Independent Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Law Centre Conference

Independent Reviewer Marie Cavanagh

22 October 2020
Background

➢ First Independent Review of PIP conducted by Walter Rader in June 2018.

➢ Marie Cavanagh was appointed by the Department for Communities on 3 February 2020.

➢ The Second Independent Review and is being carried out in accordance with the Welfare Reform (NI) Order 2015.

➢ The Department appointed an Independent Scrutiny Group to provide constructive challenge and support to the Reviewer.

➢ Independent Scrutiny Group members are Mary-Anne Webb (Mencap), Walter Rader (OBE DL MA Dip YCS ), Siobhan Rooney (MSc. RN RM Dip HV Dip HSM) and Majella McAteer (British Deaf Association).
Terms of Reference

▪ to evaluate the progress made on recommendations arising from the first Review.

▪ to evaluate awareness and experience of the PIP assessment process for new applications, award reviews and people reporting changes.

▪ to evaluate the process to ensure the most appropriate assessment type is selected, paper-based reviews, face to face at the Assessment centre or the home.

▪ to evaluate of the effectiveness of the arrangements for ensuring accurate reports are produced.

▪ to evaluate how effectively further evidence is being used to assist the correct claim decision, exploring the balance between how much and the type of evidence we source and what we ask people to provide.
Call for Evidence and Methodology

The Review will be informed by a variety of sources in order to fully understand the PIP process. These include:

❖ Public Call for Evidence which launched on Wednesday 4\textsuperscript{th} March and closed at 5.00pm on 16\textsuperscript{th} October 2020 to encourage replies from claimants, their families and individuals involved in supporting people through the process.

❖ Meetings with a variety of staff within Department for Communities, including PIP staff.

❖ Meetings with Capita staff.

❖ Meetings with representative organisations, charities, support and disability organisations.

❖ Evidence submitted will be used to inform a final independent report which will be laid in the Assembly by 11 December 2020.
Finally

Questions