



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

GUIDANCE

# Blue Badges: eligibility

When you are eligible for a Blue Badge.

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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.

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.

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

## 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.

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**Disability benefit or impairment****Satisfactory evidence**

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- 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)

An original award letter from the Department of Work and Pensions for one of these benefits.

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- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Tariff 1 to 8 (inclusive) and includes Permanent Mental Disorder under Tariff 6
  - War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement

An original award letter from the Ministry of Defence.

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- 'Registered blind' or have a 'severe sight impairment'

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
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## Discretionary qualification

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

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**Condition, impairment or disability****Satisfactory evidence**

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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.

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.

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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.

A letter from a paediatrician.

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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.

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

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Severe Cognitive Impairment

One of the following:

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**Condition, impairment or disability****Satisfactory evidence**

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

- Registration on the local authority learning disabilities register.
  - A letter from healthcare professionals involved in the treatment. e.g. from a memory clinic.
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A terminal illness that seriously limits mobility.

SR1 form or a supporting letter from a Macmillan or Tenovus nurse.

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## 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:

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**Condition, illness or injury****Satisfactory evidence**

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Recovering from complex leg fractures, like those managed with external fixators, for periods of well over a year

A letter from a healthcare professional involved in the treatment. The local authority will generally refer an applicant for an independent assessment to check they meet the eligibility criteria for a temporary badge.

- Recovering from or awaiting joint replacement e.g. hip, knee, that severely limits
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Condition, illness or injury	Satisfactory evidence
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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
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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 also apply online: [GOV.UK: Apply for a 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.

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

## Further information

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