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Obtaining a Parking Badge and Parking in Doncaster for Disabled People

The Blue Badge Scheme

The Blue Badge Scheme provides an arrangement of parking concessions enabling disabled people who travel as a driver or a passenger, to park close to their destination.

How to Obtain a Blue Badge

Badges can be issued only to certain categories of disabled people, the eligibility criteria is very strict. The local authority will only issue a Blue Badge to a person satisfying one or more of the following:

- In receipt of the higher rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance.
- In receipt of the 'Moving Around' activity of Personal Independence Payment, matching one of the specified criteria in the application form.
- Registered blind (severely sight impaired).
- In receipt of War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.
- You receive a lump sum benefit under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation Scheme) Order 2011 (d) within tariff levels 1 to 8 (inclusive) and have been certified by the Secretary of State as having a permanent or substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

Documentary proof is required for applications under the above and those who qualify will not be subject to further assessment.

Eligible Subject to Further Assessment

If you are not eligible under any of the above, you will only qualify if you meet one the criteria below. You should supply supporting evidence from a GP or consultant which clearly demonstrates you are eligible under that criteria. If you are unable to provide this evidence, you will be invited to attend an Independent Mobility Assessment. This ensures that applicants meet the criteria set out by the Department for Transport.

- You have a severe disability in both arms, regularly drive a motor vehicle and are unable to operate all or some types of parking meters (or would have difficulty in operating them), **or**
- You are affected by a permanent and substantial disability that causes you to be unable to walk, or you have considerable difficulty in walking.

You can apply for a blue badge for a child under the age of three who must, on account of their condition, always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment (e.g. ventilators, suction machines, oxygen equipment) or who must be kept near a motor vehicle to receive treatment

or to be taken to a place to receive treatment.

Badges for Organisations

Organisations that care for and transport disabled people who would meet one or more of the above criteria themselves may also be eligible for a blue badge. Please note that this is entirely at the discretion of the Local Authority issuing the badge. The organisation that qualifies must follow the conditions set out for use of the badge.

Applications

If you consider that you may qualify for a blue badge, you will need to complete an application form. The application form comes with guidance notes to help you through the application process. You must provide a recent passport size photograph. The standard of the photograph must be the same as those used for passports and driving licenses and be a true likeness of you. You are also required to provide proof of your identity and address. Proof of identity will be in the form of a certified photocopy of one of the following: your birth/adoption certificate, your marriage/divorce certificate, a valid driving licence or passport. The photocopy must be verified as true by a professional or a person who holds a certain position of responsibility, e.g. A police officer, civil servant, social worker, who lives in the UK and has known you for at least two years. Proof of address will be in the form of an original Council Tax Bill bearing your name and address or, there is a box in 'Part G' where you can give your consent to the Local Authority to access records to confirm your address e.g. Electoral Role or Council Tax records. There is an issue fee for the blue badge, see the application form for further details about the current fee and payment options. For queries in relation to the Blue Badge Scheme, you should contact the Specialist Team on 01302 862549 or email general.enquiries@doncaster.gov.uk

Completed forms should be returned to: Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

You can download a blue badge form at the DMBC website: www.doncaster.gov.uk or complete an online application at: www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge.

Before you begin the online application you will need the following:

- Details of your current badge (if you have one)
- A digital or signed photo
- Your National Insurance number
- Proof of identification
- Proof of residency

Badges and Discs

The blue badge is a two-sided card with your photograph on the back. In addition, you will need a special **parking disc clock**, this will be supplied to you with your badge, for use when you park on yellow lines or in another parking place where there is a time restriction. Note that the Blue Badge **and** the Parking Disc Clock must be displayed where appropriate.

The badge must be displayed in the vehicle, on the dashboard with the front of the badge facing upwards displaying the wheelchair symbol, so that the expiry date is legible from outside the vehicle when utilising the parking benefits. If you do not display your badge correctly you could be liable for a parking fine. Badges last for three years only and application for reassessment should be made at least a month before the badge expires. You **must** not use your badge if it is out of date. You **must** return the badge to the Council if you no longer need it.

You will have a responsibility to ensure that the badge is used properly, that it is not used by

Parking Benefits

Badge holders may, in general, park **free of charge** and without time limit at 'on-street' parking meters and 'pay-and-display' machines. They may be exempt from limits on parking times imposed on other users and may usually park on single or double yellow lines (for up to three hours in England and Wales) except where there is a ban on loading or unloading.

Subject to restrictions noted below, car parking is **free** and unlimited in Council-run car parks and hospital car parks. Badge holders are exempt from tolls at certain river crossings, and are now able to take advantage of the applicable motorists privileges wherever they are in the EU.

Restrictions

The Scheme does not apply:

- On private roads
- Except as noted below, in off-street car parks
- In certain town centres
- In Central London
- On road systems at some airports

*You must **not** park, for instance:*

- During the time a ban on loading or unloading is in force
- Where there are double white lines in the centre of the road
- In a bus, tram or cycle lane
- On any clearway
- On pedestrian crossings or their zigzag markings
- On a bus stop
- Where it would be obstructive or cause danger to others

Car Parking in Doncaster

Information on parking in Doncaster, including designated parking spaces for disabled people, current charges for parking and links to privately owned car parks, is available on the Doncaster Council website: www.doncaster.gov.uk or you can contact the Parking Services Team by calling 01302 735041.

Blue Badge Identity Photograph Service

If you are unable to use a standard photo booth, DIAL Doncaster can provide personal photographs which are suitable for Blue Badges, identity cards or passports. We currently charge £5.00 for 6 passport-sized photos. Please contact our office for further information.

The Renewal Process

Your Blue Badge will have an expiry date on it. You should begin the renewal process at least two months before this date. To re-apply for the badge you are still required to go through the same application process as previously explained.

Blue Badge Processing

If you are applying under the 'Automatic' criteria, you can now take your completed application form, and all the required documentation, to the 'One Stop Shop' in the Civic Office in person and your application will be able to be processed significantly quicker than if you posted your application.

Lost or Stolen Blue Badge

If your badge has been lost or stolen you need to contact the police on 0114 220 2020 in order

to obtain either a lost property or crime reference number. You should then send a signed letter to the local authority which includes the reference number and enclosing one passport sized photograph and a cheque for £10 (payable to DMBC). The letter and accompanying documents should then be posted to: DMBC, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU

Refusal of a Blue Badge

If your application is refused you should contact the local authority to request a review. You will be asked to provide additional medical evidence to support your application.

Misuse of a Blue Badge

Reporting an incident of blue badge abuse/misuse can be done online at:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/blue-badge-misuse-report-form

Before reporting you should try and obtain as many details as possible from the badge on display such as serial number, expiry date and issuing council.

If is a criminal offence:

- for non-disabled people to use a blue badge
- to drive a vehicle displaying a blue badge unless the registered holder is in the vehicle
- to allow someone to drive a vehicle for the purpose of entering a 'blue badge parking space' in order to pick up or drop off the holder