work within the Pension, Disability and Carers Service

Phased changes to where claims are processed

Changes are taking place to where we process Disability Living Allowance (DLA) work, with some of the work moving to different offices this year. As some customer representative groups will be affected, we would like to share the following details.

When Manchester and Sutton Disability Benefit Centre (DBC) closed the DLA work moved to Warbreck House in Blackpool. This work will now move from Blackpool to the Disability Benefit Centre Network. This will be done in 2 phases.

Phase 1: From 26 March 2012

DLA new claims from the Manchester area including children will be re-directed. Postcodes affected are:

- BL, M, WN and WA will be redirected to Bootle DBC
- BB, OL and SK will be redirected Leeds DBC.

Phase 2: From 30 April 2012

DLA new claims from the south east of England including children will be re-directed. Postcodes affected are:

- BH, PO, RG, SL, SO and SP will be redirected to Bristol DBC
- CT, DA and ME will be redirected to Glasgow DBC
- BN, BR, GU, KT, RH, TN and TW will be redirected to Midlands DBC
- CR, SE, SM, SW, W and WC will be redirected to Wales DBC.

Customer representative groups affected by these changes do not need to do anything different. Three weeks before each phase of work, migrating DBC return envelopes will be issued with any new claim packs that are requested.

“Three weeks before each phase of work, migrating DBC return envelopes will be issued with any new claim packs that are requested.”

Spring Online 2012

Campaign aims to get older people online

Spring Online with Silver Surfers' Day 2012 runs from 23 to 27 April 2012. It is one of the biggest campaigns that gives older people and less confident users a taste of computers and the internet. After 11 years, it is still going strong and has helped over 150,000 people get more out of life online.

Last year over 2,500 organisations opened their doors, including living rooms, libraries and even pubs. Activities ranged from Wii sessions to online gardening parties. One great success was when a grandmother learnt how to email her grandson who was serving as a soldier in Afghanistan. She was amazed and delighted to get an instant reply.

Our Secretary of State, Iain Duncan Smith, hosted the best event awards where the campaign received a Nominet Internet Award for Building a Networked Nation.

Seven million older people in the UK have never used the internet and DWP is committed to helping them become digitally included by promoting local access and training sessions. Not using the internet can mean people are missing out on a huge range of benefits, from discounted offers to keeping in touch with friends and family.

In a survey for Digital Unite, 72% said being online reduced their feelings of isolation, giving a vital reason to help get them connected.



Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion, said: "There are still a staggering 8.2 million people in the UK who are yet to experience how magic the internet is. Fantastic initiatives like Spring Online play a vital role in highlighting these benefits and helping us achieve the ambition of creating a truly networked UK."

"Seven million older people in the UK have never used the internet and DWP is committed to helping them become digitally included"

DWP has a range of online services for our older people such as the state pension calculator and the future wallet calculator.



Further information box: Find our more about [Spring Online events](#) (Digital Unite website), and take a look at information about DWP's online services on the [Directgov website](#) and the [DWP website](#).

Other news in brief...

Industrial Injuries Advisory Council Public Meeting


The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) is holding its next public meeting on 28 June 2012 at Weetwood Hall Conference Centre & Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds.

The meeting is for members of the public and people with a professional interest in occupational diseases and the industrial injuries scheme.

This meeting will:

- give an opportunity to learn about the work of the Council
- describe the process of prescribing occupational diseases for the purposes of industrial injuries disablement benefit
- seek public opinion about new issues of concern in occupational health, and
- provide an opportunity to contribute views and ideas about issues that IIAC should look at and on IIAC's future programme.

 Find out more about [IIAC and its work](#) (IIAC website)


 For more information, please contact [Zarina Hajee](#), IIAC Secretariat on 020 7449 5619.

Changes to contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance

On 30 April 2012, measures contained in the Welfare Reform Act 2012 will take effect. The measures will time-limit contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for people in the Work Related Activity Group to 365 days and also prevent new claims on grounds of ESA Youth.

We have started contacting claimants whose benefit will end before 3 June 2012 and who have not been assessed for income-related ESA. As part of this contact, claimants will be asked if they want to be considered for a claim to income-related ESA. Claimants whose benefit ends on or after 4 June 2012 will receive eight weeks notification. Those with underlying entitlement to income-related will automatically receive this when their contribution-based ESA ends.

People in the Support Group and those solely claiming income-related ESA are not affected.

 Take a look at further information on the [DWP Website](#).

Other news in brief...

PIP Consultation

Following Royal Assent of the Welfare Reform Bill, DWP has published a consultation on the detailed benefit rules that will underpin PIP. The consultation asks for views on a number of aspects of the proposed regulations including eligibility to the benefit and payment of the benefit for certain groups. It also contains more details on how we will reassess DLA recipients and what the passporting arrangements will be under PIP.

The consultation is now open and runs until 30 June 2012. If you'd like to get involved then visit the [PIP pages](#) of the DWP website to see full details of the consultation.