

# The Blue Badge Scheme in Scotland

## Can I get a Blue Badge?



**JULY 2011**

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille audio tape and CD formats from:

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## **PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY**

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

You should contact your council:

- to get an application form for a badge;
- if your application was unsuccessful but you do not know why;
- if your badge needs to be renewed;

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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 severely disabled people 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 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 automatically qualify 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;
- you are registered blind;
- you receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement; and
- you receive an award under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

If you apply under one of the above criteria you will automatically qualify for a Blue Badge but you must provide appropriate documentation, such as your most recent DLA award letter, to support your application.

If you do not meet the above criteria you may still qualify for a badge, see page 3.

### **3. WHO ELSE MAY QUALIFY FOR A BADGE?**

You may also qualify 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.

The council will probably ask those applying under the above criteria to be assessed by a medical professional, such as a physiotherapist or occupational therapist.

- 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.

Only drivers with the most severe disabilities in both their arms will qualify under this criterion.

#### **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 condition which requires specific medical equipment, which means they must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty; or
- needs 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.

Bulky medical equipment includes any of the following: ventilators; suction machines; feed pumps; parenteral equipment; syringe drivers; oxygen administration equipment; continual oxygen saturation equipment; and casts and equipment for hip dysplasia.

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

## **5. BADGES FOR ORGANISATIONS**

Organisations which transport disabled people who would meet one or more of the above criteria may be eligible for an organisational badge. However, this is entirely at the discretion of the issuing council and any organisation which qualifies for a badge must follow the conditions set out for its use.

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 may also 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.

It is important to note that the organisational badge is awarded to an organisation or department within it. It is not awarded to an individual.

The badge must only be used for the purposes of transporting disabled people who meet one or more of the eligibility criteria. Where an organisation is transporting individuals who are badge holders then in the first instance they should use an individual's badge, remembering to return the badge to the individual once the journey is completed.

## **6. HOW TO APPLY FOR A BADGE**

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your council. You should contact them directly for enquiries or information about the administration of the scheme. The Blue Badge is a two-sided card with space for a photograph of the badge holder on the back of the card. Your application should therefore be accompanied by two full colour passport sized photographs of the badge holder. The photographs 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 sign, or get a parent or guardian to sign, the back of both photographs.

If you live in Scotland and think you may be entitled to a Blue Badge you should apply to your council (the address and telephone number will be in your local phone book). If you are contacting your council by telephone (see page 7), ask for the section that deals with Blue Badges. Some councils may have an on-line application on their website.

Your council will decide if you qualify for a badge. A council 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. Councils 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. CONTACTS

In the first instance you should contact your local council.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Switchboard Number</b>
Aberdeen City	08456 080 910
Aberdeenshire	01467 628 032
Angus	08452 777 778
Argyll & Bute	01546 602 127
Clackmannanshire	01259 450 000
Dumfries & Galloway	03033 333 000
Dundee City	01382 434 000
East Ayrshire	01563 576 000
East Dunbartonshire	03001 234 510
East Lothian	01620 827 827
East Renfrewshire	0141 5773 000
Edinburgh, City of	0131 2002 324
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	01859 502 367
Falkirk	01324 506 070
Fife	08451 550 000

<b>Council</b>	<b>Switchboard Number</b>
Glasgow, City of	0141 287 2000
Highland	01349 866 606
Inverclyde	01475 717 171
Midlothian	0131 270 7500
Moray	01343 543 451
North Ayrshire	01294 324 800
North Lanarkshire	01698 332 000
Orkney Islands	01856 873 535
Perth & Kinross	01738 475000
Renfrewshire	0141 842 4455
Scottish Borders	01835 824 000
Shetland Islands	01595 693 535
South Ayrshire	0300 123 0900
South Lanarkshire	0303 123 1015
Stirling	0845 277 7000
West Dunbartonshire	01389 737 000
West Lothian	01506 775 000

**For general enquiries, please contact:**

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

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