

SUBMISSION FROM CRAIG TUCKER

I would like to add my comments on the changes to the welfare benefit.

I am physically disabled. I have Cerebral Palsy. I walk with sticks. I currently receive LRC and HRM of DLA. This benefit helps me a great deal. The lower rate care component helps me pay for a cleaner to tidy and clean my house, and also help me with things like ironing.

The HRM helps me get around. I use the money in exchange for a car on Motability. I work and having a car helps me a great deal. Not only does it give me independence, it also helps me keep me in a job. I work 30 miles away, so having a car is essential for me. Having Motability is also important, as it is a all in one trouble free package. Having DLA also passports me into other benefits like Blue Badge scheme, Free bus pass, Free Road tax.

However, I am concerned with the Government's plans to replace DLA with a new benefit, PIP. Having done the practice 2nd draft assessment questionnaire, I may not qualify for the standard rate of the care component of PIP. This would be bad news for me, as having it enables me to get help for things in the house. I also fear that I wouldn't qualify for the enhanced rate of PIP, only standard rate. If this were to happen, then I risk losing my Motability car. This would be devastating for me. I could then lose my job as I would have no form of transport to get to work. I also worry I would lose the other passporting benefits i.e. Blue Badge, Free bus pass, Free Road tax. I would also lose my independence.

I think the Scottish Government need to be aware of the implications of the UK Government's plans to change DLA. Thousands of disabled people are going to lose some or all of their benefits. Without essential support, disabled people risk being housebound, losing their independence, and their quality of life.

I am aware that the Scottish Government's hands are tied when it comes down to the UK Government's legalisation, however, the Scottish Government have to make sure that some of the passporting benefits remain for people who only get standard Mobility PIP i.e. Blue Badge, Free Bus pass, Free Road tax. If this does not happen, then it will make disabled people's lives even more difficult in Scotland.

I hope my views are listened to.

Thanks

Craig Tucker