

Blue Badge Scheme – Pilot - Extension to Eligibility

With effect from 1 April 2016, the Blue Badge Scheme is being extended on a pilot basis to some people who suffer from diagnosed 'mental disorders'. The pilot will operate across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland for a period of 12 months and if an application is successful under the terms of the pilot, a badge will be issued for 12 months, irrespective of when the application was made during the 12 month pilot period.

Please note that this pilot is being run separately from the rest of the Blue Badge scheme, by way of a separate paper application form only. The online form cannot be used to apply for a badge under this pilot.

The basis for this pilot was a Call for Evidence which gathered data on extending the scheme to include;

“People, who as a result of a diagnosed mental disorder or cognitive impairment, have no awareness of danger from traffic and are likely to compromise their safety, or the safety of others.”

A Working Group, made up from representatives of disability organisations, local authorities and healthcare professionals was formed to consider the findings from the Call for Evidence and agreed that a 12 month pilot would enable us to monitor the impact of change and would allow us to ascertain how to effect the change on a permanent basis.

In order to make an application an individual will need to be able to:-

- Confirm a diagnosed 'mental disorder' (as defined in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.)
- Confirm receipt of either the higher or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance, the higher or lower rate of Attendance Allowance or at least eight points in respect of activities 7, 8 and 9 of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
- Provide confirmation from a healthcare professional or registered social worker that they have no awareness of danger from traffic and is likely to compromise their safety, or the safety of others.

The full details of the criteria which must be met to be eligible under the pilot proposal is contained within the application form.