

Adult Disability Payment: Consultation on the Mobility Component: Easy Read

January 2023

Introduction



Adult Disability Payment is a benefit for disabled people to help with the extra costs of being disabled.

~~Personal Independence Payment~~

Adult Disability Payment



Adult Disability Payment has replaced Personal Independence Payment in Scotland.



Personal Independence Payment is sometimes called PIP.

**Personal Independence
Payment**



**Adult Disability
Payment**

Most of the rules for who can get Adult Disability Payment are the same as the rules for PIP.



We want to make Adult Disability Payment work for disabled people.



We want to do this by working with them and disabled people's groups.

Eligibility Criteria for Adult Disability Payment



Adult Disability Payment is made up of two parts called the **daily living part** and the **mobility part**.



Each part of Adult Disability Payment has different rates of payment which changes based on how a person's disability affects their life.



The daily living part is about the impact that a person's disability has on common activities throughout the day.



These activities are things like eating, washing, using the toilet, dressing, communicating and managing money.



The mobility part is about activities such as whether you can walk, if you can make plans to get somewhere and if you can follow directions to get there.



Social Security Scotland will use the information in your application and supporting information to decide if you can get Adult Disability Payment.



The decision will follow guidance that Social Security Scotland staff use. This guidance sets out a points system for the impact that a person's disability has on them.



If you get between **8 and 11 points** you are awarded the standard rate, and if you get **more than 12 points** you are awarded the enhanced rate.

Mobility Part



A part of Adult Disability Payment that we are thinking about is the **mobility part**.



The mobility part is about things like if you can walk, if you can make plans to get somewhere and if you can follow directions to get there.



Some people want us to think about the mobility part again as they think it is important.

About the Consultation



We will ask questions about different parts of Adult Disability Payment to help us understand what people think.



Later this year, a separate group of people will think about how Adult Disability Payment might work in the future.



We want to give this group information on how people feel about Adult Disability Payment so that they can give us the best advice.

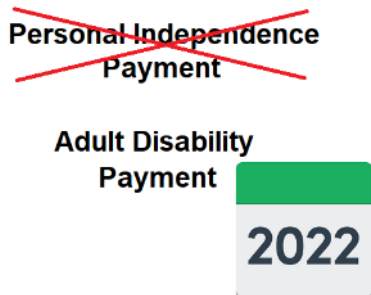


Your answers to our questions will be given to this group so that they can think about how to make Adult Disability Payment work for disabled people.

Background



In 2015 it was decided that disability benefits would be controlled by the Scottish Government instead of the UK Government.



In 2022 we started Adult Disability Payment to replace Personal Independence Payment in Scotland.



This means that disability benefits for adults **Social Security Scotland** pays people instead of the UK Government.



We have made changes to Adult Disability Payment to make it easier to access after talking to people who have experience of receiving disability benefits.

Changes to Adult Disability Payment



We start from a position of trust when someone applies for Adult Disability Payment.



We usually only need one piece of supporting information from a formal source. This can be someone like a doctor or support worker.



There will not be assessments like Personal Independence Payment has.



People will only be invited to a **consultation** if we need more information to decide an Adult Disability Payment application.



A consultation is a phone call, a video call or an in-person meeting with a health or care professional from Social Security Scotland to help us understand your needs better.



Reviews will not happen as often with Adult Disability Payment and will be more straight forward for people.



If you do not agree with our review decision, you can get financial support while we look at this again.

You do not need to pay this back.



You can apply for Adult Disability Payment online, by post, over the phone or with our **Local Delivery** team.



The **Local Delivery** team are people from Social Security Scotland who can help you with your application from your home or somewhere close to you.

Section 1: The moving around activity



The moving around activity is about how you move around outdoors on a flat surface.



Some things that might stop you moving around easily are falling, pain, being tired and getting out of breath.

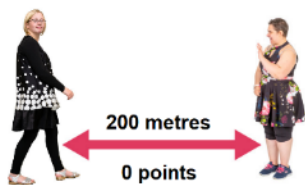


If you need something to help you walking we would like to know this. This includes a walking stick, Zimmer frame or someone to help you walk.

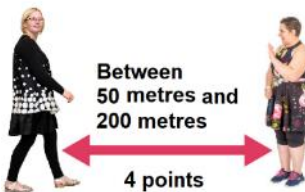


If someone needs to use a wheelchair to move around it will not be counted as walking.

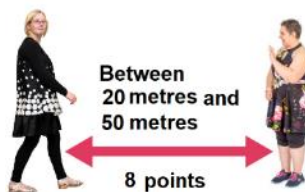
The criteria for the moving around activity



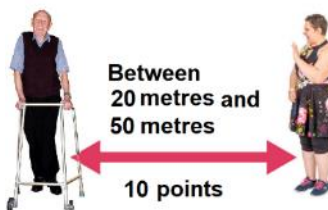
You get **0 points** if you can stand and then move for more than 200 metres. This includes if you use something to help you walk.



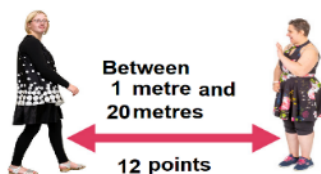
You get **4 points** if you can stand and then move for more than 50 metres but less than 200 metres. This includes if you use something to help you walk.



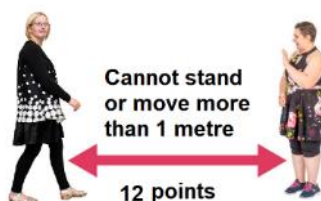
You get **8 points** if you can stand and then move for more than 20 metres but less than 50 metres.



You get **10 points** if you can stand and then move more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres, if you use something to help you walk.



You get **12 points** if you can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres. This includes if you use something to help you walk.




You get **12 points** if you cannot stand **or** move more than 1 metre. This includes if you use something to help you walk.

Question 1

Do you think that the moving around criteria for Adult Disability Payment are easy to understand?

 Yes

 No

Don't Know

Why do you think that?

How could we make the moving around criteria easier to understand?

What people have told us about the moving around activity



Some people have said that asking how far someone can walk is not a good way to understand how well someone can move around.



Some people think that asking how far someone can walk may not show if they can get to the places that they need to go to.



Some people said that asking how far someone can walk does not show if they can walk up hills or stairs.



Some people have said that needing to use things like walking sticks or a Zimmer frame should get points as people have to pay for these.



Some people worry that they can't be too active in case this gets their benefits taken away.



Experts said that our changes in Adult Disability Payment, like starting by trusting what people tell us about their disability, will help.



Some people said that the main problem with PIP was how people were judged against the criteria. For Adult Disability Payment, we have made staff training better so they can use the criteria fairly for each person.



We have committed to award people the payments they are entitled to.

Question 2

Are there any other things about the moving around criteria we haven't written about above you think we should know?



Yes



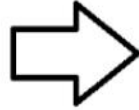
No

Don't Know

What are they?

What are the good things about the moving around criteria that we haven't written about above?

Section 2: The planning and following journeys activity



Planning and following journeys is about being able to plan how to get somewhere, and follow that plan.



It can be affected by mental, intellectual or physical disabilities and conditions.



This considers your ability to leave your home safely and be aware of the risks and dangers when getting somewhere.

The eligibility criteria



If you can plan and follow a journey by yourself, you get 0 points.



If you need someone to prompt you for a journey to stop you getting too upset or stressed to carry on, you get 4 points.



If you can't plan a journey at all, you get 8 points.



If you can't follow a journey to a new place without assistance from a person, dog or orientation aid, you get 10 points.



If you cannot make any journey at all because it makes you too upset or stressed, you get 10 points.



If you can't follow a journey to a place you know well without assistance from a person, dog or orientation aid, you get 12 points.



Case Managers will consider if you need prompting, supervision, an assistance dog or an orientation aid to complete this activity safely.



'Prompting' means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person. They do not have to actually be with you. Someone could prompt you by using a telephone.



'Supervision' means someone being with you at all time to perform this activity safely.



'Assistance' means someone actually being present to help you to do the activity safely.



'Assistance dog' means a dog trained to guide or assist you due to problems with your sight or hearing.

Question 3

Do you think the planning and following journeys criteria for Adult Disability Payment are easy to understand?

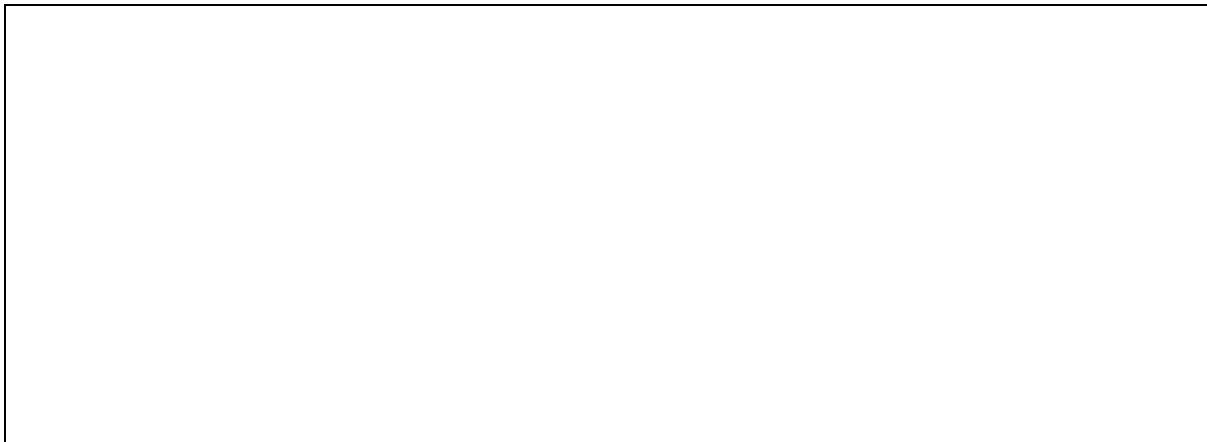
😊 Yes

☹️ No

Don't Know

Why do you think that?

How can we make the planning and following journeys criteria easier to understand?



What people have told us about the planning and following journeys activity



Some people feel that the way in which we decide a person's ability to plan and follow journeys is too strict and doesn't include the types of activities a person likes to do.



Some people have told us fixed eligibility criteria makes it difficult to consider how mental health conditions impact someone's mobility.



Some people have asked what is the difference between a planned and unplanned journey. People told us it is difficult to explain the impact their disability or condition when considering planning and following a journey.



Experts we spoke to told us that the changes to the application form and how we make decisions will help.



They told us that having practitioners who have experience in mental health means consultations will be better for people.



Happy

They also pointed out that our criteria mean that people with sensory disabilities like being blind or deaf can qualify for Adult Disability Payment.

Question 4

Are there any other things about the planning and following journeys criteria we haven't written about above you think we should know?



Yes



No

Don't Know

What are they?

What are the good things about the planning and following journeys criteria that we haven't written about above?

Section 3: Support for people with fluctuating conditions



Health conditions and disabilities can fluctuate which means people have good days and bad days.



We have made guidance for fluctuating conditions.



If someone meets a criteria on more than half of their days, they get that number of points.



If they meet two criteria over more than half their days they get whichever scores them the most points.



If they meet some criteria on different days that add up to more than half their days, they get the number of points they score on the most days. Or, if they meet different criteria for the same number of days, they get the criteria that scores the highest number of points.

Question 5

Do you think that the fluctuating conditions criteria are easy to understand?



Yes



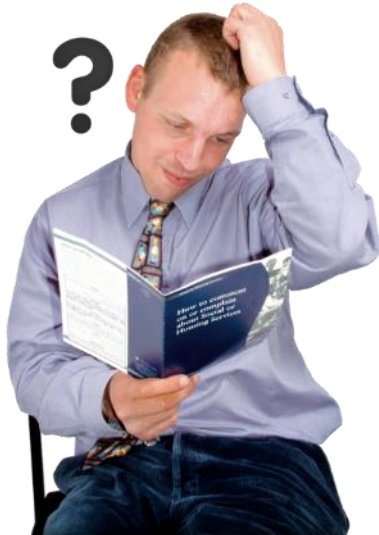
No

Don't Know

Why do you think that?

How could we make the fluctuating conditions criteria easier to understand?

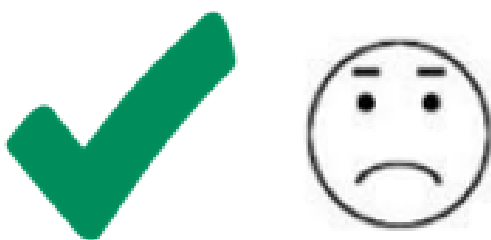
What people have told us about fluctuating conditions



People have told us that PIP did not consider fluctuating conditions enough and that eligibility criteria were too hard to understand.



People told us using an average day was not helpful for severely disabled people when considering eligibility.



People told us it is best to consider symptoms on a bad day instead of a good day.

Question 6

Are there any other things about the fluctuating conditions criteria we haven't written about above you think we should know?

 Yes

 No

Don't Know

What are they?

What are the good things about the fluctuating conditions criteria that we haven't written about above?

Improvements made to the application form



We have made the application form work for disabled people by giving clearer guidance.



We have included pictures to help people understand what the words we use mean.



This might include:

- feeling tired
- being out of breath
- being in pain
- something else.


We have included **prompts** on our application form to help people understand the questions better.

Question 7

How useful do you think the application form is at helping us understand a person's mobility needs?

 Very good

 Good

 Somewhat good

 Not very good

 Not very good at all

Please tell us why you think this.

How we make decisions



We have made guidance on how to understand the eligibility criteria for Adult Disability Payment.



Guidance is available for staff in Social Security Scotland and for people applying for Adult Disability Payment.



We usually only need one piece of supporting information from a formal source. This can be someone like as a doctor or support worker.



People will only be invited to a consultation if we need more information to make a decision for an Adult Disability Payment application.



In Personal Independence Payment, an assessor can make **assumptions** about a person's condition when the person applying **is not** there.



An assumption is when the assessor has an opinion about a person's condition without asking the person or the person's medical professional.








In Adult Disability Payment, a **Practitioner** will only be able to make an assumption about a person's condition when the person applying **is** there.



A **Practitioner** is an experienced medical or social care professional who works for Social Security Scotland to carry out consultations.

Question 8

What impact do you think these changes to how we make decisions has on understanding a person's mobility needs?

-  Very good impact
-  Good impact
-  No impact
-  Bad impact
-  Very bad impact

Please tell us why you think this.

Section 4 – Other considerations

Alternative approaches



Most people told us they support using a point-based way to decide who gets Adult Disability Payment.

Personal Independence Payment



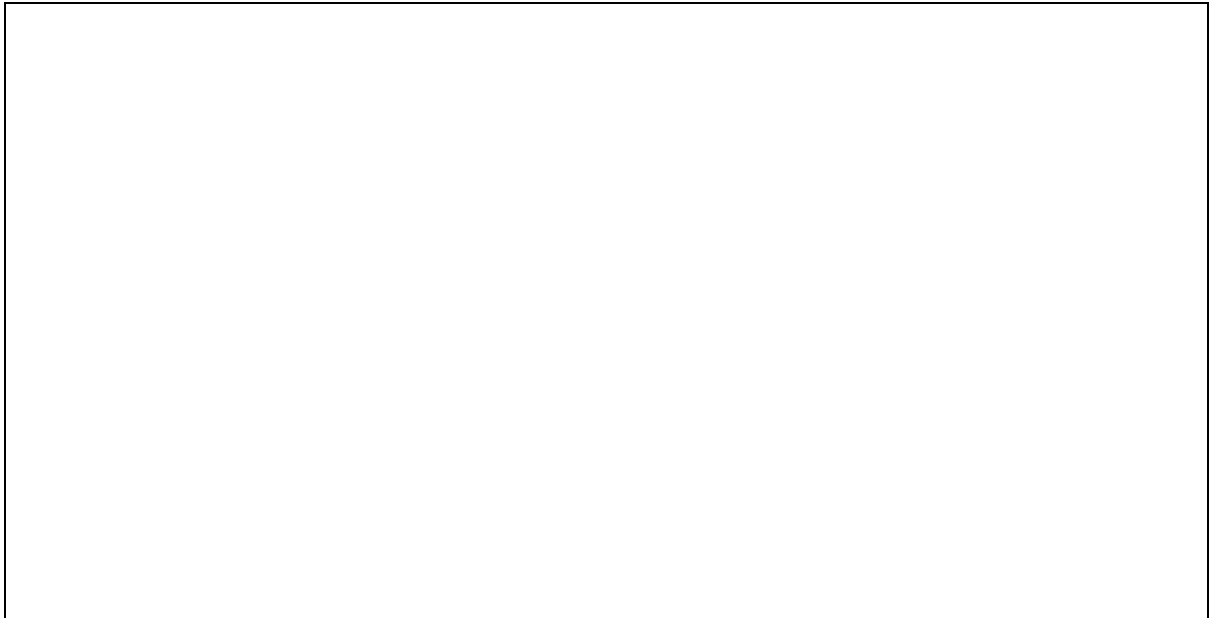
We kept the same points to help people move from Adult Disability Payment to PIP without problems.



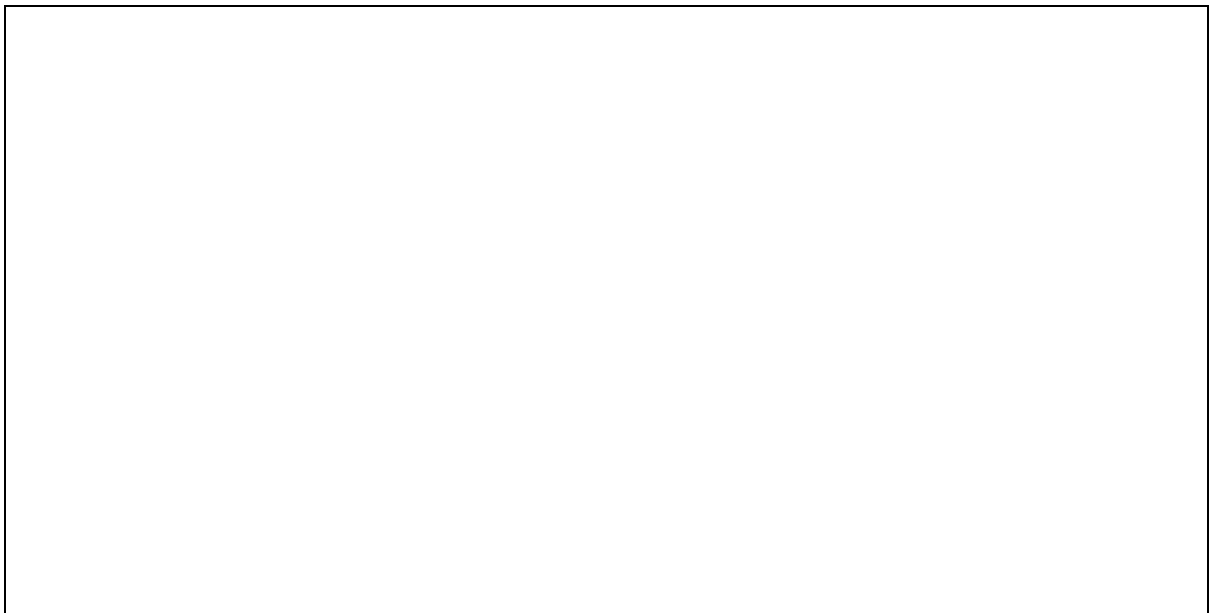
Some people tell us points-based systems don't tell us enough about someone's health condition or disability.

Question 9

If you could change the way we assess a person's mobility needs, what changes would you make?



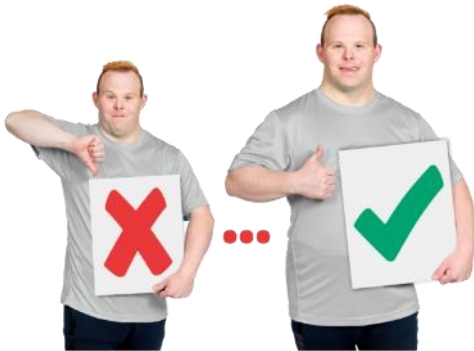
Do you think your ideas would have any good or bad impacts?



Deliverability of recommendations



Adult Disability Payment was designed with disabled people to make sure it works for them.



We want to learn and make sure Adult Disability Payment works for disabled people now and in the future.



People would like us to make changes quickly, but we need to take our time and get things right.



Small changes can have a big effect for our staff. They might need training or new forms, and that takes time.



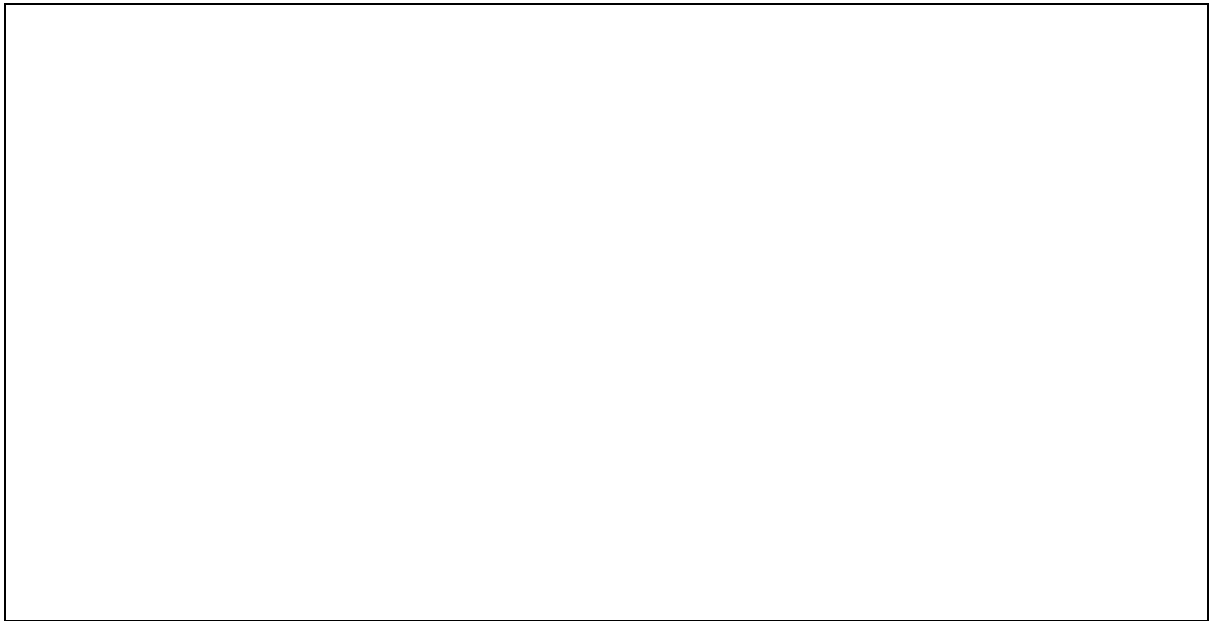
Bigger changes will take longer to put in place. It is important we are clear about how long it will take to make big changes.



Money is also a challenge for the Scottish Government when thinking about possible changes to Adult Disability Payment.

Question 10

Tell us how you think we can make sure any changes we make to Adult Disability Payment are affordable and realistic.



Do you think your ideas would have any good or bad impacts?



Considering the impact of recommendations on reserved benefits and entitlements – passporting



People who get PIP or Adult Disability Payment may also get UK Government benefits like Universal Credit. These are called passported benefits.



If we make big changes to Adult Disability Payment it might cost the UK Government more money. This means they would want to ask the Scottish Government for the money from our budget.




If changes are made to UK Government benefits, there might be delays in people getting their payments.




We want to make sure that everyone gets the money they are entitled to, including passported benefits.

Question 11

How important is keeping the “passporting” arrangement to you?

 Extremely important

 Very important

 Somewhat important

 Not very important

 Not important at all

Please tell us why you think this.

Responding to this consultation

You can respond to the consultation until 25 April 2023.

Please use the Scottish Government's consultation website [Citizen Space](#) to respond. You can go straight to this consultation by clicking [this link](#).

You can also scan this QR code:



You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open.

To request a version of the consultation in Braille or large print, please e-mail ADPreview@gov.scot or phone 0131 244 6212.

If cannot to respond using our consultation hub, please complete and send the Respondent Information Form (**Annex A**) to:

Disability Benefits Policy Unit
Scottish Government
Area 1B (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you use our consultation hub we will treat your response as confidential. You will be asked how you wish for your response to be dealt with and whether or not we can make your response public.

The Scottish Government is subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

If you cannot respond using the hub, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we use your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

If you give us permission to make your responses public then we will check them to make sure they do not contain any use of inappropriate language. We will then make responses public at <http://consult.gov.scot>.

After the closing date for responses we will look at them all and use them to give evidence to the Independent Review board.. We will publish the report once it has been completed.

If you wish to comment or complain about any part of this process please email ADPreview@gov.scot.

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is important to make good policy decisions. It allows us to ask you for your opinions.

You can look at previous consultations at <http://consult.gov.scot>.

All responses to our consultations are looked at and we use this to make decision about policies we want to put in place. We always make the evidence public after each consultation.

Consultations are useful to gather evidence when thinking about a policy but will not address everyone's questions or concerns.



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