

APPENDIX A

Pilot studies - core principles desk-based assessment tool

The core principles desk-based assessment tool was developed by the research team, drawing on significant input from expert advisers to the review and experienced practitioners from local authorities that have established desk-based assessments. It was designed to accompany the model application form that is included as an Appendix to the Blue Badge Scheme Guidance for local authorities which DfT published in June 2011. It was used as part of the eligibility assessment pilots that were conducted as part of the review. It was used alongside information on the nature of different disabilities. The main aim of these pilots was to test the accuracy of different approaches to eligibility assessment, including desk-based by a trained administrator, desk-based by an independent mobility assessor and face-to-face with an independent mobility assessor.

The use of this tool is neither mandated nor endorsed by the Department for Transport. However, local authorities wishing to adopt desk-based assessments may wish to use the tool as a guide or starting point to aid development of their own assessment tools. Local authorities may wish to consider whether there is further information that they would require in order to make a rigorous assessment, what the points score for different elements should be and whether reported information is supported by objective information on the applicant's condition, medication and treatment. It remains the responsibility of each local authority to determine their own assessment procedures and to ensure that their procedures are in line with the legislation that governs the Blue Badge scheme.

The pilot studies' core principles desk-based assessment tool

1) About the applicant and their disability (circle scores according to applicant's responses)					Yes	No	Uncertain
Name of applicant:		Home postcode:		Reference ID:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is applicant's disability/medical condition permanent and substantial? (Use look-up table, check NHS Choices website if required and/or consult with OT if necessary) 					15	0	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is applicant anticipating that their condition will improve within the next 3 years? 					0	10	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is applicant awaiting surgery or treatment in relation to the condition that impairs their walking ability? 					0	1	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is applicant recuperating from surgery in relation to the condition that impairs their walking ability? 					0	1	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is applicant managing their condition because it is not expected to improve any further? 					1	0	N/A
Record total score for this section and tick appropriate box to indicate how application was progressed	Total score for this section:						
	Applicant scored 26 points or more in this section and will be desk-assessed:						
	Applicant scored between 19 and 25 points and was referred for an IMA without desk-based assessment:						
	Applicant scored 18 points or less and will be refused at this stage (or in the case of points scored because of uncertainty, then further evidence will be sought from the applicant or medical professional):						
2) About the applicant's walking ability – Manner of walking (write in score based on applicant's responses)					Yes	No	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does applicant describe the way they walk? 		Normal:			0	0	
		Adequate:			6	0	
		Poor:			12	0	
		Extremely Poor:			18	0	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant is able to walk well, including recreational walks 					0	1	

• The applicant is able to walk around the supermarket to do their own shopping	0	1	
• The applicant is able to walk, but uses public transport for longer trips in their local area	0	1	
• The applicant is able to walk, but struggles with longer distances or hills	3	0	
• The applicant is able to walk, but uses a wheelchair for longer trips outside the home	3	0	
• The applicant is able to walk around their home, but unable to climb the stairs	3	0	
• The applicant is unable to walk at all	10	0	
• The applicant is able to walk outside without help	0	5	
• Does applicant use walking aids?	1	0	
Record total score for this section and tick appropriate box to indicate reported manner of walking rating	Total score for this section:		
	Applicant scored 18 points or more and reports they can only walk with excessive labour:		
	Applicant scored between 14 and 17 points and may only be able to walk with excessive labour:		
	Applicant scored 13 points or less and reports they can walk without excessive labour:		
3) About the applicant's walking ability – Breathlessness due to their disability	Yes	No	Score
• Does the applicant get breathless when walking for more than a few minutes?	2	0	
• Is applicant troubled by shortness of breath when hurrying on level ground or walking up a slight hill?	2	0	
• Does applicant get short of breath walking with other people of their own age on level ground?	2	0	
• Does applicant have to stop for breath when walking at their own pace on level ground?	2	0	
• Does applicant get too breathless to leave their home, or after dressing?	2	0	
Record total score for this	Total score for this section:		

section and tick appropriate box to indicate reported breathlessness rating	Applicant scored 8-10 points and reports breathlessness that would constitute severe discomfort when walking:				
	Applicant scored 6 points and may only be able to walk with severe discomfort in terms of breathlessness:				
	Applicant scored 4 or less points and reports they can walk without severe discomfort in terms of breathlessness:				
4) About the applicant's walking ability – Pain			Yes	No	Score
• Is applicant seeing specialists or attending clinics for pain relief?			2	0	
• Is applicant taking pain medication to manage a medical condition / disability which affects their walking?			2	0	
• Does the applicant find it too painful when walking for more than a few minutes?			5	0	
Record total score for this section and tick appropriate box to indicate reported pain rating	Total score for this section:				
	Applicant scored 6 points or more and reports excessive pain when walking:				
	Applicant scored 4 points and may experience excessive pain when walking:				
	Applicant 0-2 points and is unlikely to experience excessive pain when walking:				
5) About the applicant's walking ability – distance, speed and time an applicant can walk			Yes	No	Score
• Look up the applicant's normal walk from their home using an online mapping tool and references to local landmarks they have given			5	0	
• Is the distance the applicant can walk from their home comparable with their estimate of walking distance later in the form?					
• How far does the applicant indicate they are able to walk before they experience severe discomfort?	Less than 30m / 33 yards only		25	0	
	Between 31m / 33 yards and 80m / 88 yards		5	0	
	Between 80m / 88 yards and 100m / 110 yards		1	0	
	More than 100m / 110 yards		0	0	
• When the distance the applicant reported they are able to walk is divided by the time (in seconds) they reported it took them, is the rate of walking...	Less than 0.67 metres / 0.73 yards per second (Extremely slow)		25	0	
	Between 0.67m/0.73 yds per second and 1.0m/1.10 yds per second (slow)		5	0	

	Between 1.02m/1.14 yds per second and 1.5m/1.65yds per second (normal)	1	0	
	More than 1.5m/1.65 yards per second (brisk)	0	0	
• Does applicant report they are able to continue walking after a short rest?		0	4	
• Does applicant report they are able to walk for more than 5 minutes in total?		0	4	
Record total score for this section and tick appropriate box to indicate reported walk distance, time and speed rating	Total score for this section:			
	Applicant scored 23 points or more and reports very considerable difficulty in walking through speed, distance and time:			
	Applicant scored 18 to 23 points and may have very considerable difficulty in walking through speed, distance and time:			
	Applicant scored 17 points or less & does not report very considerable difficulty in walking through speed, distance and time:			
6) Summary of applicant's eligibility based on desk-based assessment		Yes	Maybe/unclear	No
Final decision-making prompt (Circle score awarded based on total scores from sections 2-5)	<u>Review section 2:</u> Does applicant report that they can only walk with excessive labour?	15	2	0
	<u>Review section 3:</u> Does applicant report severe discomfort in walking in terms of breathlessness?	10	2	0
	<u>Review section 4:</u> Does the applicant report severe discomfort in walking in terms of pain?	10	2	0
	<u>Review section 5:</u> Does applicant report very considerable difficulty in walking through speed distance and time?	10	2	0
Record final score and indicate eligibility of applicant by ticking the appropriate box:	Record final assessment score here:			
	Applicant scored 25 points or more and me recommendation is that they are awarded a Blue Badge			
	Applicant scored between 12 and 24 points and will be referred for an IMA because they may be eligible to receive a Blue Badge			

	Applicant scored less than 12 points and my recommendation is that they are refused a Blue Badge:					
Signed by desk-based assessor:						
Date:						
Next step:		: Send award letter and Blue Badge to applicant		: Contact applicant to request they attend for a mobility assessment with the independent mobility assessor OT		: Send refusal letter to Blue Badge