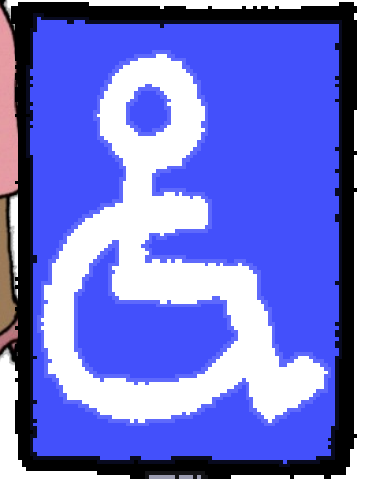




Department  
for Transport



# Who can have a Blue Badge

# What do you think of our ideas?

## Information booklet

MARCH 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Please send us your answers  
before 18 March 2018



EasyRead version of:  
Department for Transport Blue Badge scheme:  
Consultation on Eligibility  
January 2018.

# What is in this booklet

Page



About this booklet

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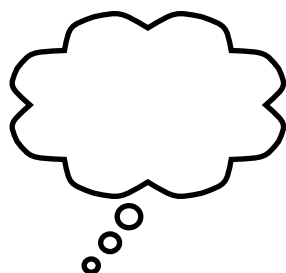
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Is there anything else you need to know?

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What the words mean

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Some difficult words are in **bold**.  
There is a list at the end of the  
booklet to explain what they mean.



Department  
for Transport



The Department of Transport wants everyone to have this information, including people who are blind or partially sighted.



We will put the words on our website for anyone to use.

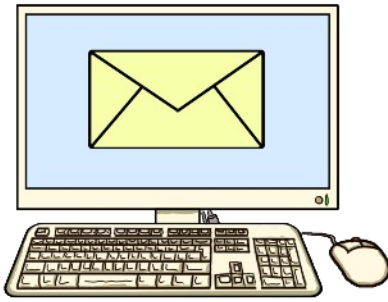


If you want to know more about different ways to get this information, please contact us at:

**Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road.  
London  
SW1P 4DR**



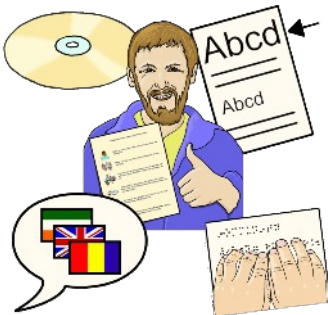
Telephone:  
**0300 330 3000**



Email:  
**FAX9643@dft.gsi.gov.uk**



Website:  
**www.gov.uk/dft**



If you would like this information in Braille,  
audio CD or any other way, please contact:  
**Vida.Browne-Campbell@dft.gsi.gov.uk**

## About this booklet



Department  
for Transport

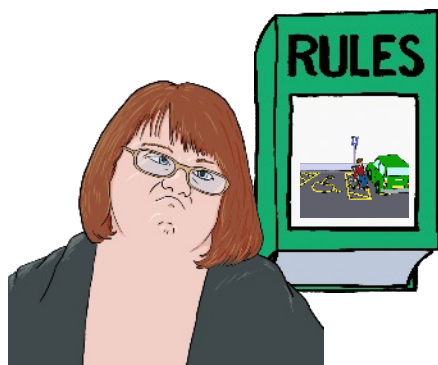
The Department for Transport wrote this booklet.



It is about the Blue Badge parking scheme for people with disabilities in England.



The scheme should treat people with physical disabilities and people with other disabilities equally.



But the rules are not clear and sometimes people with a mental health condition or learning disability cannot get a badge. Even though their disability makes it difficult for them to get around.



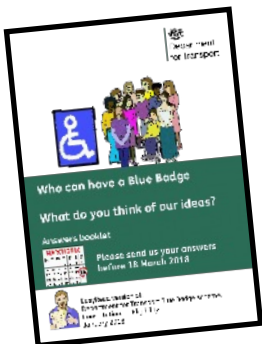
We promised to look at the rules again and make sure people who need it can have a Blue Badge. Whether they have a mental or physical disability.



This is your chance to tell us what you think about our ideas.



This booklet tells you about our ideas to change things.



There is also an Answers Booklet for you to tell us what you think.

MARCH 2018						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	<b>18</b>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

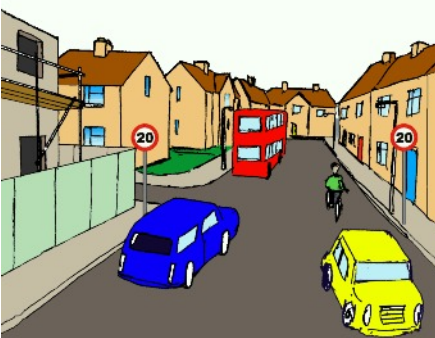
You need to do this before **18 March 2018**.

# About the Blue Badge scheme



## What the Blue Badge scheme does

The Blue Badge scheme helps over 2 million people with disabilities be independent because they can park near where they need to go.



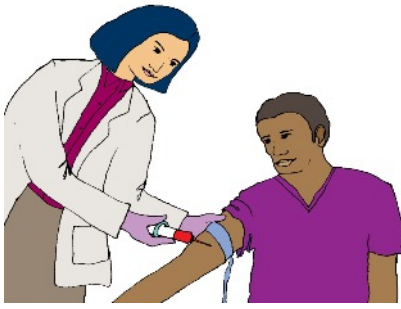
In England, drivers can park on roads for free and usually park for as long as they like. The scheme does not cover car parks. But many car parks have special places for people with Blue Badges to park.



The Blue Badge scheme in England means it is easier for people with disabilities to park when they:

- Visit family and friends





- Go for healthcare appointments



- Take part in leisure activities



- Go to work.



## Who can have a Blue Badge

The rules say you can have a Blue Badge if you have a severe long time disability that makes it impossible or very difficult for you to walk.



Local councils and the public say the rules are confusing. They are sometimes not fair for people with disabilities you cannot see. Councils in different parts of England use the rules in different ways.



We are looking at who meets the rules to have a Blue Badge.



We are asking what people think about our ideas to change this.

## What needs to change



People should get a Blue Badge if they have a severe disability for a long time that means they:



- they are unable to walk
- have difficulty when they walk.



At the moment the rules say a council must use an independent **mobility assessor** if someone does not meet the rules about walking.



But the **assessors** might not understand mental health or learning disabilities. We think it might be better to involve different health care professionals who do know the person and are not their GP.

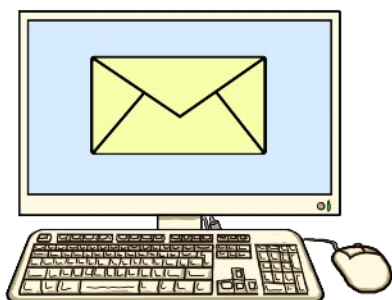


We are also asking if more people should have a Blue Badge automatically. This means people who have been **assessed** for a **benefit** so would not need another **assessment** to find out if they have problems walking.

# How to tell us what you think



You can reply online at:  
**<https://www.gov.uk/dft#consultations>**

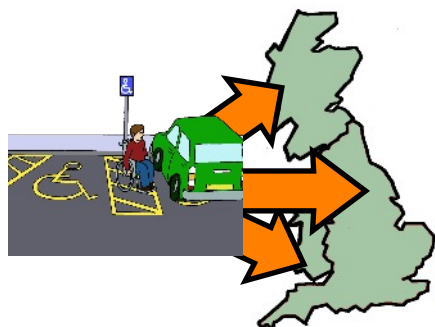


You can email your answers to:  
**[bluebadge.consultations@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bluebadge.consultations@dft.gsi.gov.uk)**



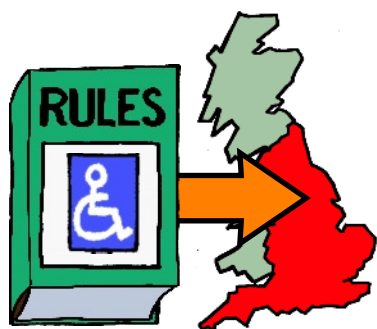
Or you can post them to:  
**Vida Browne-Campbell  
Department for Transport  
Traffic and Technology Division  
3/27 Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London. SW1P 4DR**

# Our ideas



## Why we are looking at things again

Different countries in the United Kingdom can make their own decisions about parking for people with disabilities.



We are just looking at the rules for people who live in England and how councils decide who can have a Blue Badge.



Councils say the rules are confusing. They are not sure how to use them with people who have disabilities you cannot see. This means people are treated differently in different parts of England.



We want to make sure the rules treat everyone fairly.

## Deciding who can have a Blue Badge in England



Councils do not think about what type of disability a person has when they decide about a Blue Badge. People with physical, mental or learning disabilities can have a badge if they meet the rules.



If the council is not sure if a person meets the rules, it asks an independent **mobility assessor** to help decide.

There are 2 ways you can apply for a badge:



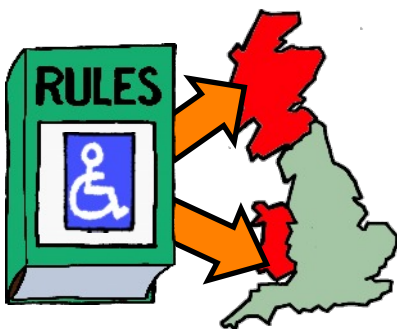
- 1. Without any more assessment.** This means you get a Blue Badge automatically because you have already been assessed for certain benefits



2. **With more assessment.** This means you have a disability that makes it difficult to walk or use a parking meter or need heavy equipment near you all the time. The council then looks at whether you meet the rules for a Blue Badge.



More than half the people who apply for a Blue Badge need more assessments. The problem is that many councils think Blue Badges are just for people with physical disabilities.

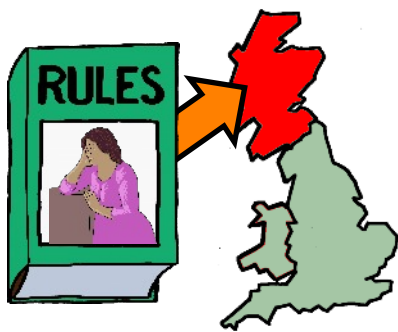


## What happens in Scotland and Wales

The rules are similar in Scotland and Wales but some things are different.

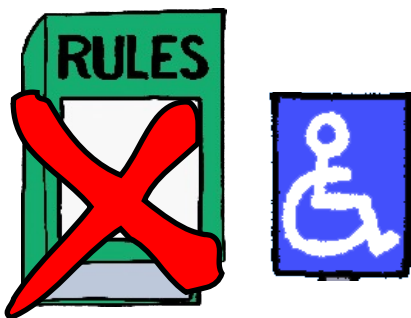


In both countries people automatically get a Blue Badge if other **assessments** show they need another person, assistance dog or an aid to help them get around.



Scotland is also looking at how the rules apply to people with a mental health condition or learning disability who might put them or other people in danger in traffic.

## What we think should happen in England



The rules do not stop people with other disabilities having Blue Badges in England.



But they do not explain that some people might find walking very difficult or dangerous because of a mental health condition or learning disability.



This means some councils only give Blue Badges to people with a disability you can see.





We want the rules to be fair and keep to laws about treating everyone equally. This means everyone with a disability must have the same chance to get a Blue Badge if it would really help them make a journey.



We need to make sure the scheme works properly and people who really need a disabled parking space can get one. We know some people already use these spaces when they do not need to. We must make sure that people only have a Blue Badge if they need one.



The next part of this booklet is about our questions. It will help you fill in the Answers Booklet and tell us what you think.

# What we are asking about

## Changing the rules about Blue Badges



We think the rules about what makes it difficult for you to get a badge are confusing.



The Blue Badge should make it easier for people to make journeys that would be very difficult without it.

We think people should have a Blue Badge if they have a severe disability for a long time that means they are unable to:



- Walk



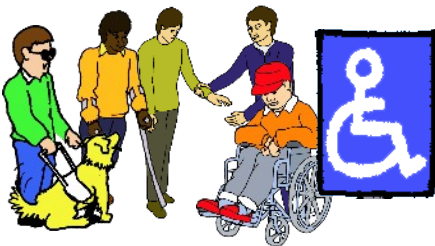
- Make any journey because it is very difficult for them when they walk



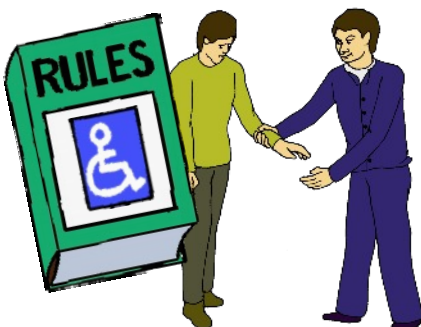
- Make any journey because it is not safe for them or for other people



- Know where they are going without another person, assistance animal or an aid to help them know where they are.



This would make it clear that Blue Badges are not just for people with physical disabilities.



The rule would cover people who need help from someone else and people whose health condition changes.



We will work with people with disabilities and their organisations to write guides for local councils to use the new rules.

## Eligibility Assessors



If councils are not sure whether someone should have a Blue Badge, they can ask a **mobility assessor** to decide.



At the moment, the rule is that the **assessor** must not know the person well and cannot be their GP. At the moment they need to be someone who knows about physical disabilities.



We think councils also need **assessors** who know about mental health and learning disabilities. They might need to know the person to understand how their disability stops them getting about independently.



To make this fair for everyone, we would like to get rid of the rule that says the **assessor** should not know the person. This would mean different healthcare professionals apart from the person's GP could be **eligibility assessors** and think about whether the person meets the rules.

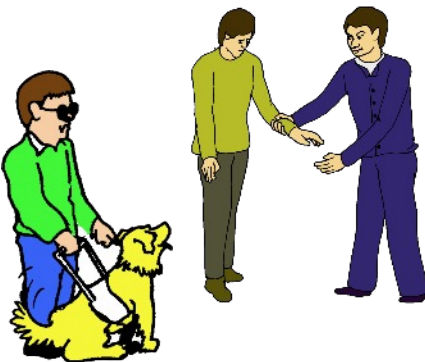


Councils would decide who has the skills and experience to do this.

## People who automatically get a Blue Badge



At the moment people with physical disabilities automatically get a Blue Badge if their Personal Independence Payment (**PIP**) assessment says they cannot walk more than 50 metres.



We think we should do the same for people with other disabilities. If their **PIP assessment** says they cannot do a journey they know without another person, guide assistance animal or an aid to help them.



## How many people this might help

We know the changes would mean more people could have Blue Badges. We need to think about how many people this could help.



## Would our ideas be unfair to anyone?

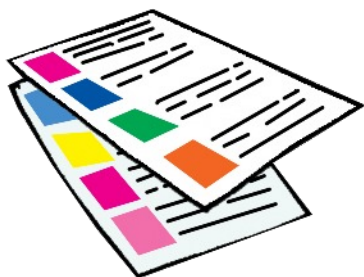
We want to know if these changes would **discriminate** or be unfair to any group of people with disabilities.

## What happens next



We will look at all the answers and put all the main things people told us on our website:

**<https://www.gov.uk/dft#consultations>**



We will also say what we will do next. You can ask us for paper copies of this information.



The government has rules about **consultations** or asking what people think.

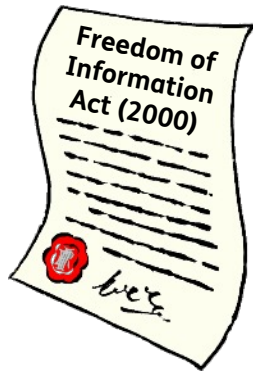


If you want to say anything about how we are doing this, please email:

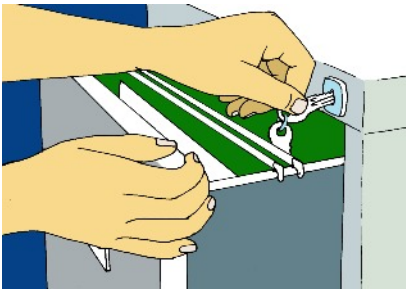
**[consultations@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@dft.gsi.gov.uk)**



Or write to:  
**Consultation Co-ordinator**  
**Department for Transport**  
**Zone 1/29 Great Minster House**  
**London. SW1P 4DR.**



The Freedom of Information Act (2000) is a law that says people can ask to look at public information.



If you do not want other people to see your answers, please tick box at Question 9 and we will try to keep them private.



We will not usually tell other people personal information like your name.



## Is there anything else you need to know?

If you want to know anything else, please contact us.

Write to:

**Department for Transport  
3/27 Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London. SW1P 4DR**



Email:

**[bluebadge.consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bluebadge.consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk)**

**These are some of the things people asked about these ideas.**



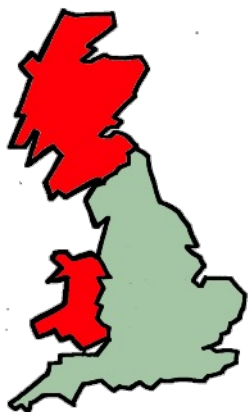
**Why are you doing this now?**

Because local councils and people with disabilities told us the rules about who can have Blue Badges are confusing.

## What disabilities will be included in the future?



We cannot decide this until we have looked at everything people tell us. Not all people with physical disabilities get badges and this will be the same for people with other disabilities. We want to make sure people who need the badges most can have one.



## Why not just copy Wales and Scotland?

We will look at this as part of the review.



## How many more people will have badges if you make the changes?

If we decide to change the rules we will look at how many more people this will affect.



**What happens if there are not enough parking spaces when more people have badges?**

This is why we want to make sure people only have the badges if they really need them.



**Will this mean more people will use badges when they do not need them?**

We want to make sure the assessments find out who really needs a badge. Councils can take badges away from people who should not be using them. We will be looking at ways to do this better.



**Who will this affect?**

Any changes will only be for people who live in England.



**Will you check that any changes are fair to everyone?**

We are asking people if they think the changes would **discriminate** against any group of people with disabilities. We will think about this when we decide what to do.

# What the words mean

## **Assessment**

A way of finding out what you can do and what support you need.

## **Assessor**

Someone who does an assessment

## **Benefit**

Money the government gives people to help with the extra costs of having a disability

## **Eligible**

Meet the rules for something.

## **Mobility**

Being able to move about.

## **Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

A new benefit for people with a disability aged 16 to 64. It is to help you meet some of the extra costs you have because of a long-term health condition or disability.



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