

European Blue Badge Guidance Notes

The Blue Badge scheme (parking badges for disabled people) provides parking concessions both nationally and in Europe, for people with a **PERMANENT** and **SUBSTANTIAL** disability, whether the person is the driver or the passenger.

Please read this leaflet carefully. It provides information on how to complete the form and gives details of the criteria for eligibility. It also sets out the standard of service you should receive.

WHO TO CONTACT

If, having read this leaflet, you have an enquiry in relation to this scheme; please contact one of the Customer Service Centres listed below.

Bromsgrove District Customer Service Centre

Adjacent to Dolphin Centre
School Drive
Bromsgrove
B60 1AY
Tel: 01527 881288

Droitwich Community Contact Centre

Droitwich Library
Victoria Square
Droitwich Spa
Worcestershire
WR9 8DQ
Tel: 01386 565000

Evesham Community Contact Centre

Abbey Road
Evesham
Worcestershire
WR11 4SB
Tel: 01386 565000

Malvern Hills Customer Service Centre

The Library
Graham Road
Malvern
WR14 2HU
Tel: 01684 862151

Pershore One Stop Shop

Civic Centre
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Pershore
WR10 1PT
Tel: 01386 565000

Redditch One Stop Shop

Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH
Tel: 01527 534123

Worcester Customer Service Centre

Orchard House
Farrier Street
Worcester
WR1 3BB
Tel: 01905 722233

Wyre Forest Customer Service Centre

Kidderminster Town Hall
Vicar Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 1DA
Tel: 01562 732928

All Customer Service Centres will also be pleased to help you complete application forms if you would prefer.

The District Council has the responsibility to decide if you are eligible to be issued with a badge. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your application and believe that you do meet the eligibility criteria, please write to the Customer Service Manager at the appropriate Worcestershire Hub Customer Service Centre detailing why you feel you are eligible for the badge.

Eligibility

An individual's application will be considered in terms of being "eligible without further assessment" (previously known as Automatic) or "eligible subject to further assessment" (previously known as discretionary).

We are required to view each application, including those from current badge holders as a first enquiry.

Eligible without further assessment

If you supply evidence that you meet one of the following criteria you will be eligible for a Blue Badge.

- If you are receiving the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance
- If you are registered blind (severely sight impaired)
- If you receive a War Pensioner's Mobility supplement
 - i. Have been awarded a lump sum benefit at tariffs 1-8 of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

If you are receiving either the Higher Rate DLA or The War Pensioners Mobility supplement for a term of less than three years (three years is the period of time for a standard Blue Badge to be issued) you will qualify for a Blue Badge but only for the same period that the benefit covers.

Eligible subject to further assessment

You may also qualify for a Blue Badge after further assessment if you are more than 2 years old and fall within one or more of the following categories:

- You drive a vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms and are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty in operating all or some types of parking meter: or
- Have a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

In addition children under the age of 3 years old may be eligible for a Blue Badge if they fall within either of the following two descriptions:

- 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.

For applications received in the "Eligible to further assessment criteria" it may be necessary to assess how you meet the eligibility criteria. This will require the person applying to attend an independent mobility assessment.

You **will not** qualify if: -

- You do not meet the above criteria
- You have a temporary disability, such as, a broken leg or you are awaiting a hip replacement operation but you are not receiving the Higher Rate DLA or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement for the expected duration of your condition
- You experience a psychological disorder that does not cause you severe discomfort
- You only experience walking problems when carrying objects, such as shopping
- Your condition does not **continuously severely** limit your ability to walk
- For example, some people have days when they are able to walk better than others.

Help us to help you

In order for us to process your application quickly you must: -

- Provide evidence of eligibility if applying under the without further assessment criteria
- Be able to attend an independent mobility assessment if required
- Provide supporting evidence if applying under the discretionary criteria
- **PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST EVIDENCE FROM YOUR GP. IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS SUPPLYING WRITTEN EVIDENCE PLEASE VISIT YOUR LOCAL WORCESTERSHIRE HUB CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**
- Complete the form carefully, giving all the details requested
- Sign and date the declaration
- Enclose a recent passport photograph and sign on the back
- If you visit the Customer Service Centre in person you may pay cash or use a debit card. If you are eligible for a Blue Badge there will be a charge of £10.
- Your Blue Badge will be valid for a maximum of three years. Badges will be valid for periods of less than three years where the applicant is a child under the age of three or the evidence provided originally is valid for less than three years. Always check that your Blue Badge is still valid.

Re-applications

You must ensure that you re-apply to your local Customer Service Centre prior to the expiry date of your current badge. This can be done up to four weeks before the expiry date. If you still meet the eligibility criteria, your renewed badge will be posted to your home address from a central location so please apply well in advance of the expiry date on your current badge. Your renewed badge will start from the date your old one expires.

Once expired, the old badge should be returned to any Worcestershire Hub Customer Service Centre.

Please note, although you will have previously provided evidence, further documentation may be requested as your circumstances may have changed. The cost of a Blue Badge renewal is £10.

Lost or stolen badges

If your badge has been lost or stolen you must report it to the Police and obtain a criminal reference number before contacting your local Worcestershire Hub Customer Service Centre. Please note you will be required to pay the cost of producing the badge - £10.

Use of your Blue Badge

- You are responsible for ensuring that you use your badge correctly. Guidance on the correct use of badges is supplied to successful applicants with their new badge.
- The badge belongs to the person in whose name it is issued.
- The badge must only be displayed in an empty, stationary vehicle.

You cannot use your Blue Badge everywhere.

- The scheme does not automatically apply in off street car parks, although many provide designated spaces; this may not apply in certain town centres, where access is limited.
- You **must not** park during the period a ban on loading or unloading is in force, and should look out for yellow stripes on the kerb and refer to the information plates nearby.
- You **must not** park where it could be obstructive or cause a danger for others.
 - You **must** observe the time limit of three hours parking.
 - You **must not** allow others to use your badge.

Abuse of a Blue Badge could result in it being withdrawn. In addition, it is a criminal offence for a non-disabled person to use a disabled person's car badge. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are aware of the regulations and use your badge correctly.

"Worcestershire County Council is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes".