



The Wealdstone Centre,  
38-40 High Street,  
Harrow, HA3 7AE  
Phone: 020 8861 9920  
E-mail: [general@HAD.org.uk](mailto:general@HAD.org.uk)  
Website: [www.HAD.org.uk](http://www.HAD.org.uk)

# Blue Badge Scheme

## INTRODUCTION

This Factsheet is one in a series, provided by HAD.org.uk, that provides information for disabled people, their families, carers and professionals supporting them. This factsheet will focus on the Blue Badge Scheme.

### Do you qualify for a blue badge?

You are automatically eligible to apply for a Blue Badge if you are aged three years old and at least one of the following applies:

- You receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA),
- You receive a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) because you are unable to walk more than 50 metres (a score of 8 points or more under the 'moving around' activity of the mobility component),
- You are registered blind (severely sight impaired),
- You receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement,

- You received a lump sum benefit within tariff levels 1 to 8 of the Armed Forces and Reserved Forces (Compensation) Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking,
- You receive the mobility component of PIP and have obtained 10 points specifically for descriptor E under the 'planning and following journeys' activity, on the grounds that you are unable to undertake any journey because it would cause you overwhelming psychological distress.

### **People who may get a blue badge:**

You may be eligible for a badge if one or more of the following applies:

- You cannot walk at all,
- You can walk without help from someone else or using mobility aids,
- You can find walking very difficult due to pain, breathlessness or the time it takes,
- Walking is dangerous to your health and safety,
- You have a life limiting illness, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult and have a SR1 form,
- You have a severe disability in both arms and drive regularly, but cannot operate pay-and-display parking machines,
- You have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child always needs to be accompanied by bulky medical equipment,

- You have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child must always be kept near a vehicle in case they need emergency medical equipment,
- You are constantly a significant risk to yourself or others near vehicles, in traffic or car parks,
- You struggle severely to plan or follow a journey,
- You find it difficult or impossible to control your actions and lack awareness of the impact you have on others,
- You regularly have intense and overwhelming responses to situations causing temporary loss of behavioural control,
- You frequently become extremely anxious or fearful of public/open spaces.

## **How to get a Blue Badge**

- Your local council will decide if you are eligible for a blue badge.
- They cannot start the assessment process until they have all the necessary evidence.
- It may take 12 weeks or longer to assess your application.
- If they decide you are not eligible and you think they did not take account of all the facts, you can ask them to consider your application again. This is called an Appeal.

## **What you need to apply for a Blue Badge**

To apply for a Blue Badge, you will need to provide some personal information as well as supporting documentation they are:

- Proof of identity,
- Proof of address,
- A recent head and shoulders digital photo,
- Your national insurance number (if you have one),
- Contact details (phone number, email and postal address).

To prove your identity, you can provide a copy of either:

- Birth or adoption certificate,
- Passport,
- Driving licence,
- Marriage or civil partnership certificate,
- Divorce or dissolution certificate.

To prove your address, you can provide a copy of either:

- A recent council tax bill,
- A recent letter from a government department such as Department for Work and Pensions,
- Driving licence,
- A recent letter from school (if you are under 16).

Providing proof of benefits

- Personal Independent Payment (PIP): You will need to know the scores from the mobility assessment and the award end date (if applicable).

You will also be asked to provide proof of the PIP award.  
This would be the 3 pages from the letter from DWP:

- Entitlement to PIP (front page),
- Assessment scores (second to last page),
- Mobility scores (last page).

Disability Living Allowance (DLA):

- You will need to know which rate of mobility component you receive and the end award date (if applicable).
- You will also be asked to provide proof of the DLA award.

This should be the most recent letter from DWP, which clearly shows:

- Mobility rating,
- Certificate of entitlement to DLA,
- The date of the letter.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme:

- You will be asked provide of the benefit.
- This should be the most letter from the Ministry of Defence, which clearly shows that you:
  - Were injured in service on or after 6 April 2005,
  - Have been awarded a benefit by the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, with a lump sum payment within Tariffs 1 to 8,
  - Are certified as having a permanent, substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable disability in walking.

## War Pensioners' Mobility Scheme:

- You will be asked to provide proof of the benefit.

This should be the most recent letter from the Ministry of Defence, which clearly shows you:

- Were injured in service before 6 April 2005,
- Are in receipt of a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.

## **Proof of eligibility**

If you are applying without one of the benefits, the application will need to be assessed by the issuing local council. To help assess the application, you will be asked to provide extra information depending on the answers you give when you are checking eligibility. If you cannot walk or find walking difficult or you have a non-visible (hidden) condition, you will be asked to provide details of any:

- Relevant medication that is taken,
- Relevant treatments that you receive or are due to receive,
- Healthcare or associated professionals that have been involved with the treatment of your condition.

You will be asked if you want to upload supporting documents. This could be:

- Prescriptions,
- Diagnosis letters, or
- Correspondence between professionals that treat your condition.

If you cannot walk or find walking difficult, you will also be asked questions around how your condition affects your walking.

If you have a non-visible (hidden) condition, you will also be asked questions around how journeys between your vehicle and destination are affected by your condition.

## **How you can provide documents**

When you are applying online, you will be able to upload a photo or scan of:

- Proof of benefit,
- Proof of address,
- Proof of identity,
- Supporting documents.

You can also upload a recent digital photo – just make sure the photos or scans are good quality and include all of the relevant information. If you are applying on a mobile or tablet device, you can take a photo of the required documents and upload within the application itself.

You can choose not to upload the documents when you are applying. If you do this, you will need to supply copies of the documents to the local council. Instead, if you receive one of these benefits, you can still apply and your application will be assessed by your local council.

## **Blue Badges for organisations**

An organisation may be eligible for a badge (or multiple badges) if they both:

- Care for or assist people who need a Blue Badge,
- Transport people who need a Blue Badge.

The issuing local council will decide whether the organisation has a clear need for an organisational badge rather than using the individual badges of the 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 council 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.

## Further Information

Full details about the Blue Badge Scheme can be found on the Government's website at:

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/disabledpeople/motoringandtransport/dg\\_4001061](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/disabledpeople/motoringandtransport/dg_4001061)

**Do you need further help?**

**Please contact [HAD.org.uk](http://HAD.org.uk) on 020 8861 9920,  
Or visit us at The Wealdstone Centre,  
38-40 High Street, Wealdstone, Harrow, HA3 7AE.**



This fact sheet is one of a series, providing information and advice on a number of topics.

## **HAD.ORG.UK FACTSHEETS:**

- Access to Shops, Cafes and Everyday Services
- Accessible Public Transport
- Aids and Adaptations
- Blue Badge Scheme
- Concessionary Travel
- Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Schemes
- Education and Learning
- Holidays
- Leisure at Home
- Motoring
- Performing Arts
- Self Directed Support
- Sports
- The Care Act 2014
- Universal Credit
- Utilities
- Visiting Places of Interest
- Voluntary Transport
- Welfare Benefits
- Wheelchairs

## **HOUSING MATTERS:**

- A General Guide to Housing Benefit
- A Guide to Housing Benefit for Disabled Students
- Applying as Homeless (Priority Need)
- Homelessness (Out of Hours) Emergencies
- Private Tenants: smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- Rent Increases : Assured Shorthold Tenancies
- The Right to Rent
- 10 Rights of Private Tenants