

Blue Badges

Background:

Blue Badges enable people to park closer to goods or services, so they can access them when they otherwise would not be able to. They are not to be issued simply to improve the applicant's quality of life.

Blue Badges are **not** issued because of the **presence of any specific condition or diagnosis**.

You **automatically** qualify for a Blue Badge if you are over 3 years old and at least one of the following applies:

- you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance*
- you receive a Personal Independence Payment because you can't walk more than 50 metres (**a score of 8 points or more under the 'moving around' activity of the mobility component**)*
- 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**. Under the 'planning and following journeys' mobility activity only a score of 10 points for Descriptor E ("cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress to the claimant") counts as meeting eligibility. Applicants in receipt of 10 points for Descriptor D, or 12 points for Descriptor F under the 'planning and following journeys' mobility activity do not qualify under this criterion. Such applicants should be considered under the 'subject to further assessment' criteria*.
- you are registered blind (severely sight impaired rather than partially sighted)
- you receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
- you have received a lump sum benefit within tariff levels 1-8 of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking

*Note that we can only award a badge for the duration of the benefit award, if less than 3 years. We give all applicants the ability to apply for a 3 year badge, but this would require a full application and supporting medical evidence.

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

- a person who drives a vehicle regularly, has a severe disability in both arms and is unable to operate, or has considerable difficulty in operating, all, or some types of parking meter; or
- has an enduring and substantial disability which causes them, during the course of a journey, to be unable to walk, experience very considerable difficulty whilst walking, which may include very considerable psychological distress
- in addition, they may be at risk of serious harm when walking - or pose, when walking, a risk of serious harm to any other person

- you have a terminal illness, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult and have a DS1500 form
- a child who, on account of a condition, must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around with the child without great difficulty
- a child who, on account of a condition, must always be kept near a motor vehicle so that, if necessary, treatment for that condition can be given in the vehicle or the child can be taken quickly in the vehicle to a place where such treatment can be given

Any of the above three types of difficulty whilst walking could potentially be caused by a physical disability, or by a non-visible ('hidden') disability. In either case, the disability experienced by the applicant must endure for at least three years

Requirements:

We need a completed application form made either online or via paper application.

Information about applying can be accessed here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/bluebadge>

Paper applications can be obtained from your local library.

Applicants will need to supply:

A passport style photograph, proof of identity, proof of address and if found eligible, a £10.00 payment.

Evidence of eligibility if applying under the **automatic** criteria **or medical evidence** if applying under the **non-automatic** criteria.

Timescales:

Applications usually take 6-8 weeks to process **when all information required has been supplied.**

All applicants are entitled to request a review and appeal of the outcome of their application if found not eligible. Information on how to request these is provided to all applicants, and we support everyone through the process.

All applications are initially reviewed to see if the applicant qualifies under the automatic criteria. If not, each application is assessed against the Department for Transport with further assessment criteria – applicants should provide evidence of their conditions and how they impact their ability to walk.

In no circumstances should a badge be issued to an applicant who does not meet one of the eligibility criteria set out in the legislation which governs the scheme. Badges should never be issued to people solely on the basis of their age and should not be issued for any purpose other than to assist the recipient when undertaking journeys.

Our Blue Badge policy can be found here:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/blue-badge-policy>