

New Blue Badge criteria and people with non-visible (hidden) disabilities

People with non-visible (hidden) disabilities, including autism and severe mental health conditions, will be able to apply for a Blue Badge from 31 August 2019.

The Blue Badge scheme already means those with physical disabilities can park closer to their destination than other drivers, as they are less able to take public transport or walk longer distances.

The new criteria will extend eligibility to people who:

- cannot undertake a journey without there being a risk of serious harm to their health or safety or that of any other person (such as young children with autism)
- cannot undertake a journey without it causing them very considerable psychological distress
- have very considerable difficulty when walking (both the physical act and experience of walking)

Automatic application: Applicants who receive 10 points for descriptor E ‘planning and following journeys’ mobility activity. (Cannot undertake any journey because it would cause overwhelming psychological distress) will automatically qualify for a blue badge and will be required to provide their PIP letter showing this award.

Discretionary application: Applicants applying through the discretionary route will be required to provide documentary evidence of eligibility such as:

- Letter of diagnosis
- Confirmation of ongoing treatments.
- Evidence of specialist consultations
- Educational Health and Care plans (EHCP) which should provide an insight into needs, experiences and coping strategies devised for younger people with complex needs, learning disabilities and/or behavioural difficulties.
- Letters from professionals involved in the care of the applicant

If you want to apply under this criteria should apply on or after the 31 August.