

## FOI 5674 Response

Following the new decision by the Government to close the ILF (Independent Living Fund) on June 30th 2015 and devolve funding to Local Authorities, please could you answer the following questions.

1: Will monies transferred from the closure of the ILF to your local authority be ring fenced to ILF recipients in your area? If no decision has yet been taken, what is the process and timescale for this happening?

Our understanding is that the money transferred to the Council from the closure of the ILF will not be ring fenced by the DWP to individual ILF users. Furthermore at this stage the amount to be transferred is not known. Initially it is proposed that there is a one off payment within the overall grant funding to the Council, with the amount from 2016 - 17 onwards to be decided in the next spending review. Therefore at this stage it is not possible to confirm exactly what the overall available level of funding will be.

2: Please could you state the process and timescale for meeting with current ILF recipients to prepare personal care plans for 1st July 2015 onwards (bearing in mind the assessments at the Transfer Review visits only indicate desired outcomes and do not produce an actual care package).

There will be a programme of individual reviews which it is intended will take place between Jan - Apr 2015 which will facilitate the transfer of users to local authority support. As with all individual case reviews, users and their representatives will be fully involved and their views and wishes taken into account in the implementation of the transfer.

3: Will you be making any special dispensation for allowing ILF users to continue to employ their current & in many cases long standing carers of many years, bearing in mind some may be paid a higher rate than what LA's may usually advise and be family members too?

All personal budgets will be determined using the Council's Resource Allocation System and it will then be up to individuals to determine whether they want to use the agreed amount to pay carers more than the normal rate. A personal budget can only be used to employ family members under exceptional circumstances.