

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE
WOMEN AND WELFARE INQUIRY
ANONYMOUS WRITTEN SUBMISSION

I am a 54 year old woman living with Secondary Breast Cancer. My condition was diagnosed in 2011 Primary and Secondary at the same time, and is incurable. I live with my husband and two children in a privately rented flat.

I was recently reassessed for PIP, although not interviewed personally, and was deemed not eligible under the new rules, as I can stand for short periods, and walk across the road.

My DLA of £50 a week was stopped in January of this year, and as a consequence I also lost access to my bus pass, which, as we don't have a car, was a lifeline for me for getting to hospital appointments etc.

Since being diagnosed with cancer, my husband has had to take over as Carer for our son, (he has mild cerebral palsy and learning difficulties from a brain injury at birth) as I find it very difficult to manage because of fatigue and treatment side effects.

Another consequence of losing PIP is that we have had a significant reduction in Income Support, and due to our daughter being away at University, we are now only eligible for a portion of our rent, due to the Bedroom Tax.

We do not smoke or drink and have always worked in the past.

Our situation is becoming increasingly difficult, and we have no idea how we will cope in the coming months.

The DLA I was receiving was helping towards buying better quality foods and supplements to keep my immune system as strong as possible. I am already suffering the effects of having to give these up, and have been on 3 courses of antibiotics since January.

It is depressing enough to have an incurable cancer, without being penalised further by Government Reform. I am presently appealing my PIP refusal, but doubt it will get us far. It is all very stressful.

I am interested in the fact that you are looking at how Welfare Reform will affect Women, as I rather fear Welfare is being constantly chipped away at, and Women and the Disabled are an easy target.