

**Quick response email re PIP consultation - please edit to personalise for your own views if you can.**

To: [consultation.modernisingsupport@DWP.GOV.UK](mailto:consultation.modernisingsupport@DWP.GOV.UK)

Re: Modernising support for independent living: the health and disability green paper

To whom it may concern

I completely object to the proposed reforms in this green paper and I think all the proposals/policies should be abandoned.

Any proposals to reform PIP should be undertaken in genuine co-production with Disabled People and have our safety and dignity at its core.

The UN Committee on the Rights of Disabled People found in 2016 that austerity and welfare policies were leading to grave and systematic violations of Disabled People's Human Rights. Earlier this year (2024), the same UN Committee did not see any progress in addressing those violations, moreover, it documented evidence of retrogression. In particular, the UN Committee found that the government does not consult with Disabled people and our organisations as it is obliged to and uses a "rhetoric that devalues disabled people and undermines their human dignity". I believe that the current green paper and consultation continue this violation of our rights and dignity.

**My concerns about the proposals in the green paper include:**

- The introduction of any of the policies in this green paper would increase barriers in multiple areas of life for disabled people. The premise of the proposed reforms violates the dignity of disabled people and our rights to make decisions about how we want to live independent lives.
- PIP needs to remain a cash benefit, based on the functional impact of health conditions, taking into account the need for aids, appliances, prompting and more across all the current PIP activities. It should remain non-means tested.

- PIP should be assessed in a way that centres the dignity of the disabled person, with reviews only when absolutely necessary (and much longer than typical at present). By definition of being disabled, many people's conditions and their functional impairment will be permanent, so no reviews would be necessary where this is the case.
- This green paper fails to address the clear reasons why PIP claims have increased, such as the changes to the WCA, the cost-of-living crisis, housing crisis, in-work poverty, very high (69%) food bank referral rates for disabled people, and the NHS crisis. These underlying reasons should be addressed urgently and before any reform to PIP is considered.

### **Concerns about the consultation:**

- I am concerned that the calling of the General Election has redirected attention away from this consultation and will negatively affect the response rate, especially as it was against rules to promote consultations during a General Election period. I believe that this and all other similarly affected consultations should be cancelled, and the incoming Labour government should abandon the proposals. If necessary, they could then commit to co-producing new proposals with disabled people.
- I am concerned that the documentation for this consultation is too dense, long and technical. This makes it difficult for those who are at risk of being negatively affected by the proposals to engage fully or at all with this process.
- Those who have already been most harmed by the 'grave and systemic abuses of human rights of disabled people in the UK' are least able to respond to a formal consultation; more still will not respond out of fear of targeting for expressing negative opinions about the proposals. This is exacerbated by the use of Artificial Intelligence in and across government departments to flag people's files.
- This consultation requires disabled people and our organisations to spend significant amounts of unpaid time reading, understanding and responding to this consultation. A humane process that centres the human rights of

Disabled People would pay us and our organisations for our genuine involvement and co-production of any reforms.

- I believe that the questions in the online form are formulated to encourage answers that support the proposed reforms, rather than collate genuine, fully informed responses to this consultation.

I am responding to this consultation by email as I object to the premise of the questions in the online form, which violate the dignity of disabled people. PIP must remain a non-means tested cash benefit based on the functional impact of impairments and health conditions. Any reform needs to be co-produced with disabled people and our organisations before being put out to consultation.

Regards