

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments

How to make suggestions,
comments and complaints



Independent Assessment Services and your PIP claim

We are Independent Assessment Services. We conduct Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Our job is to help DWP understand how your health condition or disability affects your daily life.

Our aim is to treat you fairly and with respect and dignity throughout the consultation process, making your experience a positive one.

We recognise the benefit of letting you share your own experiences of our service and we are committed to making sure you get the level of service you expect and deserve.

What we promise to do

- 1 We will speak with you as **soon as possible**, at a time and a place that **suits your needs** (whether that's at a different consultation centre, visiting you at your own home or via a telephone consultation)
 - 2 We will **update** you right away if anything about your appointment changes
 - 3 We will **listen carefully** to everything that you tell us about your health condition or disability
 - 4 We will only use **approved** Health Professionals **trained** in disability analysis
 - 5 We will give DWP a **fair** and **accurate** report as fast as we can
 - 6 We will **protect** your personal information
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You can also look at our website at **www.mypipassessment.co.uk** to find out this information if that's easier for you.

We welcome feedback and comments

If you have had a good experience at your consultation appointment, please let us know so that we can pass on your positive comments to the team members who you met with. You might also have a suggestion about something you think we could improve on.

Simply fill out the form on pages 7 and 8, then post it back to us, or contact our Customer Service Team on **0800 188 4880** (North of England & Scotland) or **0800 188 4881** (Southern England) to give us your feedback.

We might also ask you to complete a satisfaction survey to make sure we hear your views on how we have done. This will help us make our service better.

Unhappy with the outcome of your claim?

Speak to DWP

Independent Assessment Services does not make any decisions about your claim.

If you think the report or the decision is wrong, or if an error has been made you should contact DWP on **0800 121 4433** or textphone **0800 121 4493**. They will also be able to advise you of the process to follow if you disagree with their decision.

Unhappy about your consultation experience?

Speak to us

If you feel that we didn't deliver a satisfactory standard of service during your consultation or while we reviewed your case, please see the following pages for information on how to make a complaint.

Reading your assessment report

We are unable to provide you with a copy of your assessment report, but you can request one from DWP once they have reached a decision on your claim. Again, please contact DWP directly using either of the numbers on the left.

How to make a complaint

If you'd like to make a complaint in writing, the feedback form on pages 7 and 8 will help you to include all the information we need to be able to look at your issue properly. Please remember to tell us your National Insurance number.

Alternatively, you can contact our Customer Service Team on **0800 188 4880** (North of England & Scotland) or **0800 188 4881** (Southern England).

Getting help making a complaint

The staff at our Consultation Centres are trained to help you raise an issue. However, if you feel more comfortable asking somebody independent to make a complaint for you, you can speak to:

- a friend or family member
- Citizens Advice
- Welfare Rights

Please note that we can only respond to one of the people above if we have your written consent to do so.

Returning the feedback form at the back of this leaflet is the easiest way to give your consent, or you can give us a signed letter instead.

A step-by-step guide to our complaint process

If you decide you want to make a complaint, it's important to understand the process we use to address any problems you might have. Here's how it works:

- 1 We receive your complaint and register it on our computer systems
- 2 Your allocated Case Officer will write to you to let you know we have received your complaint (within 2 working days)
- 3 We take all complaints seriously and review every one. We aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days, including those we need to investigate in more detail. However, should our investigations take longer, you will be kept up to date by letter
- 4 You will be sent a Final Response letter, complete with the Case Officer's phone number. If you are satisfied with our response then no further action is required
- 5 If you disagree with our response please contact your Case Officer to tell us why you think we are wrong. A Senior Manager will then review your case to see if anything has been missed and start a further investigation if appropriate
- 6 If we decide that no further investigation is required, we will write to you to confirm our decision
- 7 Should you still be unhappy, we will send you a letter detailing what you can do next – this includes information on how to contact the Independent Case Examiner (ICE)

To find out more about what the ICE can do for you, please turn to the next page of this leaflet.

Requesting an independent review

If you've been through our complaints process, you've received a final response and you still aren't happy, you may ask the Independent Case Examiner (ICE) to look at your complaint. The ICE will act as an impartial referee and if they think we should have done more to help you, they will ask us to put it right.

You must contact the ICE within 6 months of getting our final response and you must also send them a copy of your original complaint letter or email. You will not be asked to pay them for their services.

To get in touch with the Independent Case Examiner call **0800 414 8529** or go to **www.ind-case-exam.org.uk**

Please note, the ICE cannot look at anything to do with legal matters and government policy, nor will they look at benefit or maintenance decisions – you are able to appeal these elsewhere.

Need extra help reading our documents?

Should you need it, we can also provide this leaflet in an easy-to-access format. For example, you can ask us to give you the information in braille, in large print, on audio CD or on coloured paper. Please contact our Customer Service Centre to discuss.

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About you

Claimant's Details

Title: _____ Surname: _____

Forename(s): _____

Date of birth: _____

National Insurance No:

If you are the claimant please give your contact details here. Alternatively, if you are representing the claimant, please give your own contact details.

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

Please tick and complete one of the following sections:

I am the claimant

Claimant signature: _____ Date: _____

I am the claimant's representative

My full name: _____

My signature: _____ Date: _____

Please provide the claimant's authorisation here (to be completed by the claimant). I hereby consent for Independent Assessment Services to respond to the above named person in connection with this correspondence.

Claimant signature: _____

Please tell us your suggestions, comments, or complaints on the next page.

