



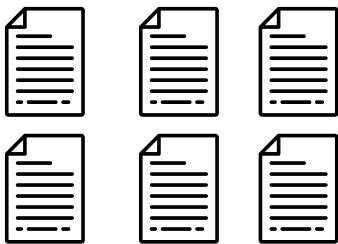
Green Paper on Disability Reform



A Green Paper is made by people in the government to look at an issue and talk about ways they might change things.



This green paper talks about changes to long-term disability payments.



It has different parts that look at:

- what the Green paper is about.
- why change might be needed.
- what those changes might be.
- how they may happen.



Then it will ask you, the public, what you think.

It will tell you how to let the government know what you think.



Summary

This tells you about all of the information in the Green Paper in a shorter way.

This Green Paper talks about disability payments and how they might change or work in a different way.

It talks about this in two (2) main ways:

1. Changing how disability payments work based on the level of your support needs.

- Not everyone with a disability has the same need of support.
- Some may find their disability affects their ability to get a job more than others.



Payments could be split into 3 levels that we call tiers.

2. Changes to the rules about who can get disability payments and when.

This part talks about things like how old you must be to get certain payments and ways to make things equal for everyone.





Why do we need to talk about this?

We are talking about this and asking the public's opinion for a few reasons.

Research shows us that:

- Disabled people are more likely to have less money than other people.
- They have higher living costs than others.
- They are less likely to have a job.
- There are more people with disabilities on disability payments than there were ten years ago.



Our income support set-up looks at disability in the same way for everyone.

The supports include Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension and Partial Capacity Benefit.

They all work in different ways and don't always make sense.

What do we think could make things better?



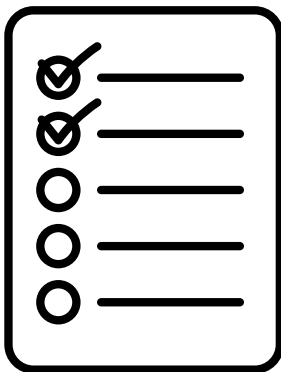
We have some ideas about how we could improve things.

We want to bring in a new Personal Support Payment.



We think that we should have different levels of payments that suit the amount of support people need. We call these levels tiers.

We want to make sure that everyone gets the support that is best for them.



Each level will have a different payment and things that people need to do.



The next few pages will tell you some of our ideas for each tier.

Tier 1

People at tier 1 will have high support needs.

It is very hard for them to work or find a job.

Payment is at the State Pension rate of €265.30 per week.



People can access and use Intreo services if they want to. Intreo is the name of the Public Employment Service.



Their payment will be forever in most cases.

In some cases people will become more able to work.

Their payment will be looked at and may change.



Tier 2

People at tier 2 will have medium support needs.

It is hard for them to work or get a job.

Payment is at half-way between level 1 and level 3 (€242.65).



Intreo will offer people supports and services.



People must try to take part in education, training or an employment scheme if it might help them to get work.



Their disability must make it harder for them to get a job for at least two (2) years.

Tier 3

People at Tier 3 will have low support needs.

It is more difficult for them to get a job than if they didn't have a disability.

Payment is at Disability Allowance rate (€220).



People must keep in touch with Intreo.



Their disability must last at least two (2) years.

They may need to find a different type of work than they are used to.



They must try hard to take part in any training that will help them to work and get a job.



In-work income supports work differently for people on Disability Allowance, Blind Pension and Invalidity Pension.

This means that some people benefit more than others.



We would like to talk about a new Working Age Payment.

This would mean that disabled people who take up work would get part of a welfare payment even if they were on a contributory or non-contributory payment.



You get a contributory payment if you have enough social insurance contributions, called PRSI.

If you don't have enough PRSI you can get a non-contributory payment. This is means-tested.



The amount of in-work income support you would get would depend on how much money you made at work.



The Green Paper wants us to talk about making the age conditions between disability payments and Domiciliary Care Allowance equal.



The age you would be able to get the Personal Support Payment is 18, if it goes ahead.

At the moment you can get Disability Allowance at 16.



While this change takes place there is a plan to support people age 15-17.



People who are 16 and 17 years who are already on an adult disability payment at the time of change will stay on that payment until they are 18.

Then they apply for the new Personal Support Payment.



Those who are 15 will be able to apply for an adult disability payment at 16.



Parents of children under 15 years at the time of the change who are getting Domiciliary Care Allowance will keep getting it until their child turns 18.



These children will be able to apply for an adult disability payment when they turn 18.



How you can share your views on this Green paper with us:

Now we turn to you. We want to know what you think.



You can read the full report here: www.gov.ie/DisabilityPaymentsReform



There is a public event where you can have your voice heard.

You can write down your thoughts and post to:



Disability and Carers Policy Unit
Department of Social Protection
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
1 Store Street
Dublin 1, D01 WY03

You can also email them to us at
[DCPolicyConsultation@welfare.
ie](mailto:DCPolicyConsultation@welfare.ie)



You can send us a video of your thoughts in ISL by emailing us at
[DCPolicyConsultation@welfare.
ie](mailto:DCPolicyConsultation@welfare.ie)

