

Hello,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to write to thank you for sending in your account of the PIP process. I know from personal experience that it can be difficult to talk about, so I really appreciate that you have taken the time and trouble to do so.

It is my hope that through talking about this and collecting as many PIP stories as we can, that we will be able to help make the case for positive changes to be made to the process and how it is carried out.

I wanted to give you some information about what is being done, some insight into the practical arrangements for this work and future plans.

### **Why am I receiving this message?**

this message is being sent to everyone who sent in a PIP story via the website [www.disabilityspeaks.com](http://www.disabilityspeaks.com) or via email.

This document is also available on [www.disabilityspeaks.com/pip-stories](http://www.disabilityspeaks.com/pip-stories).

### **What will happen to my story?**

Your story will be read carefully and then looked at as part of work to identify common themes that have come from the accounts that everyone has sent in. The information sent in will be stored securely and not shared with anyone else.

### **How will the PIP stories be used?**

The PIP stories will be used to improve the PIP process in a number of ways including by writing about the themes that arise from the stories as a whole. Individuals will not be able to be identified from any information that is used so as to maintain anonymity and confidentiality.

Due to wishing to maintain transparency, to keep people informed, and the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), where there are specific ways in which the stories may be used in future, then I will write to you to seek your consent for this.

### **Can I withdraw my story?**

Consent to use your story can be withdrawn for up to and including 1 month and 1 day after sending it in.

After this point, it is possible that your data will have been used as part of the work, but you will not be able to be identified from any information that is used.

Withdrawing after this point would ensure that you were removed from any future work, for which consent would also be sought.

### **How is this work funded?**

This work is being completed on an independent and voluntary basis, and is not funded by or affiliated to any organisations.

### **I'm having some problems as a result of my PIP experiences, what can I do?**

There are lots of sources of advice and support to help people claiming PIP. Support with PIP is available from [Citizens Advice](#) and the [Disability Law Service](#). Many disability charities and disabled peoples organisations are also able to provide guidance, and to signpost to other sources of support.

It is **essential** that if you are feeling low and/or are worried that you cannot keep yourself safe that you get some help to support you. Sources of advice and support for if you are feeling low [are here](#).

### **Can I get some more information?**

Yes. Please use [this form](#) to get in touch and request some more information.

Chris Whitaker  
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