

EMAIL SCRIPT: Lobbying your MP re: welfare reform

This guide includes:

- Information about the bill and “the vote”
- How to identify your MP
- A template letter to send to your MP
- Guidance on what to do with the letter and how to send it

What is the bill?

The [Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill](#) is a new piece of legislation being proposed by the Government, as part of implementing the welfare reforms it laid out in the Pathways to Work Green Paper.

The bill proposes multiple key changes, which including:

- Freezing/capping the rates for Universal Credit Health Element
- Changing the eligibility criteria for Personal Independence Payment, such that of the 8/12 required (for standard/enhanced rates, respectively), the applicant must score 4 points in a single category.

What is “the vote”?

New legislation follows very [particular steps in order to become law](#). This is a public bill, introduced in the House of Commons, by the Government.

“The vote” in question is Second Reading, in the House of Commons - at this stage, if enough MPs vote *against* the bill, it cannot progress any further.

Second reading on this bill is on **Tuesday 1st July**.

Identifying your MP

MPs are elected by people who live in their area (their constituents), and it is to you that they are accountable. MPs are limited to engaging with their constituents, so correspondence is often most powerful coming from their constituents.

- [CLICK HERE](#) and add your postcode to find out who your MP is and get their email address.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to find out your MP’s voting intention. - We have TWO suggested letters one to send to your MP if they are SUPPORTIVE of the cuts or their position is UNCLEAR. There is a different letter to send if they are OPPOSED to the cuts.

Template Letter - If your MP is SUPPORTIVE of the cuts or their position is UNCLEAR

The purpose of emailing your MP is to encourage them to vote against the Bill at second reading, on **Tuesday 1st July**. Below is a template but you are welcome to **amend as you wish** to reflect your own concerns and experience.

Remember: MP's can only respond to their constituents, so please include your name and address in your letter to them.

Dear [INSERT MP name],

I am one of your constituents, my name is [INSERT NAME] and my address is [INSERT ADDRESS (house no. and postcode is enough)].

I am writing to you ahead of second reading on the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill. I am extremely concerned about the bill and the impact it will have on disabled people, particularly those of us living with mental illness.

I urge you to **vote against the bill on 1st of July**. There are no concessions to this bill that will make it acceptable to the disabled community. PIP is a bureaucratic and stressful process that does not allow many of those who need support to access it. Any bill aimed to further limit PIP is going to hurt disabled people - forcing many of us to make impossible choices between heating and medicines, between housing and accessible transport.

Some things you might like to consider when deciding on your vote:

- **1 in 3 mental health claimants would lose access to PIP under the new rules**. This includes: 81% of claimants on the standard rate, and 9% of people on the enhanced rate.
- **90% of all people currently receiving the daily living component of PIP will lose their entitlement**. 87% of people on the standard award and 13% of those on enhanced would lose their award.
- Receiving PIP is an essential criteria for many other forms of support (and more so if the Government scraps the Work Capability Assessment). The cascading impacts of these reforms mean that **some households are set to lose as much as £10,000 a year**.
- Reforms will simply shift expenditure from the DWP to the NHS, which is already on its knees. **This includes £1.2bn additional costs for the NHS**. With this offset in mind, cuts are projected to 'save' a mere **£100m by 2030, 2% of the £5bn claimed by the Government**
- **You are being asked to vote on changes with insufficient information**; there has been no impact assessment for mental health, and the findings of (extremely) poor consultation have not been published.

You can learn more about the impacts and how they will specifically impact those living with mental ill-health [in this briefing](#).

[Here you could include a bit about yourself and how you will personally be affected by the changes, but you do not have to].

This is a crucial opportunity for you to stand up for your constituents. I am afraid if you vote in favour of this bill, I will not be able to do the same for you at the next election.

I would appreciate a response confirming how you intend to vote on 1st July.

Thank you,
[INSERT YOUR NAME]

Sending your letter

- Send your letter via email to your MP.
- If your MP responds, please [let us know here](#).
- You are welcome to email this to as many MPs as you like, but please remove the section about being their constituent. Note that those who are not your MP are not obligated to respond.

Template Letter - If your MP is OPPOSED to the cuts

The purpose of emailing your MP is to encourage them to vote against the Bill at second reading, on **Tuesday 1st July**. Below is a template but you are welcome to **amend as you wish** to reflect your own concerns and experience.

Remember: MP's can only respond to their constituents, so please include your name and address in your letter to them.

Dear [INSERT MP name],

I am one of your constituents, my name is [INSERT NAME] and my address is [INSERT ADDRESS (house no. and postcode is enough)].

I am writing to you ahead of second reading on the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill. I am extremely concerned about the bill and the impact it will have on Disabled people, particularly those of us living with so-called mental ill-health.

Thankyou for the support you have shown the disabled community in committing to vote against these cuts. I am calling to urge you to stick to your promise to vote against the welfare bill on 1st July.

There are no concessions to this bill that will make it acceptable to the disabled community. PIP is a bureaucratic and stressful process that does not allow many of those who need support to access it. Any bill aimed to further limit PIP is going to hurt disabled people - forcing many of us to make impossible choices between heating and medicines, between housing and accessible transport.

Some facts I would like you to hold in your mind as you got to vote:

- **[1 in 3 mental health claimants would lose access to PIP under the new rules](#)**. This includes: 81% of claimants on the standard rate, and 9% of people on the enhanced rate.
- **[90% of all people currently receiving the daily living component of PIP will lose their entitlement](#)**. 87% of people on the standard award and 13% of those on enhanced would lose their award.
- Receiving PIP is an essential criteria for many other forms of support (and more so if the Government scraps the Work Capability Assessment). The cascading impacts of these reforms mean that [some households are set to lose as much as £10,000 a year](#).
- Reforms will simply shift expenditure from the DWP to the NHS, which is already on its knees. **This includes [£1.2bn additional costs for the NHS](#)**. With this offset in mind, cuts are projected to 'save' a mere [£100m by 2030, 2% of the £5bn claimed by the Government](#)
- **You are being asked to vote on changes with insufficient information**; there has been no impact assessment for mental health, and the findings of (extremely) poor consultation have not been published.

You can learn more about the impacts and how they will specifically impact those living with mental ill-health [in this briefing](#).

[Here you could include a bit about yourself and how you will personally be affected by the changes, but you do not have to].

This is a crucial opportunity for you to stand up for your constituents. I am afraid if you do not honour your commitment to vote against this bill, I will not be able to vote for you at the next election.

I would appreciate a response confirming how you intend to vote on 1st July.

Thank you,
[INSERT YOUR NAME]

Sending your letter

- Send your letter via email to your MP.
- If your MP responds, please [let us know here](#).
- You are welcome to email this to as many MPs as you like, but please remove the section about being their constituent. Note that those who are not your MP are not obligated to respond.