# Cuts Cuts Cuts Arts & Campsigns Collection

**CHRONIC** 



## Benefits crackdown unveiled with aim to save £5bn a year by 2030



#### **Becky Morton**

Political reporter

18 March 2025







**NEWS** 

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News > UK > Home News

# 'I'm terrified': Disabled benefit claimants on the impact of Labour's £5 billion cuts to welfare

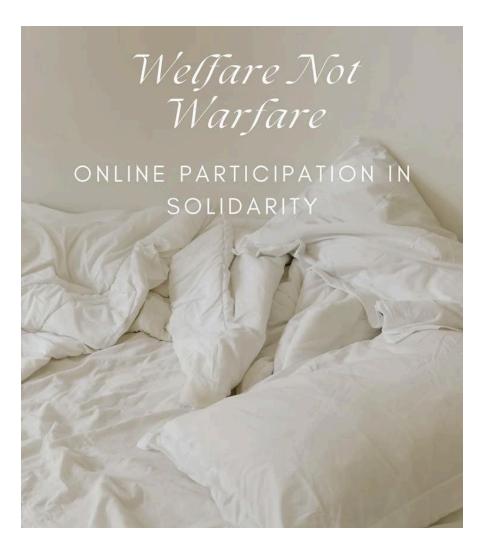
Welfare recipients tell *The Independent* what losing their health-related benefits would mean to them

#### **Albert Toth**

Tuesday 25 March 2025 16:40 GMT

Response to welfare reform

Full article <u>here</u> 25th March 2025



Chronic Poster
Disabled people against cuts' demonstration against cuts to disability benefits
26th March 2025



#### Labour Disability benefit cuts impossible to support, 42 Labour MPs tell Starmer

Exclusive: backbenchers sign letter calling for change in direction on plans expected to be put to vote next month

42 Labour MPs speak out against Labour's cuts to disability benefits

The Guardian

8th May 2025



Thursday 8 May 2025

#### Dear Editor,

The Government's Green Paper on welfare reform has caused a huge amount of anxiety and concern among disabled people and their families. The planned cuts of more than £7bn represent the biggest attack on the welfare state since George Osborne ushered in the years of austerity and over three million of our poorest and most disadvantaged will be affected.

Whilst the government may have correctly diagnosed the problem of a broken benefits system and a lack of job opportunities for those who are able to work, they have come up with the wrong medicine. Cuts don't create jobs, they just cause more hardship.

Ministers therefore need to delay any decisions until all the assessments have been published into the impact the cuts will have on employment, health and increased demand for health and social care. This is likely to be in the Autumn and only then will MPs be able to vote knowing all the facts.

In the meantime, the much needed reform of the benefits system needs to begin with a genuine dialogue with disabled people's organisations to redesign something that is less complex and offers greater support, alongside tackling the barriers that disabled people face when trying to find and maintain employment. We also need to invest in creating job opportunities and ensure the law is robust enough to provide employment protections against discrimination.

Without a change in direction, the Green Paper will be impossible to support.

Diane Abbott MP
Paula Barker MP
Lee Barron MP
Lorraine Beavers MP
Apsana Begum MP
Olivia Blake MP
Richard Burgon MP
Dawn Butler MP
lan Byrne MP
Stella Creasy MP
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Cat Eccles MP
Barry Gardiner MP
Mary Glindon MP
Sarah Hall MP
Chris Hinchliff MP
Imran Hussain MP



Terry Jermy MP
Kim Johnson MP
Mary Kelly Foy MP
Peter Lamb MP
Ian Lavery MP
Emna Lewell MP
Clive Lewis MP
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Andy McDonald MP
John McDonnell MP
Abtisam Mohamed MP
Grahame Morris MP
Charlotte Nichols MP
Simon Opher MP
Kate Osborne MP
Richard Cuigley MP
Andrew Ranger MP
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
Zarah Sultana MP
Jon Trickett MP
Chris Webb MP
Nadia Whittome MP
Steve Witherden MP

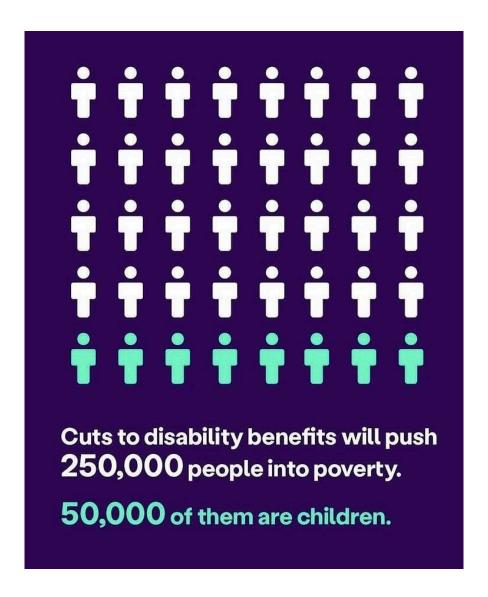
MPs sign an open letter on cuts to disability benefits 8th May 2025

#### **CUTS CUTS CUTS**

## WE'LL BE RELEASING POEMS HERE ABOUT THE CUTS TO DISABILITY BENEFITS

PLEASE SUPPORT, SHARE, SPREAD
THE WORD & FEEL FREE TO WRITE
SOME AND TAG US

@CHRONIC\_ACTION



Scope release this graphic of figures around people in poverty and proposed cuts 14th May 2025

## Cuts Cuts Cuts

# Our new campaign is growing and we need you

The UK government is planning a £5 billion annual saving by making changes to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), a disability benefit. These changes include stricter eligibility criteria, potentially impacting a significant number of people and making it harder for some to qualify for support.

### Context is everything

Since 2016, the UK has been in breach of UN Human Rights Standards. The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities found that 'grave and systematic violations' of Disabled persons' rights had taken place because of austerity measures and welfare reforms since 2010, which had 'disproportionately and adversely' affected the rights of Disabled people

### Figures

Currently, approximately 3.7 million people across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland receive PIP, a benefit designed to assist those facing challenges due to long-term physical or mental health issues.

### Green Paper & Changes

Changes to the health-related benefit formed the bulk of savings in Labour's 'Pathways to Work' Green Paper, with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) projecting that anticipated changes could impact around 800,000 recipients. However, some independent experts predict the impacts could be far greater.

### FOI Request

A Freedom of Information request found 87% of disabled people currently in receipt of PIP. 1.2 million people who score 2 points across the board will lose the daily living component of PIP under Labour's proposed changes.

## DWP delays publication of vital PIP evidence

Work and pensions ministers have delayed the publication of evidence that would have explained why spending on disability benefits has been rising, until after the Spring budget and green paper, just as they are announcing £5 billion in cuts to that support

# Time to act Cuts Cuts Cuts

YOU CAN:
-CONTACT YOUR MP OR POST AND TAG
THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA

-SIGN RICHARD BURGON'S MP PETITION

-SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US - FILM YOURSELF, MAKE ART, WRITE A PIECE, ETC. AND DM US TO COLLABORATE





#### **Cut Up The Pages**

Cut in, cut back, cut up the pages
Rewind the footage and see all the stages
That dehumanise and amplifies
Derogatory notions we've come to abide.

Splashed on front pages. Block capital black.
Tightened assessments where all you lack
Is just not quite enough.
Let the love song choke the swan song.

Cut it all up and cut things back, Wind up division, and pick up the slack. Corruption, we dare not call what it is, Eruptions, and all the hopeless dwelling.

In time, who have you come to resent? Which disillusion? Which one percent?

Cut in, cut back, cut up the pages
Rewind the footage and see all the stages
That dehumanise and amplifies
Derogatory notions we've come to abide.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

19th May 2025

# Zoin us TODAY ISTHE DAY



SWIPE ---



# O1. WHATS HAPPENING?

The Government are proposing to cut PIP to save £5 billion annually. It's a vital income for disabled people and a lifeline to help cover additional needs that come with living with disability and chronic illness.

02.

## TODAY AT PARLIAMENT

Disability Rights UK have arranged a mass lobby against benefit cuts between 12-4pm TODAY at Westminster Lobby, Jubilee Room. If you can attend, please do.



# O3. SPEAK OUT AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Organisations and individuals are rallying online today between 12-4pm to speak out on the grave damages the proposed cuts will cause for disabled people. Join us!

CHRONIC

#### Cut it up & start again

Cut it up and start again
Go for the ones not in need.
Where front and pretence vs fear and reverence,
Your crime is clearly poverty.

Who bares the weight of risk on our backs?

The backs already breaking.

While we cut and slice

Some more bits for the bite,

Make up stories on whose been foresaken.

If we can obscure, hide truth in plain sight,
Crony contracts and palantir.
Sell sell sell all the data and souls,
The rest is a thin veneer.

If we can tell them it's all in their heads rather than invest In solutions that find the real problems, yet we're only bound to regress

To the same old, same old tired lines,
Of scrounger and of sainted,
Integrity heals,
But honesty yields,
When a twisted picture is painted.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

21st May 2025

If the country paid everyone on PIP, in full, it would cost £1.3billoin per year...

In 2022-2023 tax avoidance from the rich cost the UK around £39.8billion.

The Canary

21st May 2025



### Mass lobby of MPs marks 'important' moment in fight against Labour's benefit cuts

By **John Pring** on 22nd May 2025 Category: **Benefits and Poverty** 

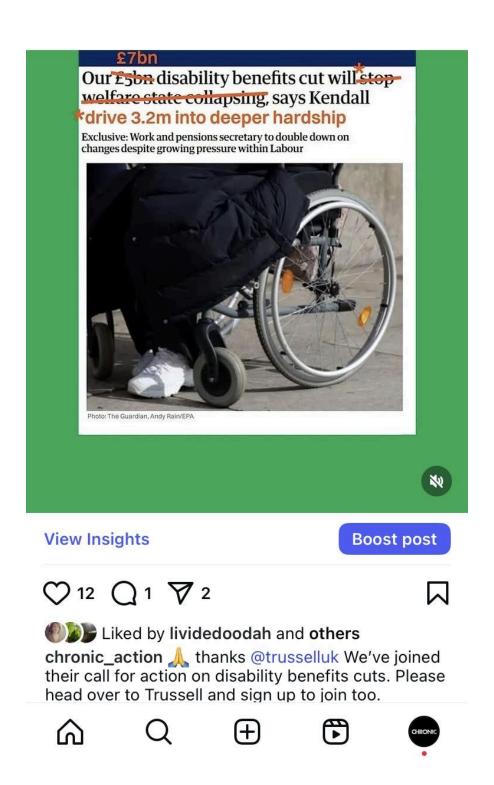
Disability UK Mass Lobby against Benefits Reform 22nd May 2025

#### **This Shame**

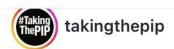
Apparently
We are bankrupting Britain
One mobility aid at a time.
We are a burden
Only useful for a budget sound bite
We are tired
Of surviving policy
Do you hear us
As we raise our voices from our pillows
and our wheelchairs?
Or do you require us to sit outside the city gates
and bawl with begging bowls?
This shame
Is not ours.

Natasha Little, Actress (The Night Manager, Wolf Hall, Vanity Fair, This Life) with Ehlers
Danlos Syndrome and Mast Cell Activation Syndrome

25th May 2025



Chronic join The Trussell Trust's call to action on disability benefits cuts





'Overwhelming response' to letter to PM from high-profile disabled figures on Labour's 'catastrophic' cuts

**Taking the PIP launches:** *Public figures* and *The Canary*, reported in *Disability News Service* by John Pringle

28th May 2025

#### Austerity by any other name

Loss of prosperity, autonomy, identity, Austerity by any other name. Gain of shame, guilt, and self-blame, Austerity; all the very same.

And greed beyond need always longing for more,
Too much is never enough.
Fractions of fractions of 1%,
Are the same as ...all of us.

Loss of clarity, tenderness, charity, Austerity by any other name. Gain of stories of unreachable glories, Austerity; all the very same.

Loss of notions, proclamations, devotions,
Austerity by any other name,
But isn't it easier when we're all just figures,
Just figures on a page.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

29th May 2025



See recording on our YouTube channel <a href="here">here</a>

Lisanne Jacobs is a Dutch singer-songwriter and poet whose life imploded mere months after she graduated from the Utrecht Conservatory in 2015. Theatre stages were rapidly replaced by doctor's offices and ambition was replaced by a growing sense of despair. She has kept creating from bed throughout various stages of illness in the last decade, collaborating with patient organisations as well as fellow disabled artists. She likes to explore themes of living loss, medical gaslighting, sense-making and the passage of time in her work. In 2023, she won the Simon Michaël Coninckx prize with her poem "Pitseleh"



Specsavers Home Visits collaborates with Carers UK and artist Colin Davidson to create a portrait titled "The Most Valuable Portrait"

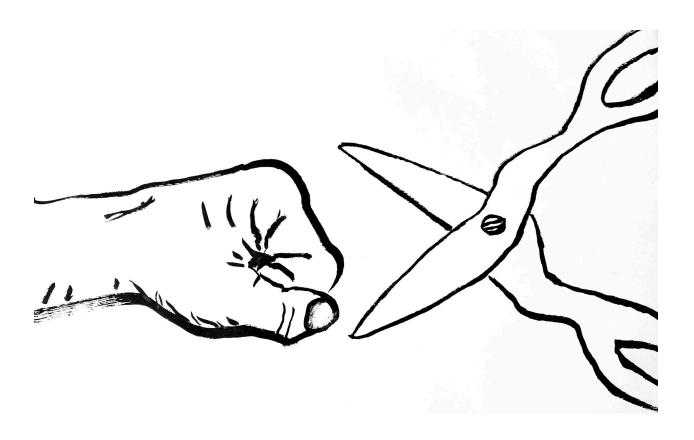
Featuring carer Jaycee La Bouche, who tends to her mother, and has been symbolically valued at £184 billion to reflect the immense contributions of over a million unpaid carers.

The project highlights unpaid carers in the UK provide care worth an estimated £184 billion a year – the equivalent value of a second NHS.

Labour's proposed cuts to DWP Personal Independent Payment (PIP) will cut nearly £650 million in support from <u>around 150,000</u> carers.

https://www.thecanary.co/uk/analysis/2025/05/31/dwp-pip-carers-cuts/

31st May 2025



"The UK government is planning to cut disability payments. Please follow and support @chronic\_action in their campaign to oppose this. Targeting the most vulnerable in our society is not acceptable policy from the government of a country with the sixth largest GDP in the world."

Pete Bennett artist, musician, writer; climber/coach, founder of Climbing For Wellbeing mental health initiative - was born in Blackpool and moved to London in his early 20s. Both the hyperreal world of his seaside childhood and the earthy reality of his adopted home, workplace and community, London's east end, continue to inform his artwork.

3rd June 2025

## Equity secures unions backing for campaign against disability cuts

An emergency motion from Equity has been passed unanimously at the TUC Disabled Workers' Conference to publicly endorse and support the Taking The PIP campaign.

04 June 2025



Equity member Sarah Warren at TUC Disabled Workers Conference

- i) Publicly endorse and support the #TakingThePIP campaign, encouraging all affiliated unions to do the same.
- ii) Ask the TUC to coordinate urgent, crossunion campaigning to oppose these damaging benefit cuts.
- iii) Support Equity in encouraging members to speak out supporting #TakingThePIP, raise awareness of proposed cuts, and centre the voices of DDN people in the public conversation.
- iv) Work with Disabled People's Organisations and #TakingThePIP to maximise impact and solidarity.



#### **Disability**

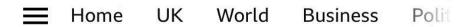
# Labour plans risk excluding disabled people from workforce, say arts leaders

National Theatre and RSC directors among signatories to letter decrying proposed changes to Access to Work scheme

UK politics live - latest updates

The Guardian 4th June 2025,

#### B B C NEWS



# Free school meals to be extended to 500,000 more children



Amidst calls to end the 2 child benefit cap, the Labour government announce expansion of free school meals. Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the move as "a down payment on child poverty"

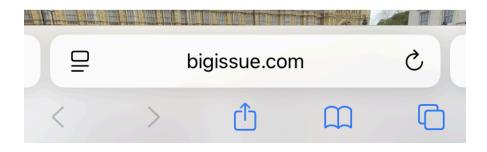
5th June 2025



# Tens of thousands of households face a 'triple hit' of benefit cuts as part of Labour's reforms

Campaigners say the shocking scale of the impact that the government's benefit cuts will have on unpaid carers is become clearer by the day

CHAMINDA JAYANETTI | 5 Jun 2025



Figures released by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) last week in response to a written parliamentary question show that as of August 2024, 95,000 working-age claimants received both the PIP daily living payment

having scored under four points in all categories in their assessment, and the carer's allowance as a full-time carer for another person, often a loved one.

All 95,000 would be at potential risk of losing their daily living payment when their own PIP claim is reviewed after November 2026, when the "four-point rule" is scheduled to take effect.

But if the person they care for also falls foul of the four-point rule, then not only would

bigissue.com





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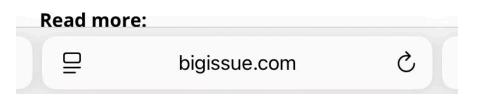


But if the person they care for also falls foul of the four-point rule, then not only would both people lose their PIP daily living payment, but the carer would likely also lose their entitlement to the carer's allowance benefit.

This is because the main way unpaid carers of working age people can qualify for carer's allowance is if the person they look after receives the PIP daily living payment. If the person they care for loses their PIP, the carer is likely to lose their own carer's allowance.

In its response to the parliamentary question, which was tabled by Liberal Democrat MP Alison Bennett, the DWP said it did not know how many of the 95,000 care for someone who also scored below four points in each daily living category of their PIP assessment.

But given that around half of all PIP daily living claimants are exposed to the fourpoint rule, it is likely that tens of thousands of disabled households are at risk of this "triple hit" to their benefits – with the carer losing PIP and carer's allowance, and the person they care for also losing PIP.



#### **Cut Cut Cut Won't Break Break Break**

Cut into the dreams we have,
Resign them only to sleep.
Tell stories of heroes and victories,
The ones afforded escape
From loopholes and boxes dictating fate.
Another day boxed in.
Challenge it all over again.

But don't put your head above the parapet,
Anonymity your friend now, a kafkaesque pit.
And those at the top pulled in every direction,
Back and forth, the same pendulum, and strange expectations

That to cut cut cut
Won't break break break
The ones on the tightrope
We give up to make
Savings already stolen,
For profit and greed of the few.
All the many dreams we have
That are the living proof

That if only we heard each other
This mountain could be climbed.
And the blame is manufactured,
Cuts only truly provide
Aggression and regression,
'cause from the truth we hide
That all the cuts cuts cuts
Won't break break break
Human spirit that doesn't subside.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain



#### Anti-austerity demonstration sees thousands protest Labour spending cuts in London

Many participants held signs reading 'welfare, not warfare'

Harry Stedman • Saturday 07 June 2025 13:15 BST















theguardian.com

Thousands join anti-austerity march in London to protest a...





#### trusselluk 🐡 23h

New research with WPI Economics found that, shockingly, 440,000 people in disabled households will be forced into severe hardship and at risk of needing a food bank in 2029/30 if cuts go ahead.

This comes after we just announced that 2.9 MILLION emergency food parcels were provided by food banks in our community in a year.

Big Issue & The Trussell Trust UK



**@fight4life.co.uk organise a die-in**. Protestors lie on the ground to represent lives lost if proposed disability cuts go ahead.

On the green outside the Tate Modern today at 2pm.

SICK AND DISABLED PEOPLE NEED ACCURATE DIAGNOSES,
TREATMENT AND ACCESS TO CARE. WITH CUTBACKS, ALL OF THESE ARE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ACCESS. CUTS TO DISABILITY BENEFITS WILL ONLY CAUSE MORE HARM

@chronic\_action

#### **Cut The Ground**

We put some on pedestals
And wish the best for each other.
But when it comes to believing the hype
Cut the ground from under each other.

And the victories and all the prayers prayed
Bring us all we need.

'cause it's each other we really depend on
While waiting on brief reprieve
From judgement and from scrutiny,
Misrepresented and sidelined.
Homogenised and generalised,
It's not living our best lives.

We root for each other
And hope for another,
But tear the roofs out from over each other
All from instructed, constructed tales
Designed to make us divide.
We're so much more in truth,
Could be the living proof
In understanding, make strides.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain











**NEWS** 

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News > UK > UK Politics

## Reeves unveils record spending plans but experts warn of tax rises ahead

Chancellor announces £39bn boost for social housing, £29bn for NHS and £11bn for defence – and promises to close all asylum hotels as she takes a swipe at Farage and dismisses Tory warnings of a 'cruel summer' of tax rises

#### **David Maddox Political Editor**

Wednesday 11 June 2025 19:20 BST

Read article <u>here</u> **Spending Review** 11th June 2025



#### **CARERS FIGHT BACK**

Public Zoom meeting, 12 June 1.30 - 3.00pm



#### **SPECIAL ONLINE EVENT**

Hosted by Richard Burgon MP

#### MONDAY 16 JUNE 6.30PM

Join our discussion for **'Wealth Taxes, not disability cuts'** ahead of the coming Parliamentary vote.

#### Hosted by

Richard Burgon MP

#### **Panel**

Caitlin Boswell, Tax Justice UK
Ellen Clifford, Disabled People Against Cuts
Stephen Kinsella, Patriotic Millionaires

#### **Hold On To Your Heart**

I'll build you a fort there With all my gained strength When we get to the other side.

And drown you in kisses
Or superlatives
Drown out noise
From a diet of lies.

We'll call ourselves free,
Won't think of bodies
For surely they won't need considering.

Only 'there' is a dream,
A glint and a gleam,
A long way from this incidence.

The truth's
Cut back
To all you lack
Scars fade with time but slowly.

Cut back cut back
And pick up the slack
To who we wanted to be.

Freedom an illusion
But in all the disillusion
Don't lose your heart and soul

So smoke the mirrors down to their cracks
All of us mere flesh and bone.
And count out misfortunes and mistakes and love
Until we're cut to the bone.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

## Number of consituents each MP will be kicking off PIP if they vote for the Green Papers



Information collected by
Amnesty UK's
Disabled People's Human Rights Network

Constituency	MP Name	Party	Votes in Parliament	Number of Constituents the MP Would Be Removing From PIP
Hendon	David Pinto-Duschinsky	Lab	0.04% / 15 votes	6,201
Poole	Neil Duncan-Jordan	Lab	0.04% / 18 votes	5,251
Basildon & Billericay	Richard Holden	Cons	0.05% / 20 votes	6,258
North West Cambridgeshire	Sam Carling	Lab	0.09% / 39 votes	6,023
Central Devon	Mel Stride	Cons	0.11% / 61 votes	4,447
Havant	Alan Mak	Cons	0.22% / 92 votes	6,116
Exmouth & Exeter East	David Reed	Cons	0.24% / 121 votes	4,989
South Basildon & East Thurrock	James McMurdock	Ref	0.25% / 98 votes	6,006
Beverley & Holderness	Graham Stuart	Cons	0.28% / 124 votes	4,468
Peterborough	Andrew Pakes	Lab	0.28% / 118 votes	9,112
Chelsea & Fulham	Ben Coleman	Lab	0.32% / 152 votes	4,956
Blackburn	Adnan Hussain	Ind	0.34% / 132 votes	9,879
East Londonderry	Gregory Campbell	DUP	0.43% / 179 votes	12,365

South West Norfolk	Terry Jermy	Lab	1.42% / 630 votes	6,119
Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard	Alex Mayer	Lab	1.45% / 667 votes	5,035
Broadland and Fakenham	Jerome Mayhew	Cons	1.45% / 719 votes	4,510
Stoke-on-Trent South	Allison Gardner	Lab	1.53% / 627 votes	6,702
Godalming and Ash	Jeremy Hunt	Con	1.63% / 891 votes	2,992
Ribble Valley	Maya Ellis	Lab	1.65% / 856 votes	4,732
Lichfield	Dave Robertson	Lab	1.65% / 810 votes	4,871
Dundee Central	Chris Law	SNP	1.74% / 675 votes	9,950
The Wrekin	Mark Pritchard	Con	1.77% / 883 votes	6,650
Bracknell	Peter Swallow	Lab	1.79% / 784 votes	3,806
Wyre Forest	Mark Garnier	Con	1.80% / 812 votes	6,793
Earley and Woodley	Yuan Yang	Lab	1.85% / 848 votes	3,568
Redditch	Chris Bloore	Lab	1.86% / 789 votes	5,900
Portsmouth North	Amanda Martin	Lab	1.88% / 780 votes	5,784
Bradford West	Naz Shah	Lab	1.91% / 707 votes	10,528
Birmingham Yardley	Jess Phillips	Lab	1.92% / 693 votes	9,173
Pendle & Clitheroe	Jonathan Hinder	Lab	1.93% / 902 votes	7,037

Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland	Luke Myer	Lab	0.56% / 214 votes	8,304
Forest of Dean	Matt Bishop	Lab	0.58% / 278 votes	4,982
Bromley & Biggin Hill	Peter Fortune	Cons	0.65% / 302 votes	3,493
Derbyshire Dales	John Whitby	Lab	0.68% / 350 votes	4,077
Sittingbourne & Sheppey	Kevin McKenna	Lab	0.87% / 355 votes	8,862
Ely & East Cambridgeshire	Charlotte Cane	LD	0.95% / 495 votes	4,440
North Antrim	Jim Allister	TUV	1.09% / 450 votes	11,901
Ilford North	Wes Streeting	Lab	1.13% / 528 votes	5,490
North East Hampshire	Alex Brewer	LD	1.14% / 634 votes	2,569
Fylde	Andrew Snowden	Cons	1.17% / 561 votes	5,929
North Somerset	Sadiq Al-Hassan	Lab	1.19% / 639 votes	3,456
Aylesbury	Laura Kyrke-Smith	Lab	1.26% / 630 votes	4,876
Uxbridge & South Ruislip	Danny Beales	Lab	1.28% / 587 votes	4,885
Birmingham Perry Barr	Ayoub Khan	Ind	1.35% / 507 votes	9,105

Keighley & Ilkley	Robbie Moore	Con	3.52% / 1,625 votes	6,231
Maidstone & Malling	Helen Grant	Con	3.61% / 1,674 votes	4,982
Bethnal Green & Stepney	Rushanara Ali	Lab	3.62% / 1,689 votes	7,714
Rochdale	Paul Waugh	Lab / Co-op	3.63% / 1,440 votes	8,295
North East Hertfordshire	Chris Hinchliff	Lab	3.66% / 1,923 votes	4,205
Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	Alison Griffiths	Con	3.69% / 1,765 votes	5,997
Llanelli	Nia Griffith	Lab	3.69% / 1,504 votes	9,951
Ashford	Sojan Joseph	Lab	3.79% / 1,779 votes	5,968
North East Derbyshire	Louise Jones	Lab	3.82% / 1,753 votes	6,772
South East Cornwall	Anna Gelderd	Lab	3.88% / 1,911 votes	5,913
Mid Derbyshire	Jonathan Davies	Lab	3.95% / 1,878 votes	4,266
Mid & South Pembrokeshire	Henry Tufnell	Lab	4.03% / 1,878 votes	8,423
South West Devon	Rebecca Smith	Con	4.04% / 2,112 votes	4,935

Arbroath & Broughty Ferry	Stephen Gethins	SNP	1.95% / 859 votes	5,150
Ynys Mon	Llinos Medi	PC	1.95% / 637 votes	5,138
Gordon & Buchan	Harriet Cross	Con	2.00% / 878 votes	6,885
Dumfries & Galloway	John Cooper	Con	2.03% / 930 votes	6,815
North West Leicestershire	Amanda Hack	Lab	2.08% / 1,012 votes	5,240
South Dorset	Lloyd Hatton	Lab	2.14% / 1,048 votes	6,922
Moray West, Nairn & Strathspey	Graham Leadbitter	SNP	2.15% / 1,001 votes	3,330
Suffolk Coastal	Jenny Riddell-Carpenter	Lab	2.16% / 1,070 votes	4,884
Tatton	Esther McVey	Con	2.19% / 1,136 votes	3,871
Leicester South	Shockat Adam	Ind	2.34% / 979 votes	7,037
Rother Valley	Jake Richards	Lab	2.40% / 998 votes	6,842
Harwich & North Essex	Bernard Jenkin	Con	2.42% / 1,162 votes	5,387
Aberdeenshire North & Moray	Seamus Logan	SNP	2.47% / 942 votes	6,885

Amnesty UK 17th June 2025



**Big Issue** 17th June 2025



#### Welfare Reform Bill First Reading

Things have been increasingly tough for sick and disabled people since the introduction of austerity.

New reforms propose a further £7 billion cuts to disabled people's benefits.

This will remove people's chance to work in record numbers. Strip chances of carer and family support due to rules in place, and leave the most ill at risk of falling into poverty or further in the poverty trap.

There's still time to speak out. Join us!

@chronic\_action

#### CLAIMS NILD

PLANNED cuts to personal independence payments (PIP) should help disabled and poorly people get off benefits, "get into work and stay in work", according to work and pensions secretary Liz Kendall. But figures obtained by the Eye show that 510,000 PIP recipients are already in work - and the majority will lose the benefit under the plans.

PIP is not an "out of work" benefit. Rather, working-age disabled people who meet strict criteria get PIP of between £3,500 and £5,200 a year to help fund daily living needs. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) responded to the Eye's freedom of information request with figures showing that out of 2.69m PIP claimants, 510,000 are already working.

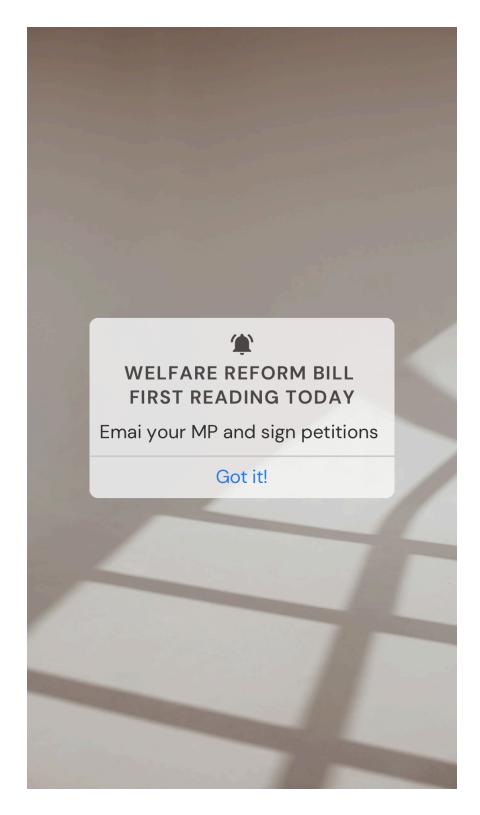
including in self-employment.

DWP scores PIP applicants with points for difficulties they have with daily tasks, and pays PIP to those with scores of more than eight. Kendall plans to restrict PIP by insisting applicants score four points on at least one activity (needing help getting into a bath, for example, scores three points, but needing help to wash between shoulders and waist scores four). This

would cut the PIP bill but is not based on ability to work.

> The DWP already knows that 281,000 of the PIP recipients in work - 55 percent would lose PIP if Kendall's rule is applied; working claimants are more likely to

lose it than those out of work. It may even stop claimants earning: a recent MS Society survey of 2,100 people with multiple sclerosis found that a third of respondents in jobs feared that losing PIP would stop them paying for the help they need to access work.



Chronic Poster
Welfare Reform Bill: first reading
18th June

# Labour pushes on with 'catastrophic' disability benefit cuts: 'The government is just not listening'

Labour has announced a Universal Credit and Personal Independence Bill, continuing its plans to cut disability benefits which campaigners fear will be 'devastating'

ISABELLA MCRAE | 18 Jun 2025

The Labour government has been slammed for "turning its back on thousands of disabled people" as it pushes ahead with plans to cut disability benefits.

It has published a new parliamentary bill – the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill – outlining its proposals for welfare reform which it hopes to be made law, including some additional protections for those impacted by the cuts to disability benefits.

However, ministers remain clear that they plan on moving forward with welfare cuts which will see more than three million people lose financial support.

Big Issue 18th June 2025



#### **Angela Rayner**

## Rayner refuses to rule out punishing Labour MPs who rebel over welfare cuts

Deputy PM defends government plan predicted to result in 1.2m people with disabilities losing thousands

Kiran Stacey Political correspondent

Angela Rayner has refused to rule out punishing Labour MPs who vote against the government's plans to cut disability benefits in the coming weeks, as ministers prepare to publish the full details of their proposals for the first time.

The deputy prime minister defended the plans in the Commons on Wednesday during a session of prime minister's questions in which she was deputising for Keir Starmer. She told MPs the party was pursuing the plan - which is predicted to result in 1.2 million people with disabilities losing thousands of pounds a year - in the interests of both fairness and getting people back into work.

But with dozens of Labour MPs preparing to vote against the measures, Rayner failed to deny recent reports that party bosses would remove the whip from those who rebel.



Labour 'staking everything' on billions in investment to reverse UK's decline



Responding to a question from the SNP's Pete Wishart about whether the prime minister intended to remove the whip from rebels, she responded: "We're absolutely committed to ending child poverty. We've already introduced free

school meals. We're already supporting families. We've given a living wage rise to over millions of workers that need it. We're getting on the job."

#### Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

#### BILL

TO

Make provision to alter the rates of the standard allowance, limited capability for work element and limited capability for work and work-related activity element of universal credit and the rates of income-related employment and support allowance, and to restrict eligibility for the personal independence payment.

Presented by Secretary Liz Kendall supported by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Pat McFadden, Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, Ellie Reeves, Sir Stephen Timms, Alison McGovern, Torsten Bell and Andrew Western.



#### Richard Burgon MP @Richard... · 19h ✓ · · · · The Government has just published its disability cuts Bill.

No-one can pretend anymore that they don't know what this Bill is really all about.

The cover of the Bill makes it very clear. This Bill is "to restrict eligibility for the Personal Independence Payment."

#### Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

#### BILL

TO

Make provision to alter the rates of the standard allowance, limited capability for work element and limited capability for work and work-related activity element of universal credit and the rates of income-related employment and support allowance, and to restrict eligibility for the personal independence payment.

Presented by Secretary Liz Kendall supported by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Pat McFadden, Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, Ellie Reeves, Sir Stephen Timms, Alison McGovern, Torsten Bell and Andrew Western.

Richard Burgon MP 19th June 2025

#### 150,000

#### unpaid carers stand to lose their carers' benefits by 2029/30



Carers UK Update 19th June 2025

#### Welfare not Warfare, Labour!

You're bought and sold by donations from massive corporations and lobbyists who shower you with gifts yet while you sip your evening tipples those most annoying cripples make such noise about their right to welfare lifts. They seem to think you're being tight and that their funding's very slight and being cut away at every turn They're clearly wanting to be able To put food on their own table It's enough to make your MPs' stomachs churn.

Your slogan's different from before
'Support the rich and starve the poor'
Yet some folk just can't see what's very clear
Cos Trump and Netanyahu
Will be very happy with you
For doing what they've whispered in your ear
'Our ruling's the best tool
Don't bother just how cruel
The impact is on claimants 'cross the land
Seeking jobs is all that matters
Though it leaves their lives in tatters
It's what they'll have to do, the way things stand'.

Yet your horrible ensnarement
Won't protect you from impairment
as you worship at the altar of your wealth
Long Covid proves a witness
nothing guarantees our fitness
Or that we will stay forever in good health.
So as you bring in all the trillions
And pass up to them the billions
Don't you even have the slightest twinge of guilt?
Can't you break financial chains
Find humanity again
Keep the faith with values that old Labour built?

Merry Cross was born with a rare mobility impairment and more or less fell into being a disability campaigner in her early 20s. That was also when she started writing poetry. But she considers herself to have been lucky, having had a loving family AND the NHS and welfare states at their best. So she has had a long and varied career, with most of it focused on the safeguarding of disabled children and has now been retired for many years.

Merry Cross 19th June 2025

#### 30. Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill: Second Reading

Notes:

This Bill is expected to be certified as a Money Bill.

**Ayoub Khan** 

Shockat Adam

Jeremy Corbyn

Mr Adnan Hussain

Igbal Mohamed

Zarah Sultana

That this House declines to give a Second Reading to the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill because it fails to provide a fair and compassionate approach to reforming disability benefits; is not accompanied by a credible strategy for ensuring that people with disabilities who are able to work receive personalised and effective support into employment; does not include measures that have been developed together with people with disabilities and carers, or informed by robust evidence and consultation; contains measures that an impact assessment conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions forecasts will bring an additional 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, into relative poverty; will have a disproportionate impact on individuals with fluctuating, mental health, or non-visible conditions, who may struggle to meet narrow functional descriptors despite experiencing profound barriers to daily living and mobility; and because its provisions have not been designed to uphold the dignity, independence and security of people who rely on the welfare system.



### Government whip quits over disability benefit cuts



#### **Kate Whannel**

Political reporter

19 June 2025 Updated 3 hours ago

Labour MP Vicky Foxcroft has resigned as a whip over the government's plans to cut disability benefits.

bbc.co.uk



#### Vicky Foxcroft MP Working for Lewisham North House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP Prime Minister 10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AA

19 June 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to resign as a Government Whip.

I would like to start by saying what an honour it has been to serve as one of your whips under a Labour government. I am proud of so many of our achievements so far: the Renters' Rights Bill, the Employment Rights Bill, renationalising the railways, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, free breakfast clubs and free school meals, the National Youth Strategy, record investment in the NHS and £39 billion to build 1.5 million new homes, many of which will be social and affordable housing.

Until the last general election, I had only ever been an opposition MP. We always knew government would be tough, especially given the economic situation we inherited from the Conservatives, but we also know that in government we can achieve so much more.

There is much to be proud of in the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper. Indeed, I proudly promoted many of its proposed reforms as Shadow Minister for Disabled People and during the general election campaign. These include: allowing people to try work without fear of having to go through the assessment process again, reforming and modernising the broken Access to Work system, disability employment gap reporting and ensuring everyone has access to a supportive work coach so no one is written off.

We all know that we also have a benefits system that is in desperate need of reform.

When you asked me to be the Shadow Minister for Disabled People in 2020, I had no idea the impact this role would have on me. I knew life was difficult for disabled people, but via my engagement with disabled people and their organisations I would learn that it was even tougher than I had imagined.

Email: vicky.foxcroft.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 020 8469 4638

The last Conservative government left many in poverty and living life in fear of losing their support, not getting access to the right medical care, not having suitable housing and not being able to participate fully in society. The real and ongoing distress was palpable.

I absolutely understand the need to address the ever-increasing welfare bill in these difficult economic times, but I have always believed this could and should be done by supporting more disabled people into work. I do not believe that cuts to personal independence payment (PIP) and the health element of Universal Credit should be part of the solution.

I have wrestled with whether I should resign or remain in the Government and fight for change from within. Sadly it is now seems that we are not going to get the changes I desperately wanted to see. I therefore tender my resignation as I know I will not be able to do the job that is required of me and whip – or indeed vote – for reforms which include cuts to disabled people's finances.

I am incredibly proud to have served as part of the first Labour government in 14 years and hope that Ministers will revisit these reforms so that I can continue to support the government in delivering for the people of this country.

Best regards,

Vicky Foxcroft MP

Villy Foxcott



#### Welfare

# Labour MPs launch major rebellion to stop welfare bill

Amendment intended to kill off legislation that would cut benefits could be backed by up to 100 Labour MPs including senior figures

#### Jessica Elgot, Pippa Crerar and Heather Stewart

Mon 23 Jun 2025 20.58 BST

## B B C NEWS



UK

World

Business

Polit

# Labour MPs mount major bid to block benefits changes



#### Chris Mason, Jack Fenwick & Joshua Nevett

Political editor, political correspondent & political reporter

23 June 2025







NEWS

SPORT

VOICES

CULTURE

Money

## More than 100 MPs threaten to halt welfare reforms in PM's biggest rebellion

The rebellion would be enough to defeat the Government's plans if opposition MPs joined the Labour rebels.

David Lynch • Tuesday 24 June 2025 07:20 BS

MPs rebel on welfare bill 23rd and 24th June 2025

#### **Tomorrow**

Sleep if you can, sleep Try again tomorrow. Don't burn bridges on today.

The stories remembered,
The heartaches dismembered
And all is given away.

Centred and rooted
And oh what a tough skin
We're each asked to shed for the part.
Tomorrow's beginning
Is just the ascending
Hold on to your loves and your heart.

Chronic Contributor, Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

#### MPs rebel on the bill

Chairs of committees
And a growing list of MPs
Are putting up their hands calling "no no no."

Suddenly a glimmer of hope Cruel cuts might not be the antidote To the future of millions of complex lives.

'cause behind the many numbers,
And assumptions we live under,
So many are suffering and need support to live.
Some no longer able and others seeking to give.

So speak up for what you know is right, And beyond the doubts have the insight Some battles are worth it and often the truth Is lost behind stories that deny all proof.

Have hope sometimes faith wins,
And just as we speak we begin
To use our voices for something higher,
Keep your eyes out for the light.

K. Maguire, chronic illness sufferer

Dame Meg Hillier Debbie Abrahams Helen Hayes Sarah Owen Florence Eshalomi

**Paulette Hamilton** Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi Patricia Ferguson Vicky Foxcroft Antonia Bance Dawn Butler Kirsteen Sullivan Ms Stella Creasy Matt Bishop Lee Pitcher Connor Naismith **Charlotte Nichols** Josh Fenton-Glynn Tracy Gilbert Adam Jogee Daniel Francis Kirith Entwistle Yasmin Oureshi Flaine Stewart Marsha De Cordova Lizzi Collinge

Adam Jogee
Daniel Francis
Kirith Entwistle
Yasmin Qureshi
Elaine Stewart
Marsha De Cordova
Lizzi Collinge
Fabian Hamilton
Mr Richard Quigley
Sam Rushworth
Richard Burgon
Amanda Hack
Paula Barker
Dr Simon Opher
Apsana Begum
John McDonnell
Kim Johnson

Cat Smith
Ruth Jones
Olivia Blake
Laurence Turner
Yuan Yang
Lee Barron
Ben Coleman
Sadik Al-Hassan
Lauren Edwards
Matt Western
Kate Osamor
Sarah Hall
Gill Furniss
Maya Ellis
Jo Platt
Henry Tufnell

Kevin McKenna
Melanie Onn
Ms Polly Billington
Ms Marie Rimmer
Dr Rosena Allin-Khan
Kate Osborne
Rebecca Long Bailey
Cat Eccles
Ian Lavery
Chris Hinchliff
Nadia Whittome
Andy McDonald

Mohammad Yasin

Dr Allison Gardner

Ruth Cadbury Louise Haigh Anneliese Midgley Anna Dixon Richard Baker Mr Jonathan Brash Mr Clive Betts Abtisam Mohamed Tony Vaughan Paul Davies Chris Webb Dr Scott Arthur Dr Beccy Cooper Alison Hume Patrick Hurley Darren Paffey Peter Lamb Lillian Jones

Rachael Maskell Bell Ribeiro-Addy Jon Trickett Neil Duncan-Jordan Ian Byrne Ms Diane Abbott Brian Leishman

Clive Efford

Andrew Cooper

David Williams

Emma Lewell

Samantha Niblett

Tuesday 24 June 2025

A. Calendar of Business

 Imran Hussain
 Euan

 Steve Witherden
 Mary

 Jen Craft
 Jame

 Grahame Morris
 Nave

Euan Stainbank Lorraine Beavers
Mary Kelly Foy Clive Lewis
James Naish Terry Jermy
Navendu Mishra Jenny Riddell-Carpenter

That this House, whilst noting the need for the reform of the social security system, and agreeing with the Government's principles for providing support to people into work and protecting people who cannot work, declines to give a Second Reading to the Universal Credit and Personal Independent Payment Bill because its provisions have not been subject to a formal consultation with disabled people, or co-produced with them, or their carers; because the Office for Budget Responsibility is not due to publish its analysis of the employment impact of these reforms until the autumn of 2025; because the majority of the additional employment support funding will not be in place until the end of the decade; because the Government's own impact assessment estimates that 250,000 people will be pushed into poverty as a result of these provisions, including 50,000 children; because the Government has not published an assessment of the impact of these reforms on health or care needs; because the Government is still awaiting the findings of the Minister for Social Security and Disability's review into the assessment for Personal Independence Payment and Sir Charlie Mayfield's independent review into the role of employers and government in boosting the employment of disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.

Reasoned Amendment opposing the Universal Credit and PIP Bill



### **Disability**

Labour's benefit cuts will have 'devastating' impact on disabled women, say charities

### **Frances Ryan**

Tue 24 Jun 2025 11.22 BST



Downing Street's disability cuts will have a "devastating" impact on women's health and dignity and could breach equality law, the government has been warned.

Charities and disabled people's organisations including Scope, Spinal Injuries Association, Inclusion London, ME Association and WinVisible told the Guardian that tightening eligibility for personal independence payments (Pip) would mean disabled women being discriminated against, due to their higher personal care needs compared with men.

#### theguardian.com

"The proposed changes to the Pip assessment criteria ignore fundamental aspects of women's health and dignity," said Dharshana Sridhar, campaigns manager at the Spinal Injuries Association.

The decision to award fewer points for assistance with personal care below the waist overlooked the realities of menstruation, incontinence and intimate hygiene; needs that were especially complex and often more acute for women with spinal cord injuries, Sridhar said.

"By failing to recognise the distinct and disproportionate impact of these changes on disabled women, the proposals risk breaching the Equality Act 2010, both in terms of sex and disability discrimination, and the Public Sector Equality Duty. A benefits system that systematically disregards menstruation, personal care, and continence management for disabled women cannot credibly claim to meet its legal obligations to promote equality and eliminate discrimination."

Full article here

The tide is turning. It is time for this Government to finally **drop** its Disability Benefit Cuts Bill.

We welcome the recent pressure put on the Government to reconsider its cruel proposals. The truth is that the **Government should have listened to disabled people a long time ago.** They have been clear: this Bill is a disgraceful attack on their right to live in dignity.

By the Government's own assessment, this Bill will push 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, into poverty. 150,0000 carers are set to lose their allowance.

Repealing this awful piece of legislation is just the beginning. Our welfare system has been decimated by years of austerity – and real change is long overdue. We will continue to amplify the voices of those whom this government ignores. We will continue to call on our government to scrap the two-child benefit cap.

And we will continue to campaign for a welfare system that uplifts and empowers everyone to lead the healthy and fulfilling lives they deserve.

The Independent Alliance



That's just hours before the vote on the Disability Cuts Bill.

Almost 75,000 have already signed. Let's get that even higher by Monday.





https://chnq.it/WhVycws29T



Mad Youth Organise: online protest 26th June 2025



Minister finally admits that working-age benefits spending is stable, despite months of 'spiralling' claims

The Disability News Service

Full article here



**News** 

Opinion | Sport | Culture | Lifestyle |



UK US politics World Climate crisis Middle East Ukr

Politics live with Andrew Sparrow No 10 rejects claim welfare U-turn shows PM caves under pressure, saying this is a 'government that listens' - UK politics live

No 10 has offered significant concessions to the rebels amid fears over Tuesday's vote

**Andrew Sparrow** 

Fri 27 Jun 2025 12.19 BST



### 

Under its plans, you can keep your benefits if you are disabled now, but not if you become disabled tomorrow. How is that fair?

A reminder: The Independent Alliance stands by its own amendment, and we will not back down.

Ayoub Khan Shockat Adam Jeremy Corbyn Mr Adnan Hussain Iqbal Mohamed Zarah Sultana

Robin Swann Ben Lake Sorcha Eastwood

system.

Claire Hanna Llinos Medi Ann Davies Liz Saville Roberts

That this House declines to give a Second Reading to the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill because it fails to provide a fair and compassionate approach to reforming disability benefits; is not accompanied by a credible strategy for ensuring that people with disabilities who are able to work receive personalised and effective support into employment; does not include measures that have been developed together with people with disabilities and carers, or informed by robust evidence and consultation; contains measures that an impact assessment conducted by the Department for Work and Pensions forecasts will bring an additional 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, into relative poverty; will have a disproportionate impact on individuals with fluctuating, mental health, or non-visible conditions, who may struggle to meet narrow functional descriptors despite experiencing profound barriers to daily living and mobility; and because its provisions have not been designed to uphold the dignity, independence and security of people who rely on the welfare

Partial u-turn 27th June 2025

# A big week in welfare reform

WHAT EVERYONE CAN DO NOW

## **(01)**

## Contact your MP

Check out takingthepip.co.uk for an autofill letter. Contacting your MP and speaking out is just a few clicks away. Of course you can write your own letter if you'd prefer and/or post on social media and tag them. Or book a surgery appointment to discuss the devastating impact of proposed disability cuts on millions





# Share your story

Share your story to social media and use the hashtags #stopthecuts #welfarenotwarfare #welfarereform #cutscutscuts



## Sign petitions

Sign petitions. Keep upto date with latest petitions takingthepip.co.uk

Please also sign MP Richard Burgon's petition. It will be presented in Parliament on Monday night



## Demonstrations

Keep an eye on our social media @chronic\_action for updates on in-person and online demonstrations and be sure to get involved as much as possible.

Stay hopeful. The disability community needs allyship now more than ever. We need you.



The experts have now been over the numbers after the changes to the Disability Cuts Bill.

The Bill still contains £3.5 BILLION of cuts.

430,000 new PIP claimants will lose £4,500 on average.

700,000 new UC-health claimants lose £3,000 on average.

I'll be voting against that.

#### **Papers & Policies**

Cut up the papers and policies,
In honesty they say little truth, you see.
The rooster cries out for the break of new day,
A reestablishment of fears held at bay
By pills and platitudes,
Hope drives us on.
But landmines of regression
Call on the swan song.

Let down your defences
But stand for what's right.
The road ahead's a brave and rocky fight.

So cut into the fabric and into the soul,
Claim sweet nothings and pretend the whole
Game isn't stilted,
An unlevel field,
The gap a swift chasm,
The hardness to yield.

Cut up the papers and policies, In honesty they say little truth, you see. The rooster cries out for the break of new day The day when our fears are finally assuaged.

**Chronic Contributor,** Arts, Comedy & Science Social Justice Campaign for disability, chronic illness & chronic pain

## Andy Burnham speaks out on benefit cuts

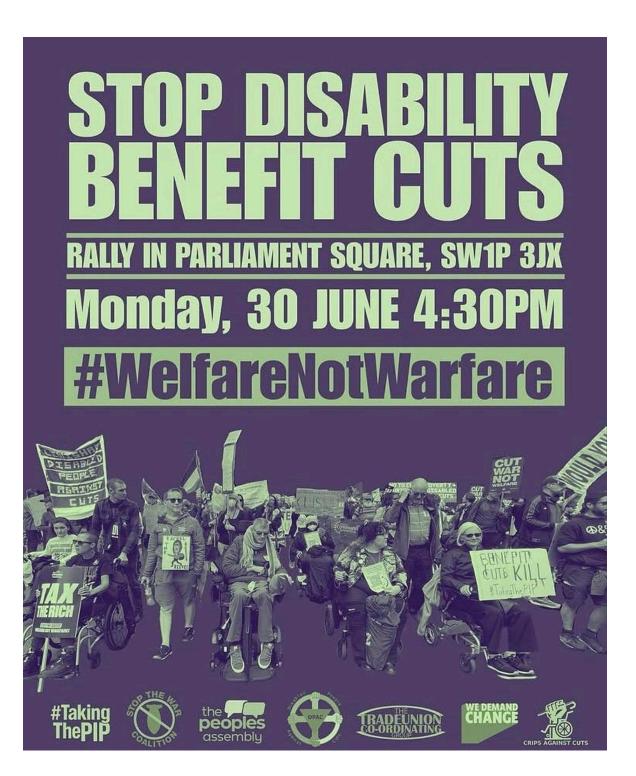
Andy Burnham is at Left Field, speaking on a panel about disability cuts. Unsurprisingly he is dead against the government's welfare bill, even in its post u-turn form.

"What's been announced is half a uturn, a 50 percent uturn. In my view I'd still hope MPs vote against the whole bill when it comes before parliament," he urged, adding that it "simply can't be justified to make disabled people your target".

"Certainly not when you haven't put out an impact assessment," he added. "It felt wrong to me from the start." Instead he proposed that the government save money in the long term by building more social housing. Ahead of Wednesday's vote, MPs "need wait see what happens,"
Burnham added. MPs "face the prospect of, if they accept this package, someone could come to their surgery in two years saying, why did you vote to make me £6000 worse off than someone exactly the same, but who was protected because they were an existing claimant," he points out.

"I hope they think carefully before the vote. Because the vote will create that unfairness and divide in disabled people... many will face trouble down the line."

> Andy Burnham Speaks Out 29th June 2025



Rally in Parliament

## The ™ Guardian

Dear PM, thanks for the welfare concessions, but I still won't vote for your bill. Scrap the whole thing Richard Burgon

Your government is choosing to balance the books on the backs of disabled people. That's not the country we are supposed to be building

Richard Burgon is Labour MP for Leeds East

At best, these concessions make a terrible bill slightly less bad. But the bill still represents a devastating attack on disabled people. It still strips billions in support from those who need it most, still forces huge numbers into poverty, and still undermines the dignity and independence of disabled people. As an example of just how cruel these cuts still are, MPs will be asked to vote on Tuesday for a bill that will take away essential support from disabled people who will need help with basic daily tasks such as cutting up food, washing themselves or using the toilet.

If these cuts go ahead, approaching half a million disabled people will lose their personal independence payments between the end of next year and 2030. On average, they will lose £4,500 a year - about £100 a week. That's a life-changing reduction for people who rely on Pip to help with the extra costs of disability, including the one in six Pip recipients who are in work,

If these cuts go ahead, approaching half a million disabled people will lose their personal independence payments between the end of next year and 2030. On average, they will lose £4,500 a year - about £100 a week. That's a life-changing reduction for people who rely on Pip to help with the extra costs of disability, including the one in six Pip recipients who are in work, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility.

On top of that, there are deep cuts to the universal credit health component for low-income sick and disabled people. Three-quarters of a million new claimants will be forced on to a rate that's half the current level and be left £3,000 a year worse off. For people already struggling to make ends meet, this is not just a cut - it's a catastrophe.

And how can it be right that someone who would qualify for support today would be denied it simply for becoming disabled after next November? Do we really want a two-tier system where future generations of disabled people receive less support than disabled people today? Especially when already three in four of those using food banks are disabled themselves or live with someone who is.

All this flies in the face of what should be a key purpose of every Labour government: to lift people out of poverty, not push them further into it. It's no wonder that disabled people's organisations, including Labour's own affiliate Disability Labour, remain so firmly opposed to this bill.

Sadly, the government has made a deliberate choice to balance the books on the backs of disabled people instead of pursuing the much more Labour option of taxing those with the broadest shoulders. So many fairer alternatives exist. As an example of one of them, I will be presenting a petition in parliament on the eve of the vote, already backed by more than 75,000 people, calling for a wealth tax. Such a tax of just 2% on assets over £10m could raise £24bn a year - over six times more than the government's so-called savings from these cuts.

Richard Burgon MP's article in The Guardian 30th June 2025



It's now less than 24 hours until MPs are expected to vote on disability benefit cuts.

We still have very little information and what we do know is concerning.

A thread on some of the things we do and don't know, and why MPs cannot take this leap into the dark 1/12



For new PIP claimants, they will need to score 4 or above in a Daily Living Activity category.

Needing help to cut food, wash below the waist or dress yourself scores below a 4. These people could be denied PIP. 2/12



The government points to the PIP review which could change the activities that are assessed and the amount they score.

It claims this will be co-produced with disabled people, but disabled people say this would not be meaningful when the plan is to make £3 billion in cuts. 3/12



With the PIP review not completing until autumn 2026, there is also a risk that some people fall through a gap where the new 4 point rule has come into effect before the changes from the review. 4/12



Therefore, MPs are being asked to take a leap into the dark, voting for this now, with no guarantee at all that people who need support will receive it.

According to the government's current estimates, an additional 150,000 people will be in poverty. 5/12



Others argue it will be more like 250,000. These cuts will cost lives.

The only way to ensure that we are not pushing more disabled people into poverty and risking even more deaths in the benefits system, is to stop this Bill. 6/12



It's also not clear that all existing claimants will be unaffected. If you have a fluctuating condition and upon reassessment you no longer qualify for PIP, if you need to put a new claim in in the future, it will be harder still for you to receive it. 7/12



The same could apply to the Universal Credit health element. If you got a job (as the government wants you to do) but then a few years later your health worsened and you needed UC again, you stand to receive less money than you did before. 8/12



In any case, we are creating a two-tier system where people with the same needs could receive vastly different sums. The government hasn't given an answer for why this is fair, apart from the fact that this has happened before (not a good enough reason!) 9/12



The Bill is also being rushed through. There has been no formal consultation with disabled people, no OBR analysis of the employment impact, no assessment of the impact on health and care needs.

All the remaining Commons stages are being crammed into a single day. 10/12



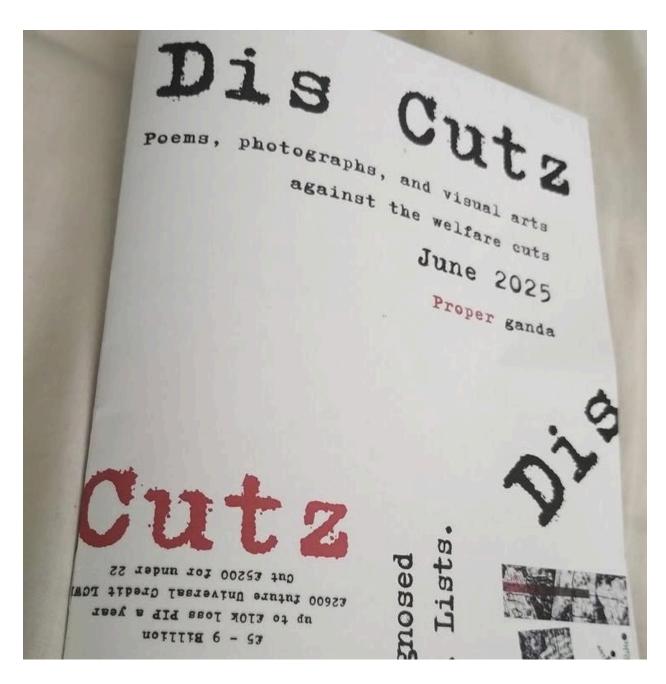
In short, we don't know what we are about to vote on, and the government is failing to provide the necessary evidence or guarantees.

This is not how we should be making laws. The government should pull this Bill. If it doesn't, I'll be voting against it. 11/12



It's not too late to make your voice heard, if you haven't already. You can still email your MP. Find them here: members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP 12/12

Nadia Whitome MP's social media posts 30th June 2025



Zine we collaborated on with Disabled People Against Cuts. Featuring our poem 'Only Unity Discovers", a copy of 'Dis Cutz' is held at the Wellcome Collection and was first displayed there to time with the second reading of the Universal Credit and PIP Bill opposed by 137 disability organisations.



### Welfare

No 10 plan to avert Labour welfare rebellion in chaos amid division over scale of concessions

A new reasoned amendment designed to bring down the bill is thought to be backed by about 35 Labour rebels, though organisers suggested more planned to add their names. The reasoned amendment, so named because it allows MPs to record their reasons for opposing a bill, has 62 backers when including MPs from the other parties.



How the welfare bill went wrong -Politics Weekly Westminster



Rachael Maskell, one of the most vocal critics of the welfare plans, said more were expected to add their names to the amendment, though 83 Labour MPs would be needed to defeat the government majority. The amendment raises new concerns about the

changes and has been backed by 138 disability groups.

We are proud to have been one of the 138 organisations to back this reasoned amendment. See the full story <a href="here">here</a>



News |

Opinion |

Sport | Culture | Lifestyle



UK US politics World Climate crisis Middle East Ukr

Politics live with Andrew Sparrow Welfare bill passes by majority of 75 as massive climbdown heads off Labour revolt - UK politics live

MPs vote through welfare bill by 335 votes to 260 after rebel amendment to kill off bill defeated easily after concession over planned Pip cuts

#### Andrew Sparrow

Tue 1 Jul 2025 20.29 BST

See full story here

1st July 2025



## richardburgon 💠 19m



Today I've submitted an Amendment to stop the remaining £2 billion cut in the Disability Cuts Bill.

...

The Universal Credit Health cut will hit 750,000 sick and disabled people - costing them £3,000 a year.

We should not balance the books on the backs of sick and disabled people.

3rd July 2025



News

Opinion | Sport | Culture | Lifestyle



Education Schools Teachers Universities Students

# Special educational needs

# Letters

The right to an education, health and care plan must be retained

Jane Asher, Carrie Grant, Chris Packham, Anna Bird, Fazilet Hadi, Sally Phillips, Jon **Sparkes** and 100 others call on the government not to remove the right to an EHCP from children attending mainstream schools

Sun 6 Jul 2025 18.00 BST

The legal rights to an education that meets the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (Send) are under threat. Many thousands of children risk being denied vital provision, or losing access to education altogether.

As new education reforms loom, every sign from the government suggests the right to an education, health and care plan (EHCP) is to be removed from children attending mainstream schools. Local authorities want EHCPs drastically reduced, or removed altogether, to relieve them of duties they often find costly and troublesome.

About 85% of children with Send are educated in mainstream settings. Over 270,000 of these children have EHCPs. These legally enforceable documents detail a child or young person's needs, and the support to enable them to fulfil their individual potential. EHCPs allow children and young people with all kinds of disabilities to receive an education.

Without statutory support, underpinned by necessary extra resources for schools, it's extremely unlikely that ministers will achieve their aim of more children with Send thriving, or even surviving, in mainstream education. A reduction or complete snatching-away of EHCPs in mainstream education wouldn't mean their needs magically vanish. It would, instead, increase applications for already overcrowded special schools or mean they would be forced out of school altogether.

We believe the public are on our side, and we support the newly launched Save Our Children's Rights (SOCR) campaign led by Special Needs Jungle, IPSEA and others. This campaign is calling for EHCPs to be retained, now and in the future. SOCR's recent petition reflecting this aim rapidly passed 100,000 signatures, meaning the issue will be considered for a parliamentary debate, and is still growing.

For more than 40 years, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have had a statutory right to an education that meets their needs. Set alongside catastrophic plans to cut benefits for disabled people, this raises the question of who we are as a country and the kind of society in which we want to live. Whatever the Send system's problems, the answer is not to remove the rights of children and young people. Families cannot afford to lose these precious legal protections.



# **Poverty**

# UN panel raises concerns with UK government over welfare bill

Committee says it has 'credible information' about negative impact of the legislation on disabled people

Peter Walker Senior political correspondent

A letter from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the committee, said it "respectfully requests information" about the bill, and in particular the extent of any impact assessment.

It also sought information on "any measures to address the foreseeable risk of increasing poverty rates amongst persons with disabilities if cuts are approved".

According to an impact assessment by the Department for Work and Pensions released on Monday, the revised bill will mean 50,000 fewer people are in relative poverty after housing costs in 2030. An assessment of the original plans found the measures would have pushed an additional 250,000 people into poverty, with some charities saying this figure would have been higher.



# **Universal Credit Bill**

Today, MPs vote on the Universal Credit Bill. It's had little media coverage.

The proposed bill will hit the sickest hardest. 750,000 people already on low incomes will lose £3000 a year. This includes people who can't use their hands, and need help to eat or drink.

It also creates a 2 tier system that means sick and disabled people will have less financial support based on the date they become disabled and there's no support for young people. Please contact your MP urgently.

@chronic\_action



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course of the provision of NHS services.

This means that people who have longterm and severe conditions must provide proof of diagnosis only by NHS services – excluding anyone who's had to get a private diagnosis. Of course, many people with mental health diagnoses have had to turn to private health services because of the dire state of NHS mental health provisions. And, that's to say nothing of diagnoses for areas in which the NHS is woefully under-equipped, including the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS), postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), or myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME).

See full article here

The Canary 9th July 2025

# Government's Universal Credit Bill Has Passed

Disabled people in poverty should not be footing the bill of successive Governments' failure to tax big corporations.

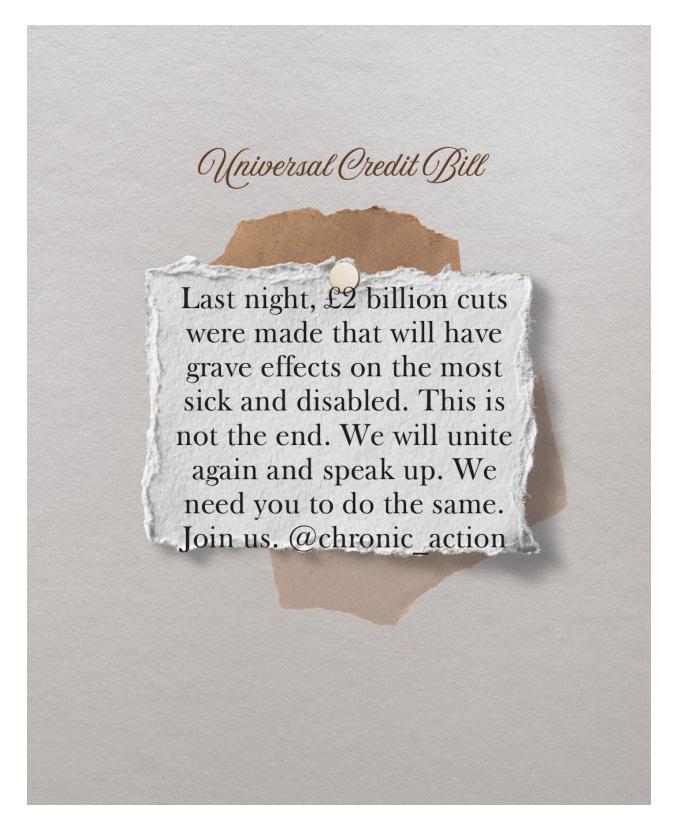
The decision to target Disabled people already marginalised by state policies is a political choice, not an imperative. This rollback of civil liberties is not happening in a vacuum: it comes alongside the increasingly hostile climate migrants, trans people and other marginalised people are experiencing. All our struggles are linked.

We extend our full solidarity to Disabled people dealing with such an isolating news cycle. As a Disabled-led organisation, we will never stop fighting for you, your rights and the justice we all deserve.



Disability Rights UK

9th July 2025











#### **Politics**

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# **Keir Starmer removes** Labour whip from four 'persistent rebel' MPs

Rachael Maskell, Neil Duncan-Jordan, **Brian Leishman and Chris Hinchliff** pushed out and three trade envoys lose roles



#### Eleni Courea and Jessica Elgot

19:17 BST Wednesday, 16 July 2025

Keir Starmer has fired a warning shot to rebellious Labour MPs and moved to reassert his grip on his party by removing the whip from four backbenchers for repeatedly breaching discipline.

Labour MPs Rachael Maskell, Neil Duncan-Jordan, Brian Leishman and Chris Hinchliff were told they had lost the party whip on Wednesday afternoon for repeatedly rebelling against the government.

A Labour source told the Guardian the whip was being removed from "persistent rebels", while a further three Labour MPs were stripped of their government trade envoy roles.

The surprise move, which came after Downing Street pledged to mend relations with the Labour backbenches after being forced to Uturn over controversial welfare cuts, triggered fury in sections of the parliamentary party.

All four MPs who were suspended have been openly critical of several government policies.

See full article here

17th July 2025