



Independent  
Living Fund

# Common questions from local authorities

**May 2014**

## **Closure of the ILF**

Since the announcement on 6 March 2014, we have had a number of questions from local authorities about the practicalities between now and then. Hopefully this information sheet will address some of these questions.

## **Funding**

### **What will the transferred budget be now that the ILF is not closing until June 2015?**

The UK Government previously announced that £262 million will be available for the 2015/16 financial year following the closure of the ILF. The new decision means that the ILF will continue to make user payments until 30 June 2015. DWP will therefore discuss the split of funding for that year with the relevant parties.

The ILF will provide DWP, the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Devolved Administrations with a financial breakdown of ILF user funding by local authority/country as at 30 June 2015.

The money will not be ring fenced to individual ILF users, it will be for the Local Authority and devolved administrations in Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland to decide on how funding is awarded following the closure of the ILF.

### **How will the funding be transferred after June 2015 – yearly or monthly?**

This is a matter for DWP to discuss with CLG or the relevant body in each country, but our initial understanding is that it will be a one-off payment within the broader delegation amount to the local authority.

### **What is the mechanism for applying for funding to support ILF users after 2015/16?**

Funding in respect of former ILF users from 2016-17 onwards will be decided in the next spending review and will be agreed through the established process for agreeing local authority/delegated budgets from Government.

### **Will users be given funding to cover the month of June and then local authorities/devolved administrations should be ready to release funds to users by July?**

Yes, the ILF will make payments to users for the period up to 30 June 2015.

***Please continue to contact us  
with your questions at:  
[Funds@ilf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Funds@ilf.gsi.gov.uk)***

## **Group 1 users**

### **Will local authorities be informed about who their Group 1 users are again?**

The ILF started collecting consent from group 1 users to share details with local authorities again in April 2014. We anticipate being able to share their details with local authorities from June onwards, and we will contact you once the information is available.

### **When will Scottish local authorities know who their group 1 users are?**

Due to the decision in Scotland to establish a Scottish Independent Living Fund (SILF) following the closure of the ILF, we will not be sharing any information with local authorities in Scotland as the consent we gathered is no longer valid. This is because it was collected on the basis that users would transfer to their local authority, which is not now the case.

When we allocate group 1 visits in Scotland, the user will have the opportunity to tell us whether they would like their local authority to be invited to the visit, however, we will not share copies of the support plans or undertake any data transfer on group 1 users in Scotland.

It is likely that the ILF will need to undertake a wider consent exercise with all users in Scotland, to gain consent to transferring their details to the SILF. This will depend on the structure and status of the SILF. We will write to all Scottish local authorities if this is required.

**As funding will not be ring fenced once under the local authority's control, are local authorities/devolved administrations going to be left to manage the risks/users concerns,**

### **especially, with the Group 1 users, who have been on a higher rate of funding compared to Group 2?**

Individual funding decisions will be a matter for the local authority, through their normal assessment process. We are collecting and sharing alignment information on users to try to assist local authorities with information that may be helpful to them in understanding the packages and desired outcomes of the individuals that will transfer.

Although Group 1 users have a higher maximum sum than Group 2 users, the average Group 1 award is only marginally higher than the average Group 2 award so on the whole the packages should not be a great deal higher. The current average Group 1 award is £402.76 and the average Group 2 award is £313.22.

## **Post-June 2015**

### **What will the Government's expectations be for English local authorities who will be managing the funds in future?**

The rationale for the closure is that social care support will be managed through one mainstream system. Our understanding is that the government does not have separate expectations in relation to ex-ILF users, simply that they are supported within the mainstream system.

### **In terms of handover, what support will be given by ILF after the transfer?**

The ILF will close on 30 June 2015, although a small lights out team will remain to close the building etc, we will not be able to provide a service beyond this date. We are currently working with a number of local authorities to design the final information and support handover

package and intend to meet with all local authorities before we close to ensure they have the information they require prior to 30 June 2015. We have also had initial discussions with the Scottish Government to understand the practicalities of transfer in Scotland and will continue to develop these plans with them.

## **General queries**

### **Where can I find a copy of the equality analysis that DWP published?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-the-independent-living-fund-equality-analysis>

### **How will redundancy payments for personal assistants be funded, in the event that the support they provide falls outside of local authority eligibility criteria/different policy decisions in Scotland?**

We understand that users will be required to meet their obligations as an employer.

Our policies allow us to support users with redundancy payments in certain circumstances. This would only apply where it is necessary for a user to make an employee redundant before 30 June 2015 and one of the factors considered in a redundancy payment request is the reason for the redundancy. It must be remembered that the ILF funding will continue until 30 June 2015 and we will request details of why the PA is being made redundant when our funding is still available.

The amount of support available depends on whether the user continues to be eligible for ILF funding or not: if they do, payments are subject to the restriction of the maximum sum that the ILF can pay.

### **What will happen for users visited between 6 November 2013 and 6 March 2014?**

You should have received a copy of the documentation we are planning to send out to these users (and are currently piloting), if you have not, please let us know and we will arrange a copy for you.

Users visited between these dates did not have a discussion about potential alignment issues in preparation for being transferred, as this decision had not been made. Our independent assessor did not talk to users about how they would like to receive and manage support in the future.

This means that users did not have the opportunity to answer some questions about how they would like their care to be provided from 1 July 2015. The ILF is piloting a scheme to collect this information at the moment, contacting 250 users to discuss these specific issues. The results from this pilot will be used to inform the approach for the other 3,750 users in this situation and we will let you know the outcome.

We have included Scottish users in this pilot as, even though the transfer arrangements are different, it is still important to collect the information about future support from users, to be able to share this with the SILF.