

Disability Sheffield Information Service

Blue Badge Factsheet



Disability Sheffield Information Service,
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We are receiving a lot of enquires from people thinking that we deliver the Blue Badge Scheme. Please note that Sheffield City Council delivers the Scheme and see 'Who to Contact and How to Apply' on Page 3 of this factsheet.

Applying for a Blue Badge

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The Blue Badge scheme provides a national range of parking concessions for disabled people with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport. The scheme is designed to help severely disabled people to travel independently, as either a driver or passenger, by allowing them to park as close to their destination as possible.

Do I qualify for a Blue badge?

Successful badge applications are either **automatic** or **discretionary**, depending on the nature of your condition.

If you're not automatically eligible you will be **independently assessed** as part of the application process.

You **automatically** qualify for a blue badge **if** you receive either of the following benefits:-

- Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance
- The mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and you scored at least 8 points in relation to the 'moving around' activity in the PIP assessment, or at least 12 points in the mobility activity for planning and following journeys (If you were on higher rate mobility component of DLA, but you had to claim PIP instead and didn't get enough points to be eligible for a blue badge, you can continue to use your badge until it expires)
- War Pensioners Mobility Supplement

You also qualify if you are:-

- Registered Blind **or**
- You drive a vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms and you are unable to operate or have considerable difficulty in operating, all or some types of parking meter **or**
- You have a child under the age of two and need to travel with bulky medical equipment or be close to a vehicle for emergency medical treatment because of your child's medical condition.

I have difficulty walking but don't get the above benefits - can I still apply?

Yes you can apply under the **discretionary** 'walking disability criteria'

You will need to show that:

- you cannot walk
- you are unable to walk very far without experiencing severe discomfort
- the physical effort needed to walk could damage your health
- your condition is permanent and substantial

In the past your GP could provide an assessment of your ability to walk but this is no longer accepted by the Department of Transport and a system of independent assessment has been introduced. Further changes to the Blue Badge scheme include:

- Changing the **design** of the badge to help enforcement by making it harder to tamper with or forge.
- Increasing the **fee** for a 3 year permit to £10 to cover the costs of administration, production and postage.
- The ability to [Apply for or renew a Blue Badge](#) online.

Extension of Criteria for People with a Hidden Disability

People with hidden disabilities, including autism and severe mental health conditions can now apply for a Blue Badge following changes to the eligibility criteria which came into effect at the end of August 2019.

The Blue Badge scheme already means people with physical disabilities can park closer to their destination than other drivers, as they are less able to take public transport or walk longer distances.

The new criteria extends eligibility to people who:

- cannot undertake a journey without there being a risk of serious harm to their health or safety or that of any other person (such as young children with autism)
- cannot undertake a journey without it causing them very considerable psychological distress
- have very considerable difficulty when walking (both the physical act and experience of walking)

While the new criteria should give clear and consistent guidelines on Blue Badge eligibility for the whole of England, not everyone with non-physical disabilities will qualify for a badge. It will be up to the relevant local authority to decide if an applicant meets the eligibility criteria, as is currently the case.

Who to contact and how to apply

You can still apply for a Blue Badge at First Point, Howden House but your actual Blue Badge will be produced and issued from a new nationally operated service and **sent direct** to your home address.

Address: First Point, Howden House, 1 Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH.

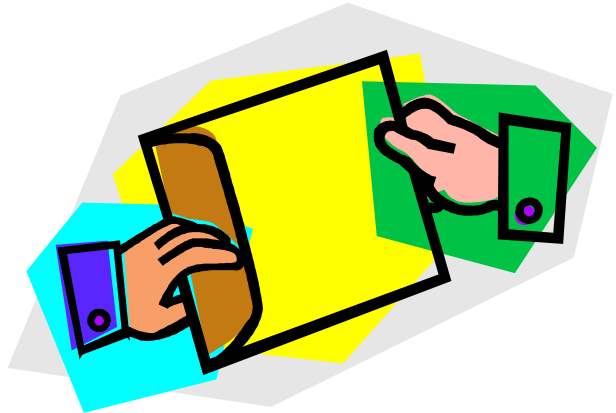
Opening hours : Mon-Friday 8am to 6pm (excluding Bank Holidays)

Tel: (0114) 273 4567 (Monday to Friday 8.45am to 5.15pm)

The service no longer has an email address but you can make an enquiry online using information on their 'Contact Us' page

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/contact-us>

Sheffield City Council has an 'Apply for a Blue Badge' page which includes information on how to apply, Blue badge expiry and application processing times and where you can park as well as links to downloadable documents such as the Blue Badge Policy.



<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/apply-for-blue-badge>

If you qualify under the **automatic criteria** all you need to do is take a completed application form to Howden House with the following documents:-

- proof of address (either a Utility Bill, Council Tax Bill, Rent Book, Driving License, Bank Statement, Pension Book or medical card)
- confirmation of Identity (either your passport, driving license, birth or adoption certificate or UK Identity card)
- 2 recent passport sized photos of the Blue badge Holder (Only **standard ID photographs** will be accepted for applications, such as a passport photograph).
- evidence of proof of benefit e.g. a copy of a letter confirming your mobility award or mobility supplement or a Vehicle Excise Duty Exemption Certificate



If you are applying under the **walking disability criteria** you will need to complete and hand in or send an application form to Sheffield City Council's Car Badge Team but your application will not be processed on the same day. The Car Badge team will contact you by phone and a physiotherapist will ask you questions about your ability to walk. You may then need to go for an independent assessment by a physiotherapist which will be arranged by the Car Badge Team. There is no charge for the assessment.

If you are awarded a Blue badge these rules apply

- It is your responsibility as badge holder to make sure that it is used properly.
- You must not allow other people to use it.
- Make sure that the details on the front of the badge stay legible. If they become unreadable then the badge must be returned to the address it was issued from so that it can be re-issued.
- You must not use the badge to allow non-disabled people to take advantage of the benefits whilst you sit in the car.

Remember the badge is issued in your name and your name only.

Any abuse of these rules e.g. a friend or relative using your badge when you're not with them, could result in a fine of up to £1,000, and permanent removal of your badge. For that reason keep your Blue Badge with you when not in use, not in someone's car, to avoid temptation.

In addition any person responsible for policing a car park will be able to ask to examine your badge, not just a serving police officer.

Useful Links and Documents

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/help-for-disabled-travellers1/blue-badge-scheme/applying-for-a-blue-badge/>

[Disability Rights UK factsheet](#)

[Disabled Motoring UK](#)

[GOV.UK](#)

Rica Motoring Guides:

<https://www.rica.org.uk/features-reviews/guides/mobility-and-motoring>

Department of Transport Documents:

- [Can I get a Blue badge?](#)
A guide from the Department for Transport for people living in England
- [Blue Badge Rights and Responsibilities in England](#)
Document explaining the blue badge scheme, how it works in England, and a user's rights and responsibilities.



- [List of Government documents relating to the Blue Badge scheme](#)

What do you think of this factsheet?

If you would like to comment on this factsheet or provide additional information from your own experience please let us know and we would be happy to consider adding to or amending the factsheet. We welcome any comments to help us improve our service. Our contact details are:-

Disability Sheffield Information Service

The Circle

33 Rockingham Lane

Sheffield S1 4FW

 **0114 253 6750** Mon-Thurs 10am to 3pm

(Answerphone facility available at other times)

E- mail: Info@disabilitysheffield.org.uk

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Disclaimer

No recommendation is given or implied by providing these details. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Please note that the inclusion of groups or individuals on the factsheet does not mean that they have been vetted or are recommended by SCIL Disability Information Service or Sheffield Centre for Independent Living . Details may change so it is important you check the information provided to make sure they are accurate and suitable for your own requirements

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