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[Written Answers]

Personal Independence Payment: Pain

Luke Pollard

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of personal independence payments where chronic pain is the primary health condition are (a) refused at the initial application stage and (b) overturned at the mandatory reconsideration stage or appeal stage.

Chloe Smith

The table below provides information on initial decisions, mandatory reconsiderations and appeals following a Personal Independence Payment assessment where the primary condition has been determined as chronic pain. Chronic pain has been taken as anyone listed in the chronic pain syndromes subgroup (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, and chronic pain syndromes- other), non-specific back pain and specific back pain. The proportion of these figures as a percentage of initial decisions is also included.

Initial decisions
515,520

Disallowed at initial decision
168,130 (33%)

Changed at reconsideration or appeal after being disallowed at initial decision
33,050 (6%)

Notes:

* Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

* Data is based on primary disabling condition as recorded on the PIP computer system. Claimants may often have multiple disabling conditions

upon which the decision is based but only the primary condition is shown in these statistics.

* These figures include initial decisions following assessment for PIP New Claims and Reassessments from the start of the benefit in April 2013 up to 30th June 2021, the latest date for which published data is available.

* These figures cover mandatory reconsideration and appeal decisions at a tribunal hearing up to 31st September 2021.

* Decisions that were changed at mandatory reconsideration that were further changed at appeal have only been counted once.

* A change at appeal includes those that were overturned and those that were lapsed.

* A lapsed appeal is where DWP changed the decision in the customer's favour after an appeal was lodged but before it was heard at a tribunal hearing.

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