

PIP Fact or Fiction?

Myth-busting Personal Independence Payments

Since the introduction of PIP there has been lots of discussion between claimants, professionals and others sharing information and tips for claiming and attending the assessment. Some of this is really helpful, but there are also myths that may cause distress for people making claims. Homeless Link's Community of Practice for frontline staff in Birmingham has helped to sort fact from fiction:

1. Most new claims for PIP are completed over the phone – True

This is true, and some people find this difficult as they are not fully prepared or find it difficult to communicate over the phone. People can claim on a paper form (or in other accessible formats) and should do this if they don't feel confident claiming over the phone.

2. You cannot take someone with you to the PIP assessment – False

Claimants have the right to be accompanied to the assessment. They can take a friend, carer or professional and should do this if they feel more confident and comfortable at the assessment.

3. Assessments are secretly filmed – False

Assessments are not filmed. They can be recorded at the request of the claimant but this needs to be agreed and arranged in advance.

4. DLA remains in place for children under 16 and older people – True

When young people turn 16 they will be written to and invited to claim PIP.

5. Every claim is turned down in the first instance – False

Some claims are turned down, but some are successful.

6. It is helpful if support workers or other professionals can write a letter of support for an individual to take to their assessment – True

This can be helpful if an individual struggles to communicate some of their difficulties.

7. Some assessment centres are not wheelchair accessible – True

Home visits and appointments at other assessment centres are available, if someone is concerned about this they should let the DWP know about their access needs.

8. You are watched from the car park or outside the building to see how you walk/move when outdoors – True

PIP assessors are trying to gather a full picture of your needs and will observe how someone moves around outside of the assessment room.

Let's end homelessness together

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