

Blue Badge Scheme in Cumbria

What is the Blue Badge Scheme?

The Blue Badge scheme provides a range of parking concessions for people with severe mobility problems who have difficulty using public transport, so that they can park close to where they need to go. The scheme is a Department for Transport scheme run by local councils and operates throughout the UK.

Am I eligible for a Blue Badge?

You must meet certain criteria to apply for a Blue Badge. To see if you are eligible, please read the Department of Transport's guide, 'Can I Get a Blue Badge?' which is available at www.gov.uk.

You are automatically eligible to apply for a Blue Badge if you are over three years old and either:

- Receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance;
- Meet a 'Moving Around' descriptor for the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP);
- Are registered severely sight impaired (blind);
- Receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement;
- Receive a benefit under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme.

You may also be eligible for a badge if you are over three years old and either:

- Have a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking. You will be asked to provide recent medical information to verify your level of disability.

- Drive a motor 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.

In addition, children under the age of three may be eligible for a badge if they fall within either or both of the following 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.

How do I apply for a Blue Badge in Cumbria?

You can either:

- Apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge/. Your application form will then be forwarded on to Adult Social Care in Cumbria to assess and process.
- Complete our application form available from our website, www.cumbria.gov.uk, or by telephoning **01228 606060** and return to us by post to Health and Care Services, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA.

What do I need to support my application?

- Fully completed application form
- Proof of your address such as Council Tax or Utility Bill dated within the last 12 months
- Proof of your identity – a certified copy of one of the following:
 - o Birth certificate / adoption certificate
 - o Marriage / divorce certificate
 - o Passport
 - o Civil partnership / dissolution certificate
 - o Valid driving licence
- One passport sized colour photographs, signed on the reverse
- £10 fee – cheque or postal order made payable to Cumbria County Council. **Please do not send cash.**
- If appropriate, proof of Disability Living Allowance (Higher Rate Mobility Component), 'Moving Around' descriptor for the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment, War Pensioners Mobility Supplement or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Who can certify my documentation?

Your signatory should:

- Have known you for at least two years
- Live in the UK

Your signatory should not:

- Be related to you by birth or marriage
- Be in a personal relationship with you
- Live at the same address as you

Your signatory should be a professional person in good standing in the community. These are examples of the type of person that would be suitable:

- accountant
- airline pilot
- articulated clerk of a limited company
- assurance agent of recognised company

- bank/building society official
- barrister
- chairman/director of limited company
- chiroprapist
- commissioner of oaths
- councillor (local or county)
- civil servant (permanent), but not someone who works for IPS
- dentist
- director/manager of a VAT-registered charity
- director/manager/personnel officer of a VAT-registered company
- engineer (with professional qualifications)
- financial services intermediary (e.g. a stockbroker or insurance broker)
- fire service official
- funeral director
- insurance agent (full time) of a recognised company
- journalist
- Justice of the Peace
- legal secretary (fellow or associate member of the Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs)
- licensee of public house
- local government officer
- manager/personnel officer (of a limited company)
- member, associate or fellow of a professional body
- Member of Parliament
- Merchant Navy officer
- minister of a recognised religion (including Christian Science)
- nurse (RGN and RMN)
- officer of the armed services (active or retired)
- optician
- paralegal (certified paralegal, qualified paralegal or associate member of the Institute of Paralegals)
- person with honours (an OBE or MBE, for example)
- pharmacist
- photographer (professional)

- police officer
- Post Office official
- president/secretary of a recognised organisation
- Salvation Army officer
- social worker
- solicitor
- surveyor
- teacher, lecturer
- trade union officer
- travel agent (qualified)
- valuer or auctioneer (fellows and associate members of the incorporated society)
- Warrant Officers and Chief Petty Officers

How do I replace my lost or stolen badge?

If you have lost your badge, or it has been stolen you must report it to the Police. You will be issued with a lost number / crime reference number. **We are unable to issue a replacement badge without a lost number / crime reference number.**

You can also use the form available on our website, www.cumbria.gov.uk, or by clicking on the link below to request a replacement due to your existing badge being faded, spoiled or for name changes.

- **Blue Badge Replacement Application Form**

How do I apply for a Blue Badge for my organisation?

Organisational blue badges may be issued to an organisation for use in vehicles that are used to carry disabled people who would themselves be eligible for a Blue Badge. You can access the form on our website, www.cumbria.gov.uk, or by clicking on the link below

Application Form for Initial/ Renewal of Organisational Blue Badge

To be eligible for a Blue Badge, organisations will need to demonstrate:

- The organisation cares for and transports disabled people who would themselves meet one or more of the eligibility criteria for an individual Blue Badge.
- Has a clear need for an organisational badge rather than using the individual Blue Badges or people it is transporting.

How do I renew my Blue Badge?

In order to renew your Blue Badge, you will need to complete the application form. We advise that you complete this and send it to us four to six weeks before the expiry date. As part of the badge renewal process, we may reassess your mobility unless you are automatically entitled to a Blue Badge.

Why do I have to reapply for a Blue Badge every 3 years?

The Department for Transport's regulations state that the maximum period of issue for a Blue Badge is three years, thereafter badge holders must re-apply.

I don't drive any more, can I still be awarded a Blue Badge?

You don't have to be a driver or a car owner to apply for or have a Blue Badge. The badge is issued to you as a person, and it can be used in any vehicle you travel in. However, you should keep the badge with you at all times, and not allow someone else to hold it on your behalf.

I'm running an errand for a Blue Badge holder, can I use their badge?

No, if you do not have your own valid Blue Badge you should not park in a disabled bay or use someone else's badge – even if you are running an errand for them.

I have been referred for an Independent Medical Assessment – why?

In order to determine your eligibility for a Blue Badge, we may need to refer you for an independent medical assessment. We no longer use GPs as the guidance states that the mobility assessment needs to be undertaken by a professional who is independent of the applicant and of the treatment and care.

My application has been unsuccessful – can I appeal?

You can appeal and request a review of the decision, in writing, within 28 days. The review will be undertaken by a manager who was not previously involved in the original assessment.

Can I have a temporary Blue Badge?

No, there is no provision within the scheme to issue temporary badges (for example, broken leg). To qualify, the applicant must have a permanent and substantial disability.

Can I have 2 Blue Badges?

No, under the Department for Transport's legislation only one badge can be issued per person. The badge can be used in any vehicle.

I receive Attendance Allowance – will I automatically qualify?

No, you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or meet a 'Moving Around' descriptor for the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment. You may still qualify if you have a permanent and substantial disability that means you cannot walk, or have very considerable difficulty in walking.

How do I complain about abuse of a Blue Badge?

It is important for us that we receive information of any alleged abuse of the scheme. We will investigate the matter and consider what action, if any, can be taken. If you suspect misuse of a badge, please contact us in writing and provide as much information as possible such as serial number and expiry date, details of the vehicle in which the badge is being displayed, the location of the vehicle and the alleged misuse.

Who can use my badge?

The named badge holder is the only person entitled to use the badge. The badge can be used in any vehicle provided that the badge holder is travelling (as a driver or passenger). Further details about the Rights and Responsibilities of the Blue Badge Scheme can be found at www.gov.uk

Who can I contact for more information?

Blue Badge Team
Parkhouse Building
Baron Way
Kingmoor Business Park
CARLISLE
CA6 4SJ

T: 01228 606060

E: blue.badge@cumbria.gov.uk