

GP Letters for Benefits Claims (PIP & ESA)

Our Policy on letters of support for benefits claims

We do not provide individual letters of support for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims.

Why?

When you submit a claim, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will contact our practice directly to request any required medical reports and evidence. Completing separate letters duplicates the information already provided in the official DWP report.

How We Can Help: Requesting Your Medical Records

If you wish to provide additional evidence yourself, you are entitled to request a copy of your medical records:

- **Cost:** Copies of your medical records are provided free of charge.
- **How to request:** Please contact the practice reception team, and we will guide you through the request process.

Independent Advice and Support Resources

If you need guidance with your application or welfare rights, the following can help:

- **Citizens Advice – East Dorset and Purbeck:** Offers free, confidential advice on benefits and can assist with benefit checks.
 - Visit [Community SWITCH](#) for details of Citizens Advice locations, opening times and contact details.
- **Scope Disability Helpline:** provides free independent and impartial advice
 - **Phone:** 0808 800 3333
 - **Email:** helpline@scope.org.uk
 - **Address:** 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
 - **Website:** <https://www.accessdorset.org.uk/>
- **Disability Rights UK: Personal Budgets Helpline:**
 - **Phone:** 0330 995 0404 (9.30am-1.00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays)
 - **Email:** personalbudgets@disabilityrightsuk.org
- **Disability Rights UK:** Provides downloadable factsheets and advice on benefits, tax credits, and independent living.
 - **Website:** <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/guidance-resources>

- **Local Council Support:** Dorset Council Adult Social Care can provide support based on how a medical condition affects daily life.
 - **Contact:** Dorset Council Adult Access Team on 01305 221016 or via the [Dorset Council Adult Social Care portal](#).
- **Action for ME** (for individuals with ME/CFS & carers):
 - **Information and support line:** 0117 927 9551
 - **Email:** infosupport@actionforme.org.uk
 - **Address:** Unit 2.2 Streamline, 436-441 Paintworks, Bristol, BS4 3AS
 - **Website:** <https://www.actionforme.org.uk/>
- **Community SWITCH** Support to live resources
 - Website: <https://communityswitch.org/i-need-support-to-live-my-life/>

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