



BuDS Disability Service

Charity No 1102511

www.buds.org.uk | 01494 211179 | info@buds.org.uk

*Registered Address (no callers): BuDS, c/o B P Collins LLP,
20 Station Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 8EL*

Formerly Buckinghamshire Disability Service BuDS



PRESS RELEASE

13 July 2026

BuDS Disability Service Calls For 'Meaningful, Positive' Reform of PIP

BuDS Disability Service has responded to the Interim Report from the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). While welcoming that the Review has concluded that the PIP application and assessment process is 'not fit for purpose', the user-led charity has called for 'meaningful, positive' reform of PIP so that the benefit helps integrate disabled people into society, rather than exclude them.

Responding to the Interim Report on behalf of BuDS Disability Service, Andrew Clark, Chair of Trustees, said:

"Disabled people want to be part of society, but they face barriers which exclude them. Overcoming those barriers costs money, and PIP is supposed to compensate disabled people for the additional cost of simply being a normal member of society. Scope has calculated that households with a disabled person need at least £1100 extra per month just to play a normal role in society. PIP currently contributes less than half that amount on average, so clearly PIP payment levels need to substantially increase.

"Alongside payment levels, the PIP application and assessment process needs to be completely replaced. When PIP was designed in 2010-11, the stated intent of the then Government was to cut the cost of disability benefits by a fifth. PIP was designed to achieve that cut, not to meet the legitimate needs of disabled people. The hideously complicated and irrational scoring system, the intrusive and traumatic assessment and re-assessment process, the employment of unaccountable private assessment companies: these all arise from that intention to make disability benefits hard to claim and retain, so as to make cuts".

"The Timms Review now has the opportunity to sweep away the conscious and deliberate brutality of the past and introduce a positive and life-affirming application and review process for PIP. Disabled people need to be able to freely and easily get the help with the additional costs they face because they are disabled, and to get that support adjusted when their circumstances change. The appalling current system where disabled people fear losing PIP because DWP may arbitrarily change their mind, or make assumptions without evidence, must end".

"The new application process for PIP must be streamlined and sensible. So far as possible, disabled people diagnosed with permanent medical conditions with predictable impacts on their daily living and mobility should receive PIP by default. Anyone diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia or a spinal injury, for example, is likely to face significant additional costs arising from their condition; it is inefficient, wastes taxpayer funds and is brutal and cruel to subject disabled people to a detailed assessment when it is obvious from the nature of their diagnosis that they will face additional costs in living a normal life. And the absurd, costly and

harsh DWP practice of making fixed term PIP awards and forcing disabled people into cycles of constant reassessment must end”.

“Disabled people who work may face extra costs because they are a disabled worker compared to disabled people who do not work, and PIP’s structure should reflect that. The overlapping roles of PIP and Access to Work need to be eliminated. In the same way, disabled people who are students may face extra costs because they are a disabled student compared to disabled people who are not studying, and the overlapping role of Disabled Students Allowance needs to be eliminated. PIP should be a single gateway to the financial compensation for extra costs that disabled people need to support them in their normal lives as normal members of society”.

“Finally, PIP needs to be seen as an investment by society in disabled people, who make up a fifth of society. With reform of the DWP and with appropriate help, millions of disabled people will be able to stop leading passive, furtive lives, hiding from the DWP, and become productive positive and proud contributors to their society, as workers, volunteers, parents and carers. PIP must become a major driver and enabler of economic and social growth, tapping into a huge latent reservoir of talent, skills and determination”.

BuDS Disability Service, which is a disabled-led charity and community of disabled people across England, will continue to participate in the Timms review and represent the interests of disabled people.

(ends)

Contact: Andrew Clark, andrewc@buds.org.uk, 07811 142935