

EqIA Screening Proforma

Name of the function, policy or strategy: Blue Badge Reform October SI	Current or Proposed: Proposed						
Person completing the assessment: Robert Ringsell	Date of assessment: 18 October 2011						
<p>Purpose of the function, policy or strategy: This EqIA is for a Statutory Instrument (SI) taking forward some of the measures in the approved Blue Badge Programme EqIA dated 29 October 2010. The majority of measures within the SI are due to enter into force on the 1 December 2011, apart from those relating to independent mobility assessments on 1 April 2012. The new SI will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the grounds on which a local authority may refuse to issue, or withdraw, a badge (including permitting badge withdrawal following a criminal conviction for badge misuse); • Raise the fee which a local authority may charge for the issue of a disabled person's badge; • Amend the prescribed form of a badge; • Require that in certain circumstances a local authority should carry out an independent mobility assessment when an applicant's eligibility is in doubt. 							
Questions – Indicate Yes, No or Not Known for each group	Gender	Religion or Belief	Age	Disability	Ethnicity and Race	Sexual Orientation	Transgender
Is there any indication or evidence that the different groups (indicated on the right) have different needs, experiences, issues or priorities in relation to the particular policy?	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Is there potential for, or evidence that, this policy may adversely affect equality of opportunity for all and may harm good relations between different groups?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Is there any potential for, or evidence that, any part of the proposed policy could discriminate, directly or indirectly?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Is there any stakeholder (staff, public, unions) concern in the policy area about actual, perceived or potential discrimination.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy or working with other government departments or the wider community?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Is there any evidence or indication of higher or lower uptake by different groups?	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N

Do people have the same levels of access? (this includes overcoming non-physical barriers such as access to the website)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
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If you have answered “**no**” to all the questions, an EqIA is not required.

If your answer is “**yes**” or “**not known**” to any of these questions then consider the proportionality aspect in terms of providing a lower standard of service or offering a service on different terms than you would to other people. After considering the proportionality aspects you will need to decide whether an Initial Equality Impact Assessment is needed.

Initial Equality Impact Assessment Proforma

Name of the function, policy or strategy to be assessed: Blue Badge Reform October SI

Current or Proposed: Proposed

Person completing the assessment: Robert Ringsell

Date of assessment: 18 October 2011

1. Aims, objectives and purpose of the function, policy or strategy

1. We will be laying a Statutory Instrument (SI) containing regulatory measures announced in 14 February 2011 as part of the Blue Badge modernisation package. These were listed in the approved Blue Badge Programme EqIA dated 29 October 2010. These are:

- Amend the grounds on which a local authority may refuse to issue, or withdraw, a badge (including permitting badge withdrawal following a criminal conviction for badge misuse);
- Raise the fee which a local authority may charge for the issue of a disabled person's badge;
- Amend the prescribed form of a badge;
- Require that in certain circumstances a local authority should carry out an independent mobility assessment when an applicant's eligibility is in doubt.

2. Who is intended to benefit from the function, policy or strategy and in what way?

Local authorities will benefit from being able to charge a higher fee for a badge that more appropriately covers costs, and the ability to tackle badge misuse from the improvements to enforcement and the new badge design. Badge holders will benefit from the greater availability and increased mobility due to the measures to tackle fraud and issuing badges more fairly and effectively.

3. Stakeholder Management responsibility and ownership

Anthony Boucher has accountability for the policy at senior management level.

Sally Kendall and Caroline Fish have responsibility for the policy on a day to day basis and are responsible for implementation.

Local authorities are responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Blue Badge scheme.

4. Potential Project Management and Risks Issues?

We held a project risk register to identify the risks throughout the reform and measures to mitigate them where possible. (e.g. To

Sexual Orientation								√	
Transgender								√	

- If you have identified any low or medium adverse impacts then please go to Q6.
- If you have identified any high adverse impacts then you will need to complete a full impact assessment please go to Q8 now.

6. Is there any action that could be taken to minimise or remove any low or medium adverse impact identified in Q5b

Yes please go to Q7 No please explain why below?

7. Please complete the table below with details of the actions & monitoring arrangements that will be put in place to address the not known response(s) in Q5b.

Action	By Whom	By When
<p>The Blue Badge reform programme will be reviewed in 2015 to ensure that improvements have been delivered by local authorities, and that disabled people are benefitting from the changes.</p> <p>The following monitoring information arrangements will be put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from the Service Improvement project on, for example, turnaround times, use of on-line versus paper applications, levels of enforcement activity and issue rates; • The DfT will collect through an annual statistical return from local authorities or separate survey data on the numbers of badges issued, rejection rates, numbers of badges reported as lost or stolen, uptake of independent mobility assessments, numbers of prosecutions taken and numbers of badges withdrawn by local authorities for mis-use; • Subject to resources, other periodic surveys of local authorities and badge holders; <p>Reports from other organisations. eg. The National Fraud Authority estimate periodically the current costs of fraud from abuse of blue badges.</p>	Department for Transport	2015

Please seek clearance from the Press Office to publish this EqIA on the DfT Website.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/eqias/>

Signed off by (SCSPB1 or above): Name

Anthony Boucher

Job Title: Divisional Manager
