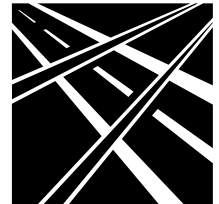


Can I get a Blue Badge?

A guide on applying for a Blue Badge for people in Scotland



TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your local authority.

You should contact your local authority:

- for information on eligibility criteria;
- to get an application form for a badge;
- if your application was unsuccessful and you want to request a review; and
- if your badge has expired or is about to expire.

You can also apply on-line at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge

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1. THE BLUE BADGE SCHEME

The Blue Badge scheme provides a national arrangement across the UK and a partnership arrangement in other European Union member states.

The scheme is designed to help disabled people who have severe mobility problems lead independent lives by knowing that when they reach a destination, either as a driver or passenger, that they will be able to park near to a venue and therefore have easier access to the services they want to use. It isn't to provide free parking.

The Blue Badge parking concessions only allow badge holders to park on-street. They don't apply to off-street privately operated car parks, such as supermarket car parks or on privately owned roads, such as those you find at airports. There may, however be special concessions for badge holders in these areas and you should check for signs detailing these.

2. WHO AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFIES FOR A BADGE?

You are automatically eligible for a badge if you are over two years old and meet one of the following criteria:

- you receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance; or
- you meet a 'Moving Around' descriptor for the Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) that indicates that they either cannot stand or can stand but walk no more than 50 metres (8 points or more); or
- you meet the 'Planning and Following Journeys' descriptor for the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) that indicates that they can't follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid (12 points); or
- You were in receipt of a fixed term award of the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance immediately before being assessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). You did not receive the Mobility Component of PIP at 8 points or more for the 'Moving Around' activity or 12 points for the 'Planning and Following Journeys' activity and you have requested a mandatory reconsideration of that decision with the Department for Work and Pensions within the last year; or

- you were in receipt of a lifetime or indefinite award of the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance immediately before being assessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP); or
- you are blind or registered blind; or
- you receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement; or
- you have received a lump sum benefit within tariffs 1 to 8 of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial difficulty which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

If you are applying under any of these criteria you will automatically qualify for a Blue Badge, provided you have the appropriate documentation, such as your most recent DLA award letter, to support your application and can provide proof of your identity and proof that you are a resident in the local authority in which you are applying.

If you do not meet the above criteria you may still be eligible for a badge, see page 4.

3. WHO ELSE MAY QUALIFY FOR A BADGE?

You may also be eligible for a badge if you are more than two years old and meet one of the following criteria:

- you have a permanent and substantial disability which means you are unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk; or
- you are unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk because of a temporary but substantial disability which is likely to last at least 12 months but less than 3 years.

If applying for a badge under the above criteria you will need to show that you are unable to walk or virtually unable to walk very far without experiencing excessive pain and breathlessness, or a deterioration of health brought on by the effort needed to walk.

Eligibility is not based on the basis of a particular diagnosis or condition; it is the effect of the disability on your ability to walk that is important. Medical conditions such as asthma, autism, psychological/behavioural problems, Crohn's disease/incontinent conditions and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) are not **in themselves** a qualification for a badge. People with these conditions may be eligible for a badge under the above criteria, but only if they are unable or virtually unable to walk.

Your local authority is responsible for deciding whether you are eligible and may ask you to undergo a mobility assessment by an independent mobility professional, such as a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist. In such cases they will make the necessary arrangements.

You may also be eligible if you **drive** a motor vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both upper limbs, and are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty in operating, all or some types of parking meter. To qualify for a badge under this criterion you will need to show that you meet **all** of the following:

- that you drive a vehicle regularly;
- that you have a severe disability in both arms; and
- that you are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty operating, all or some types of on-street parking equipment.

Most drivers with disabilities in both arms drive a vehicle with adapted steering. Only drivers with the most severe disabilities in both their arms will be eligible under this criterion. It does not apply to people, who for example, have difficulty carrying parcels or shopping or to people who travel solely as a passenger.

People who aren't otherwise eligible, but whose behaviour is so severely affected that it is already difficult to keep them safe in traffic because they can't be verbally or physically guided, might also be eligible for a Blue Badge. To meet this criteria:

- The applicant must have been diagnosed with a condition that falls within the definition of mental disorder under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. This is a legal term we have to use. It includes conditions such as dementia, autism or Down's Syndrome **and**
- The applicant must lack awareness of danger from traffic, meaning they are **likely** to risk their safety or the safety of other people during journeys.

The purpose of the Badge is to support safety where other strategies don't work to manage the risk. But it may be other tools would reduce the risk better. This eligibility criteria isn't focused on risk that might be associated with a particular condition, but actual risk bearing in mind the specifics of the applicant's case. For this eligibility criteria, the application process is different. This is because your local authority needs to ask different questions. The process of applying begins with a conversation with your local authority, to identify health, social care or teaching professionals who can help the local authority evaluate the risk. Therefore, you need to contact your local authority to request a mental disorder/cognitive impairment Blue Badge application form. Contact details are at page 12.

4. SPECIAL RULES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE

A parent of a child who is less than three years old may apply for a badge for their child if the child has a specific medical condition which means that they must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty.

Bulky medical equipment includes any of the following:

- ventilators;
- suction machines;
- feed pumps;
- parenteral equipment;
- syringe drivers;
- oxygen administration equipment;
- continuous oxygen saturation monitoring equipment; and
- casts and associated medical equipment for the correction of hip dysplasia.

A child will be eligible to receive a badge if the equipment is always needed and cannot be carried around without great difficulty. The local authority may ask for information from a medical professional involved in your child's care.

A parent of a child who is less than three years old may apply for a badge for their child if the child has a specific medical condition which means need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so that they can, if necessary, be treated in the vehicle or quickly driven to a place where they can be treated, such as a hospital.

Examples of highly unstable medical conditions that mean children who have them may need quick access to transport to hospital or home may include:

tracheostomies;

severe epilepsy/fitting;

highly unstable diabetes; or

terminal illnesses that prevent children from spending any more than brief moments outside and who need a quick route home.

Please note this list is not exhaustive. A parent or guardian must apply on behalf of a child under three.

5. BADGES FOR ORGANISATIONS

Some organisations may be eligible for a Blue Badge if they **both** care for and transport disabled people who themselves meet the eligibility criteria for a badge (described in sections 2-4). The local authority will also need to decide whether the organisation has a clear need for an organisational badge rather than using the individual badges of people it is transporting. An organisational badge must only be displayed when someone who would be eligible for a Blue Badge in their own right is being transported.

Common examples of organisations that may be eligible include residential care homes, hospices or local authority social services departments. It is unlikely that taxi or private hire operators and community transport operators would be eligible for an organisational Blue Badge as they are not usually concerned with the care of disabled people.

When making an application for an organisational Blue Badge, you may be asked for evidence that the vehicles on which the badge will be displayed are licensed under the Disabled Passenger Vehicle taxation class. This will usually be a photocopy of the vehicle's tax disc. You will be asked for information such as the number of qualifying disabled people being cared for, the type of vehicle being used to carry passengers and whether the vehicle is adapted.

6. HOW TO APPLY FOR A BADGE

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your local authority. You should contact them directly for enquiries or information about the administration of the scheme and for an application form.

You can apply online at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge. However, you can't apply online under the mental disorder/cognitive impairment criteria discussed at pages 6-7. This is because the form should be countersigned. You need to contact your local authority for a paper form.

The Blue Badge is two-sided with a digital photograph of the badge holder on the back. Your application should therefore be accompanied by a full colour passport sized photograph of the badge holder. The photograph must be a true likeness, taken within the previous six months; the face should be uncovered and un-obscured, looking directly at the camera. You should print your name, or get a parent or guardian to print, on the back of the photograph.

If you live in Scotland and think you may be entitled to a Blue Badge you should apply to your local authority (the address and telephone number will be in your local phone book). If you are contacting your council by telephone ask for the section that deals with Blue Badges. A table of local authority numbers can be found at page 13.

Your local authority will decide if you are eligible for a badge. If they decide that you are not eligible and you think that they did not take account of all the facts, you can ask them to consider your application again. You cannot appeal to the Scottish Government.

A local authority may refuse to issue a badge if they have reason to believe that the person applying for it is not who they claim to be or that the applicant would allow the badge to be used by someone else. They can also refuse to issue a badge if you do not supply sufficient evidence to support your claim that you are eligible.

Local authorities have the option to make a charge of up to £20 for the issue of a badge. Please ask whether there will be a charge when you make an application.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTACTS

All enquiries about applying for a badge, eligibility assessments, the administration and the enforcement of the scheme should be directed to your local authority.

Local Authority	Number	Email address
Aberdeen City	03000 200 292	disabledbadges@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Aberdeenshire	0345 608 12 08	bluebadge@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Angus	0345 27 77 778	www.angus.gov.uk
Argyll & Bute	0154 660 55 17	bluebadges@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Clackmannanshire	01259 450 000	roads@clacks.gov.uk
Dumfries & Galloway	030 33 33 3001	contact@dumgal.gov.uk
Dundee City	01382 434 000	N/A
East Ayrshire	01563 554 200	socialworkcustomerfirst@east-ayrshire.gov.gcsx.gov.uk
East Dunbartonshire	03001 234 510	customerservices@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
East Lothian	01620 827 367	transportservices@eastlothian.gov.uk
East Renfrewshire	0141 577 3001	bluebadge@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
Edinburgh, City of	0131 469 3891	travelconcessions@edinburgh.gov.uk
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	01851 822 708	N/A

Local Authority	Number	Email address
Falkirk	01324 506 070	bbteam.ds@falkirk.gov.uk
Fife	03451 550 066	European.Parkingbadges@fife.gov.uk
Glasgow, City of	0141 287 4578	bluebadgeteam@glasgow.gov.uk
Highland	01349 886 604	blue.badge@highland.gov.uk
Inverclyde	01475 715 330	icil@inverclyde.gov.uk
Midlothian	0131 561 5445	ptu@midlothian.gov.uk
Moray	01343 543 451	N/A
North Ayrshire	01294 476 148	ILSBB@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	01698 403 160	N/A
Orkney Islands	01856 873 535	customerservice@orkney.gov.uk
Perth & Kinross	01738 475 000	BlueBadges@pkc.gov.uk
Renfrewshire	0300 300 0300	bluebadge.contact@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Scottish Borders	0300 100 1800	customerservices@scotborders.gov.uk
Shetland Islands	01595 744 868	transport@shetland.gov.uk
South Ayrshire	0300 123 0900	Blue.Badge@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
South Lanarkshire	0303 123 1008	equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Stirling	01786 237 502	tcc@stirling.gov.uk
West Dunbartonshire	01389 737 020	wdadult@wdc.gcsx.gov.uk
West Lothian	01506 280 000	customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk

For enquiries about Blue Badge policy and legislation, please contact:

Blue Badge Team
Transport Scotland
2F North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

E: bluebadge@transport.gov.scot

**Expired, invalid and not longer required badges should be returned to
your local authority.**

Copies of this leaflet can be downloaded from www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge.

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