



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Who is eligible for a Blue Badge?

May 2017

Read this leaflet carefully to find out whether you are eligible for a Blue Badge. Remember that anyone using false details or evidence to apply can be fined £5,000.



The Blue Badge scheme enables people who meet the eligibility criteria to maximise their independence by improving their access to services and facilities. They can be the driver or a passenger.

A person **does not have to drive** to apply for a Blue Badge. The Badge is for an individual and it can be used for any car when that person is a passenger.

In Wales, an **Individual**, can qualify for a Blue Badge, in one of the following **categories**:

- **Automatic**.....**Page 3**
- **Discretionary**.....**Page 4 & 5**
- **Temporary**.....**Page 6**

An **Organisation** can qualify for a Blue Badge if it both cares for and transports disabled people who would themselves be eligible for an individual Blue Badge.

In Wales there is no charge for a Blue Badge. Websites that charge to apply for a Blue Badge are not genuine providers and should be avoided.

Automatic Qualification

An individual may be eligible for a badge, without the need for an assessment, if they receive the following Disability Benefits or have sight impairment.

- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP) at the following levels:**
12 points for Planning and Following a Journey
8 points or more for moving around
- **Higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA)**
- **Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Tariff 1-8 (inclusive) and includes Permanent Mental Disorder under Tariff 6**
- **War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement**
- **'Registered blind' or have a 'severe sight impairment'**

Satisfactory Evidence: An original award letter from the Department of Work and Pensions for one of these Benefits.

Satisfactory Evidence: An original award letter from the Ministry of Defence.

Satisfactory Evidence: One of the following – An Ophthalmologist Report. CV1/BD8 form confirming the applicant is 'severely sight impaired (Blind)'. Registration with the local authority as Sight Impaired at the 'severe' level.

» Turn to page 8 to see how to apply.

Discretionary Qualification

Certain circumstances might make an individual eligible even though they do not receive the benefits listed on page 3. These are:

- **Completely unable to walk. Considerable difficulty walking. Substantial impairment to mobility**

A person over two years old who has a permanent and substantial disability. This means they are unable to walk or have considerable difficulty walking. They need walking aids or even oxygen to walk a short distance such as half a length of a football pitch.

Satisfactory Evidence: The local authority will require additional information to support the claim. Applicants should speak to the local authority first about this and not ask their GP for a letter.

- **A child under the age of three who has a medical condition that means:**

they must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around with the child without difficulty

they must always be near a vehicle to access life saving medical treatment for that condition or they can be taken quickly in the vehicle to a place where such treatment can be given.

Satisfactory Evidence: A letter from a Paediatrician.

- **Severe disability in both arms**

A person, who due to this disability, has considerable difficulty, or is unable, to operate all or some types of parking meter. This badge can only be used by the person when they are the driver.

- **Severe Cognitive Impairment**

A person who is unable to plan or follow any journey without the help of someone else.

- **A terminal illness that seriously limits mobility**

Satisfactory Evidence: A driving license coded with 40 (adapted steering) or 79 (vehicles with specifications).

Satisfactory Evidence: One of the following – An appointment for a Memory Clinic. Registration on the local authority learning disabilities register. A letter from a healthcare professional involved in the treatment.

Satisfactory Evidence: DS 1500 form or a supporting letter from a Macmillan or Tenovus nurse.

» Turn to page 8 to see how to apply.

Temporary Qualification

An individual can apply for a temporary 12 month badge if they are recovering from, or awaiting treatment for serious illnesses or injuries. Examples of these are:

- **Recovering from complex leg fractures, like those managed with external fixators, for periods of well over a year**
- **Recovering from or awaiting joint replacement e.g. hip, knee, that severely limits mobility**
- **Recovering from stroke or head injury which impacts on mobility**
- **Recovering from spinal trauma which impacts on mobility**
- **Undergoing medical treatment e.g. for cancer, that impacts on mobility**

Satisfactory Evidence: The local authority will generally refer an applicant for an independent assessment to check they meet the eligibility criteria for a temporary badge.

» Turn to page 8 to see how to apply.

The following reasons alone do not make an individual eligible for a Blue Badge:

- **Pregnancy**
- **Lower Rate Disability Living Allowance**
- **Attendance Allowance**
- **Disability in one arm**
- **Bladder or bowel problems such as Crohn's or Colitis**
- **Temporary conditions such as limb fractures or sprains that require being in a cast for weeks or months**
- **Treatment for an illness or injury that does not severely impact on mobility**

How to apply for a Blue Badge

You can apply directly through your local authority. Your local authority website has details of the ways you can apply.

You can phone the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) bilingual enquiry line on **08444 630215**. They can provide contact details for your local authority.

You can also apply on-line at **www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge**. Your application will then be sent on to your local authority to process.

When an application is rejected

The local authority's decision on eligibility is final. There is no appeals process. However, if additional evidence is available then an applicant may request that the local authority reconsiders their application.

The **Welsh Government** has no power to intervene in the decision making process if an application is rejected.

For more copies of this leaflet e-mail **CustomerHelp@wales.gsi.gov.uk** or telephone **0300 0604400**.