



**Services
operated
from our
Bath office**

DeafPLUS

Information and Advice

We provide one-to-one confidential Information & Advice services including in English and BSL across England. Our goal is to help D/deaf and hard of hearing people develop their independence and wellbeing.

The Information & Advice support we offer includes, but is not limited to:

- Benefits
- Housing
- Debt
- Employment
- Independent living

Equipment for Home & Life

deafPLUS can provide an equipment assessment and maintenance service for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

The equipment we supply includes:

- TV Listeners
- Alerting devices and doorbells
- Personal listening devices
- Telephone amplifiers
- Flashing and vibrating smoke alarms
(Referrals made to the Fire service)
- Batteries and tubing (we don't supply hearing aids) Limited supplies.

Information and Advice session appointments can be booked on

**01225 446555 or email
stewart.weston@deafplus.org**

We offer a complimentary Deaf/Blind VI Service

visionPLUS offer similar services to deafPLUS except that the service is tailored to the needs of people facing sight loss.

Bath is contracted through HCRG to provide our service (HCRG provide Health and Social Care in Bath and North East Somerset).

We offer a range of services which is tailored to each individual client. Some of the services we provide are:

- Information about living with sight loss, eye conditions and sight loss.
- General Advice with regards to coping with sight loss
- Advocacy: support with difficult issues
- Benefits Advice: including form filling, attendance at medical assessments, dealing with reconsiderations and attendance at Tribunals
- Equipment: we offer a try before you buy on a majority of our visually Impaired equipment.
- visionPLUS signpost to relevant health services and social/rehabilitation services.

deafPLUS TV on YouTube or Facebook



DWP rule changes mean some people on PIP could be owed payments of up to £12,865

As many as eleven million people could be owed large sums of money

Millions of people in the UK on Personal Independence Payments (PIP) could be owed up to £12,865 each thanks to rule changes at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP update affects those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Following the tribunal ruling, from 21st August 2020, there has been a change in how the DWP considers whether someone can wash or bathe safely, as part of the PIP assessment.

If a deaf or hearing-impaired claimant is not able to hear a standard fire alarm while washing or bathing, although the risk from a fire is low, the DWP will now consider whether a visual alarm - such as an aid or appliance - is needed, or supervision if a visual alarm would not be appropriate, when washing or bathing safely.

New guidance on GOV.UK confirms that the DWP will be reviewing claims made on or after 21st August 2020, including those where PIP was not awarded.

Which claims are being reviewed?

The DWP said: "We are now looking at PIP claims from deaf or hearing-impaired people who may be affected by this change. This includes reviewing some claims we decided on or after 21st August 2020, including ones where we did not award PIP.

"We are not planning to ask you to provide any further evidence or invite you for an assessment as part of this review. We will be looking at information we already have about your hearing impairment from your PIP claim."

The DWP will not look again at your claim if:

You were awarded the enhanced rate of the daily living part of PIP continuously since 21st August 2020

A Tribunal has decided on your claim since 21st August 2020

It decided not to award you PIP before 21st August 2020

What happens next?

The DWP explained: "If we review your claim, we will write to you, and you do not need to contact us. It may take some time for you to get this letter.

"If we decide that you should get more PIP, then your award will usually be backdated to 21st August 2020. If you claimed PIP after 21st August 2020, it will usually be backdated to the date you started getting PIP."

The DWP also said that you should consider applying for PIP again if you think you may now be eligible.

The change to PIP law will apply to all new claims and has been applied to all PIP decisions since 17th May 2021.

How much could you receive in backdated payments?

PIP award turned down

Someone who is deaf or has a hearing impairment, who applied for PIP and received no award for either the Daily Living or Mobility component, on or after 21st August, 2020, could receive a maximum backdated pay out of up to £12,865. This figure is based on someone who went from receiving no award on 21st August, 2020, to receiving the enhanced award for both components on 5th April, 2022 and was worked out using the Benefits and Work PIP Payment Calculator.