

Blue Badge and Freedom Pass Workshop

Thursday 19 September 2019

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

What is a blue badge?



'The blue badge scheme helps you to park closer to your destination if you are disabled' – www.gov.uk

- The purpose of the scheme is to assist residents with disabilities in the borough to access our community
- A blue badge allows you to park in dedicated parking bays to make your access to your destination easier
- The badge is link to the individual badge holder rather than a vehicle, so you can use it in any car as long as the badge holder is present
- Having a blue badge usually allows you to park for free on streets with parking meters and pay-and-display machines however you must read the machine and or signage to confirm this beforehand
- Misuse of the blue badge scheme is a criminal offence and you can be fined and have the badge revoked should it be used by anyone other than the badge holder
- If your application is successful you are sent a leaflet with more information on the scheme

Who is eligible for a blue badge?

Walking disabilities

You will automatically qualify for a blue badge if you meet the following criteria:

- *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 are registered blind (severely sight impaired)*
- *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*

You may qualify for the scheme if:

- *you cannot walk at all*
- *you cannot walk without help from someone else or using mobility aids*
- *you find walking very difficult due to pain, breathlessness or the time it takes*
- *walking is dangerous to your health and safety*
- *you have a terminal illness, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult and have a DS1500 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 treatment*

Who is eligible for a blue badge?

Hidden disabilities

You will automatically qualify for a blue badge if you meet the following criteria:

- *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*

You may qualify for the scheme if:

- *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 could 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*

All applications are assessed on an individual basis and it is extremely important to provide all the relevant documents and supporting information at the time you apply to allow us to take everything into account and for your application to be processed in a timely manner.

How do I apply for a blue badge?

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

Or by searching for 'apply blue badge' in google and clicking the www.gov.uk link. Please do not applying using any other website.

The online form takes you through a series of questions including your personal details and depending on your eligibility criteria you will be asked further questions about the nature of your disability and how it affects you on journeys.

To apply you will need:

- your National Insurance number or child reference number if you're applying for a child
- your original decision letter from the Department of Work and Pensions (PIP entitlement/DLA) - if you're automatically eligible for a badge. This must include all pages including the points section – see example below
- details of your medical condition - if you're not automatically eligible for a badge. This could include hospital reports (not letters from GP's or appointment letters), reports/letter from physiotherapist, occupational therapist, psychiatrists, consultants, SEN reports or EHCP's
- proof of identification, for example a birth or marriage certificate, passport or driving licence
- a Council Tax bill from the last 3 months to prove your address - or you can give your local council permission to check their records. This can be the parent's information if applying on behalf of a child or a letter from the child's school confirming the child's address
- a photograph of the person the badge is for - it has to be taken with a digital camera or a smart phone, and must be dated within the last six months. The photo should be taken on a clear background – see example below

Sample documents

Entitlement letter – pages that must be included

If you call or write to us, please use this reference:

AA123456A [We need to see your NI number]

Miss A O'her
973 Leeds Road
Bradford
BD3 9LJ

[We need to see your name and address]


Department
for Work &
Pensions

Personal Independence
Payment 4
Mail Handling Site B
Wolverhampton
WV99 1AA
www.gov.uk
Telephone: 0800 121 4433
Textphone: 0800 121 4493

04 July 2018

[We need to see the date on the letter - this must be within the last 12 months]

If there's a change to your daily living or mobility needs you must let us know straightaway. You can find details of other changes you need to tell us about later in this letter.

[We need to see the expiry date of your PIP entitlement]

Personal Independence Payment

I've looked at your claim and decided to award you Personal Independence Payment

Dear Miss Other

Thank you for claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP). PIP is made up of two parts: help with daily living needs and help with mobility needs.

I've looked at your claim and decided:

- I can award you the standard rate of £57.45 a week to help with your daily living needs from 01 January 2018 to 01 January 2020
- I can award you the enhanced rate of £58.30 a week to help with mobility needs from 01 January 2018 to **01 January 2020**

Your payments

As you've been in hospital or a similar place we can't pay you PIP from 01 January 2018 to 01 April 2018.

If anything changes please let us know straightaway so we can look again at how much PIP we may be able to pay you.

We will then pay your benefit into your usual account every 4 weeks on a Monday.

Making sure the PIP you get is right

We give you PIP for a set time but we know people's lives can change. When lives change it may become easier to do everyday things. Sometimes it can become harder for people with a health condition or disability to do everyday things.

You must contact us if there's a change in your daily living or mobility needs while you're getting PIP. You can find more information about other changes you must tell us about in the

'Please tell us about any changes' section later in this letter.

We will also contact you while you're getting PIP to see if your needs have changed and to look at the amount you get. This will be after 01 January 2019.

You still need to contact us if anything changes in the meantime so we can check you're getting the right amount.

How I made my decision

I looked at all the information available to me, including:

- the "How your disability affects you" form, and
- the information provided by the health professional consultation report.

This told me the type of help, and how much help you need.

I used this information to look at whether you can carry out 12 activities and the amount of help you need. A score is given for each of these.

There are 10 activities for the daily living part of PIP and 2 for the mobility part.

If your total score for the daily living activities is between 8 and 11 you'll be awarded the standard rate. If your score is 12 or more you'll be awarded the enhanced rate. This is the same for mobility activities.

Daily Living - for the 10 daily living activities you scored:

Preparing food (scored out of 8) You can prepare and cook a simple meal unaided.	0
Eating and drinking (scored out of 10) You can eat and drink unaided.	0
Managing your treatments (scored out of 8) You can either manage medication / therapy or monitor your health condition unaided, or you don't need to.	0
Washing and bathing (scored out of 8) You need an aid or appliance to wash or bathe.	2
Managing your toilet needs (scored out of 8) You need an aid or appliance to manage your toilet needs or incontinence.	2
Dressing and undressing (scored out of 8) You need to use an aid or appliance to dress and undress.	2
Communicating (scored out of 12) You can express and understand verbal information unaided.	0

AA123456A PIP 2004 [We need to see your NI number on this page too]

Reading (scored out of 8) You can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using glasses or contact lenses.	0
Mixing with other people (scored out of 8) You need to be prompted by another person to engage with other people.	2
Making budgeting decisions (scored out of 6) You can manage complex budgeting decisions unaided.	0

Your total score for the **daily living** part of PIP is 8 points. This means you've been awarded the **standard rate**.

Mobility – for the 2 mobility activities you scored:

Planning and following a journey (scored out of 12) You cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress.	10
Moving Around (scored out of 12) You can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10

Your total score for the **mobility** part of PIP is 20 points. This means you've been awarded the **enhanced rate**.

My decision

I have decided

I have decided

For more information about PIP go to www.gov.uk/pip Yours sincerely

Donna Hankin

[We need to see your score for the Mobility part of PIP.]

[To automatically qualify under the Non Visible criteria, your award for PLANNING A JOURNEY must match the one shown.]

[To automatically qualify under moving around, you must score 8 points or more in the MOVING AROUND section.]

[These scores cannot be combined.]

Passport style photograph



What happens after I apply?

Your application is sent to the Mobility team at Ealing council for review.

Once your application is received we check all the documents you have provided and will contact you if anything is missing. Please try and include all the relevant information at the time you apply as not doing so will mean your application is delayed.

If your application is agreed, we will contact you to make the £10 fee for the badge. Payment can be made online or over the telephone.

- *We aim to process automatic applications within 4 weeks (the time starts from when we have received all of your documents)*

If you do not automatically qualify and your application needs to be assessed this will take longer. Applications are assessed by an in house mobility assessor and if a decision cannot be made you may be asked to attend a face to face assessment with a third party occupational therapist.

- *We aim to process non-automatic applications within 8 weeks (the time starts from when we have received all of your documents)*

Blue badges are usually issued for three years but this may be less depending on the nature of the disability and the length of the benefit entitlement.

To reapply you must complete the application form again.

If your application is rejected you have the right to appeal but we strongly recommend providing additional supporting information for your application to be re-considered.



What is a freedom pass?

‘Travel for free or get discounts on our transport and most National rail services with a freedom pass’ – www.tfl.gov.uk

- A disabled person’s freedom pass allows you to travel for free or at a discounted rate on a range of transport services in London
- You must live in London to be eligible for the scheme and you must notify the issuing borough if you move
- The scheme includes travel on buses, trams, the tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL rail
- If your application is agreed the pass is free but there is a cost of £12 should the pass be lost
- If the pass is mis-used (for example given to a friend or family member) it may be confiscated

Who is eligible for a freedom pass?

Your sole or principal residence must be within a London borough. To apply to Ealing council you must live within the borough and you must notify us if you move. If a child is in a residential school placement in London then you must apply to that borough.

The statutory disabilities which make someone eligible for a disabled persons Freedom Pass are:

- *People who are blind or partially sighted*
- *People who are profoundly or severely deaf*
- *People without speech*
- *People who have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has left them with a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to walk*
- *People who do not have arms or have a long-term loss of the use of both arms*
- *People who have a learning disability that is defined as 'a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'*
- *People who, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, would have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.*

A Freedom Pass holder who finds it too difficult to travel without assistance using public transport may be eligible for the Taxicard scheme, which is managed by London Councils

How do I apply for a freedom pass?

Currently there is not an online form for applying for a freedom pass, however this is something London Council's are working on and will hopefully be implemented soon.

To apply you must contact the Ealing council's Mobility team on 020 8825 8161 or by email at csprocessing@ealing.gov.uk and a paper form will be sent out to you.

To apply you will need:

- your National Insurance number
- proof of identification, for example a birth or marriage certificate, passport or driving licence
- a Council Tax bill from the last 3 months to prove your address
- a photograph of the person the pass is for - it has to be taken with a digital camera or a smart phone within the last six months. The photo must be taken on a clear background

You may also need to provide the following based on the criteria you are applying under:

- certificate of visual impairment (CVI)
- your original decision letter from the Department of Work and Pensions (PIP entitlement/DLA)
- details of your medical condition or learning disability. This could include hospital reports (not letters from GP's or appointment letters), reports/letter from physiotherapist, occupational therapist, psychiatrists, consultants, SEN reports or EHCP's

What happens after I apply?

Your application is sent to the Mobility team at Ealing council for review.

Once your application is received we check all the documents you have provided and will contact you if anything is missing. Please try and include all the relevant information at the time you apply as not doing so will mean your application is delayed.

If you do not automatically qualify and your application needs to be assessed this will take longer.

- *We aim to process applications within eight weeks*

Freedom passes are usually issued for five years but this may be less depending on the nature of the disability and the length of the benefit entitlement.

To reapply you must complete the application form again.

Sarah West

Mobility Team Manager
Customer Services

Mobility team

020 8825 8161
csprocessing@ealing.gov.uk

www.ealing.gov.uk for more information.