

# Summary of the government's proposals

1. Introduce a new rule for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). To receive a Daily Living award, you must score at least four points for one of the ten questions for that component.
2. Raise the age at which you can start claiming PIP, from 16 to 18.
3. In the long-term, scrap the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and, instead, use the PIP health assessment to assess entitlement for the Universal Credit (UC) Health Element.
4. In the short-term, increase the number of face-to-face PIP and WCA health assessments.
5. Explore whether people's health records can be shared digitally with the DWP, so that people do not have to spend time gathering lots of documents to send to the DWP.
6. Make the audio recording of a PIP or WCA health assessment standard procedure, as opposed to something that you can request.
7. Explore the possibility of exempting from health assessments those who have had severe health conditions since childhood.
8. Introduce legislation which means that people who are not in employment but want to try work can do so in a way which does not immediately trigger a PIP or WCA review.
9. Increase the UC Standard Allowance e.g. a single person who is 25+ will receive an extra £7 per week from April 2026.
10. For those who currently receive UC, freeze the UC Health Element at £97 per week until the end of March 2030.
11. For new UC claims, set the Health Element at £50 per week and freeze it until the end of March 2030, whilst giving those who have the most severe, life-long health conditions, with no prospect of improvement, an additional amount and an exemption from reassessment.
12. Restrict access to the UC Health Element by only allowing those who are 22+ to apply, not 16+.
13. Establish a Youth Guarantee of employment support, training, or an apprenticeship for all 18 to 21 year olds.
14. Replace New Style Employment and Support Allowance and New Style Job Seeker's Allowance with one new Unemployment Insurance benefit which can be claimed for up to twelve months.
15. Improve the methods that the DWP uses to try to help people get into work.
16. Take measures to make more workplaces accessible and inclusive by supporting employers accordingly and improving the Access to Work scheme.

# Ways that you can speak up



## Write to your local MP

**Paul Kohler** Liberal Democrat MP for Wimbledon  
paul.kohler.mp@parliament.uk

**Siobhain McDonagh** Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden  
siobhain.mcdonagh.mp@parliament.uk

## Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

**Liz Kendall** liz.kendall.mp@parliament.uk

## Write to local Councillors

There are 57 Councillors, across four political groups. Two or three Councillors represent your ward. If you do not know who they are and/or how to contact them, ask Merton CIL staff for help.

## Contact Merton CIL

If you have any follow up comments, please use the contact details below to get in touch.



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