

Timms Review Co-Chairs
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill St
London
SW1H 9NA

25th February 2026

Dear Co-chairs,

Appointment of Timms Review steering group

We are writing as disabled people who receive PIP and on behalf of charities and disabled people's organisations following your recent update letter for February 2026.

We welcome the announcement that the Timms Review is getting underway. The Review, which the government committed to co-produce with disabled people during the passage of the Universal Credit Act through Parliament, provides an opportunity to rebuild trust in the DWP and social security system. Getting co-production right is a vital part of that process. As you note, this is the first time the UK government has undertaken co-production on this scale, and we are committed to helping to ensure its success.

We are encouraged by your recent announcement of the Review steering group's membership. We particularly welcome that almost all members have lived experience of disability or long-term health conditions, and that care has been taken to ensure a diverse group. It's clear that you have appointed a passionate, dedicated and expert group with a commitment to disability rights and equality.

However, as you rightly acknowledge, no group of people on its own can fully reflect the experiences of all disabled people receiving PIP. It will therefore be critical to ensure that the Review engages widely and effectively with a wide range of people who receive this benefit.

We feel it is crucial that your forthcoming programme of engagement prioritises engaging with people who receive both PIP and means-tested benefits. While around one in five people who receive PIP are employed, most PIP claimants also receive means-tested out-of-work benefits.¹ More broadly, 28% of disabled people live in poverty.² This group will be particularly affected by any changes to PIP that arise from the Review – especially those who receive the health element of universal credit, which will be linked to PIP under the reformed system.

¹ Inequalities (2024) *How far is PIP an out-of-work benefit?* Available at: <https://inequalities.substack.com/p/how-far-is-pip-an-out-of-work-benefit>.

Department for Work and Pensions (2025) *Pathways to Work: Reforming benefits and support to get Britain working – Evidence pack, Chapter 2: Reforming the structure*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper/pathways-to-work-evidence-pack-chapter-2-reforming-the-structure#employment-of-pip-claimants>

² Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2026) *UK Poverty 2026: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK*. Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2026-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk>

The lack of clarity about what this engagement will look like is causing concern for some disabled people in this group. Roxie, a member of Z2K's disability benefits expert by experience group who receives both PIP and universal credit, said: *'For people like me, PIP is not an abstract policy issue. It is what keeps us safe, housed, warm, and able to cope. When a process is presented as fair, transparent and grounded in lived experience, but I cannot see people who rely on PIP to survive reflected at steering level, it creates a deep unease.'*

Without clarity and advanced notice on timelines and opportunities to contribute, disabled people and organisations cannot prepare or participate meaningfully. Co-production requires transparency and power-sharing, and it is vital that the design of the Review process maintains the trust of disabled people, MPs and other key stakeholders.

We are therefore setting out some constructive suggestions that will help you to ensure that the Review has effective and meaningful engagement, embeds transparency throughout its process, and monitors and evaluates its success. We recommend that you:

1. Urgently publish a detailed plan and timetable for the programme of engagement, including advance notice of any questions or topic areas for events or roundtables, to allow disabled people and organisations to prepare.
2. Ensure that disabled people who rely on both PIP and means-tested benefits are prioritised in this engagement.
3. Regularly publish agendas, workplans and high-level anonymised minutes of Review steering group meetings.
4. Publish any internal DWP analysis or data that is presented to or discussed by the Review steering group.
5. Publish interim and final evaluation reports to maintain trust throughout the process, and ensure this seeks feedback from both steering group members and disabled people and organisations who have participated in the wider programme of engagement.

The steps outlined above set out practical steps that would meaningfully strengthen the Review, increase confidence among disabled people, and help ensure its conclusions are robust, credible and rooted in lived experience. We welcome the positive indications so far about how the Review is being taken forward, particularly the emphasis you have placed on co-production and transparency. We look forward to engaging with you as this work develops and to supporting a process that delivers reforms disabled people can trust.

We ask that you share this letter with all members of the Review steering group.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Washington, Interim Director of Income & External Affairs, Turn2us

Rose Grayston, Interim Director of Policy & Engagement, Z2K

Turn2us Campaign Co-Production Group

Z2K Disability Benefits Expert by Experience Group

Jenny Hurst, Independent Living Coordinator, Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea (ADKC)

Sue Millman, Chief Executive, Ataxia UK

Dr Helne Bulbeck, Director of Policy and Services, Brainstrust

Paula Peters, Disability Rights Activist, Bromley & Croydon Disabled People Against Cuts

Nicola Burgess, CEO, Bromley Experts by Experience

Andrew Clark, Chair of Trustees, BuDS Disability Service

Patrick O'Dowd, Director, Caritas Salford

Simone Aspis, Changing Perspectives

Geoff Fimister, Co-Chair, Disability Benefits Consortium

Jo Mitchell, Senior Welfare Benefits Adviser, Disability Law Service

Vici Richardson, Chief Executive, Disability North

Jess Tait, Policy and Communications Manager, Disability Positive

Fazilet Hadi MBE, Head of Policy, Disability Rights UK

Linda Burnip, Co-Founder, Disabled People Against Cuts

Rachael Tomlinson, Chair of Publicity Group and Joint Chair Steering Group, End Social Care Disgrace

Bill Blackwood, Actor, Equity

Tom Peters, Head of Policy & Public Affairs, Equity

Natalie Amber, Actor/Dancer, Equity Deaf and Disabled members committee

Chris Brill, CEO, Expert Link

Amanda Grace, Factory of Love

Abigail Wood, CEO, Gingerbread

Paula Ojok, Chief Executive, Helplines Partnership

Caroline Collier, CEO, Inclusion Barnet & the Campaign for Disability Justice

Sabine Goodwin, Director, Independent Food Aid Network

Paul Bristow, Chief Executive, Kidney Care UK

Dr Dylan Murphy, Kirklees and Calderdale ME Support Group (personal capacity)

Nimrod Ben-Cnaan, Head of Policy and Profile, Law Centres Network

Jackie O'Sullivan, Executive Director of Strategy & Influence, Mencap

Brian Dow, CEO, Mental Health UK

Tom Pollard, Head of Policy, Public Affairs and Campaigns, Mind

Charlotte Gill, Head of Campaigns and Public Affairs, MS Society

Jill Hamilton, Head of Policy and Health Services, National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society

Andrea Brown, Chief Executive, National Kidney Federation

Thomas Stephens, Senior Fellow, New Economics Foundation

Juliet Tizzard, Director of External Relations, Parkinson's UK

Andrew Lee, People First

Deven Ghelani, CEO, Policy in Practice

Mark Winstanley, Chief Executive, Rethink Mental Illness

Lucy Byrne, Chief Executive, Richmond AID

Jane Green MBE, Chair, SEDSConnective

Ella Smith, Welfare Rights Policy Lead, The ME Association

Nick Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, Together for Short Lives

Transport for All

Helen Barnard, Director of Policy and Research, Trussell

Dr Sara Reis, Interim Director, UK Women's Budget Group

Ciaran Stewart

Daneka Etchells

Tracy Jones