

Can I get a Blue Badge?

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



An agency of  The Scottish Government

PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your local authority.

The address and telephone number of your local authority will be in your local telephone book. When phoning, ask the switchboard to put you in touch with the section dealing with Blue Badges.

We have included a table on page 12 that lists the local authority switchboard numbers.

You should contact your local authority:

- for information on eligibility criteria;
- to get an application form for a badge;
- if your application was unsuccessful but you do not know why; and
- if your badge has expired or is about to expire.

You can also apply on-line at www.bluebadgescotland.org

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CAN I GET A BLUE BADGE?

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.

The Blue Badge parking concessions only allow badge holders to park on-street.

They do not 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 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 for a period of at least 12 months but less than 3 years.

If you are 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.

Unless advised by your local authority, you should not ask your GP for an assessment when completing your application form.

4. WHO ELSE MAY QUALIFY FOR A BADGE?

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.

5. 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.

6. 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 2-5). 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.

7. 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 paper copies of their application form. Alternatively you can apply online at www.bluebadgescotland.org.

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 switchboard numbers can be found on page12.

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.

8. 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	Switchboard Number
Aberdeen City	08456 080 910
Aberdeenshire	01467 628 032
Angus	08452 777 778
Argyll & Bute	01546 605 517
Clackmannanshire	01259 450 000
Dumfries & Galloway	03033 333 000
Dundee City	01382 434 000
East Ayrshire	01563 554 200
East Dunbartonshire	03001 234 510
East Lothian	01620 827 367
East Renfrewshire	0141 577 3001
Edinburgh, City of	0131 469 3891
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	01851 822 708

Local Authority	Switchboard Number
Falkirk	01324 506 070
Fife	08451 550 066
Glasgow, City of	0141 287 2000
Highland	01349 886 604
Inverclyde	01475 714 350
Midlothian	0131 561 5445
Moray	01343 563 999
North Ayrshire	01294 476 148
North Lanarkshire	01698 403 160
Orkney Islands	01856 873 535
Perth & Kinross	01738 475 000
Renfrewshire	0300 300 0300
Scottish Borders	0300 100 1800
Shetland Islands	01595 744 868
South Ayrshire	0300 123 0900
South Lanarkshire	0303 123 1008
Stirling	01786 442 645
West Dunbartonshire	01389 737 000
West Lothian	01506 280 000

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

Blue Badge Team
Transport Scotland
Scottish Government
2D-North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

E: bluebadge@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Produced by the Scottish Government
Updated May 2013
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