

Introduction to decision making

Setting a review date

1. For all awards except Short Fixed Term awards without a review, you must set a review date.
2. An award review is an opportunity to look at a claimant's continuing entitlement at set intervals in the future. This ensures the claimant continues to get the right amount of benefit based on needs arising from their health condition or disability. The review date **must** be based on the claimant's individual circumstances.
3. You will decide:
 - the award period based on all the evidence, this can be between 9 months to an On-going award
 - the award review date, where applicable

The Assessment Provider (AP) and review date

4. The AP will give you their recommendations and justification for the recommended review date in their consultation report. These also appear in the 'Recommendations' screen of the assessment questionnaire.
5. To help you, the AP will always either:
 - recommend a review period or
 - recommend a review isn't required
6. For a given review period, the AP will suggest:
'Based on the claimant's likely future circumstances, it would be appropriate to review the claim in <Years> <Months>'
7. The recommended year and month date is taken from the date of the face-to-face meeting with the claimant. If the assessment is paper-based this would be the date the AP fills in the assessment report.
- Note:** The review date is always based on the original report date even if further evidence is received.
8. If the AP believes a review isn't required they'll answer:
'I consider there to be no requirement for future reviews of this claim as significant change is unlikely'
9. If the AP answers 'Yes' to the review not required question, this indicates an on-going award may be appropriate. The explanation from the AP should give further detail to support their answer. This **must** be taken into account when you decide on the award period.
10. The AP may add:
'It is likely that the functional restriction identified in this report will be present at the recommended point of review'
11. The AP will select one of the following options for this statement:

Not applicable	if they consider the claimant either has few or no functional restrictions
No	if they consider the restrictions may not still be present at the time any award made by you is likely to end
Yes	if they consider the restrictions will stay the same or deteriorate

Note: It's important that **you** make the decision on a review date. You can use a different date than the one suggested by the AP but you **must** record your reasons for that decision in the Decision Assist notes.

Ongoing award

7. On-going awards for claimants can be reached in one of two ways:

- following advice from the AP that no review is required and the claimant's restrictions on Daily Living/ and or Mobility are stable and unlikely to change significantly or they have very high levels of needs which will only deteriorate
- where the claimant is awarded enhanced/enhanced and their needs are not going to improve or would only deteriorate

8. **Note:** You may also consider an enhanced daily living award alone where the claimant is State Pension Age or over **and** has either not been awarded the mobility component or has been awarded the mobility component at the standard rate and their mobility needs are not going to improve.

9. If the AP considers the claimant's restrictions will continue but are likely to deteriorate they may advise on an appropriate review period rather than no review.

10. If the AP recommends a review date you **must** consider (a) whether the AP has also answered 'Yes' in the PA3/4 report to the question "It is likely that the functional restriction identified in this report will be present at the recommended point of review' or (b) stated that the claimant's condition is not likely to improve or deteriorate over the specified period.

11. If the AP considers the claimants restrictions are likely to deteriorate; check if the outcome is enhanced/enhanced. If so, an on-going award should be made.

12. If you decide an on-going award applies, don't record an end date in PIPCS

13. The award review date will be set from the consultation date and will always be 10 years.

14. On-going awards will be subject to a 'light touch' review. The process is yet to be designed.

Diagram One

