

**APPLYING FOR A
BLUE BADGE AND
OTHER THINGS
WHICH CAN
HELP WITH BEING
DISABLED**

WWW.FIBRO.ORG.UK ●●●●●

Mark Farmer- Chair of Fibromyalgia Friends Together

This is not me!



Blue Badges

What is a Blue Badge?

It is a card that enables you to park closer to your destination- if you have disabilities or health conditions.

Why apply for a Blue Badge?

Not only does it give you free parking in many Council run car run parks across the country, but it gives you free parking where most people would not be able to parking for example, on double yellow lines or free on street council bay parking.



How to apply



Who to apply to

Go to: www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

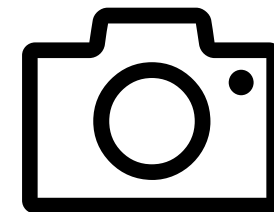
The page will take to your local authority. Locally these are: Leicestershire County Council and for Leicester residents this is Leicester City Council. The fastest and quickest way to apply is to online via the Council's website.



Have a proof of identity ready

To prove your identity, you can provide a copy of either:

- birth or adoption certificate
- passport
- driving licence
- marriage or civil partnership certificate
- divorce or dissolution certificate



You will need a recent passport photo at the ready



Have a proof of address ready

Accepted documents include- A recent council tax bill, a recent letter from a government department such as Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), driving licence a recent letter from a school (if you are under 16)

You will also need to provide:

- Your national insurance number
- Your contact details
- Proof of benefits and scores given (Use the award letter)

How to apply



People who automatically get a Blue Badge

You automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if you are aged 3 or over and at least one of the following applies:

- you receive the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- you receive a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) because you can't walk more than 50 metres (a score of 8 points or more under the 'moving around' activity of the mobility component)
- you are registered blind (severely sight impaired)
- you receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement
- you have received a lump sum benefit within tariff levels 1 to 8 of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme and have been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking
- you receive the mobility component of PIP and have obtained 10 points specifically for descriptor E under the 'planning and following journeys' activity, on the grounds that you are unable to undertake any journey because it would cause you overwhelming psychological distress

If you have any score other than 10 points under descriptor E, in the 'planning and following journeys' activity of PIP you may still be eligible for a Blue Badge, but you do not automatically qualify. This includes if you have a higher score of 12. You will have to provide evidence to demonstrate your eligibility which will be assessed as part of your application.

How to apply



People who may get a Blue Badge

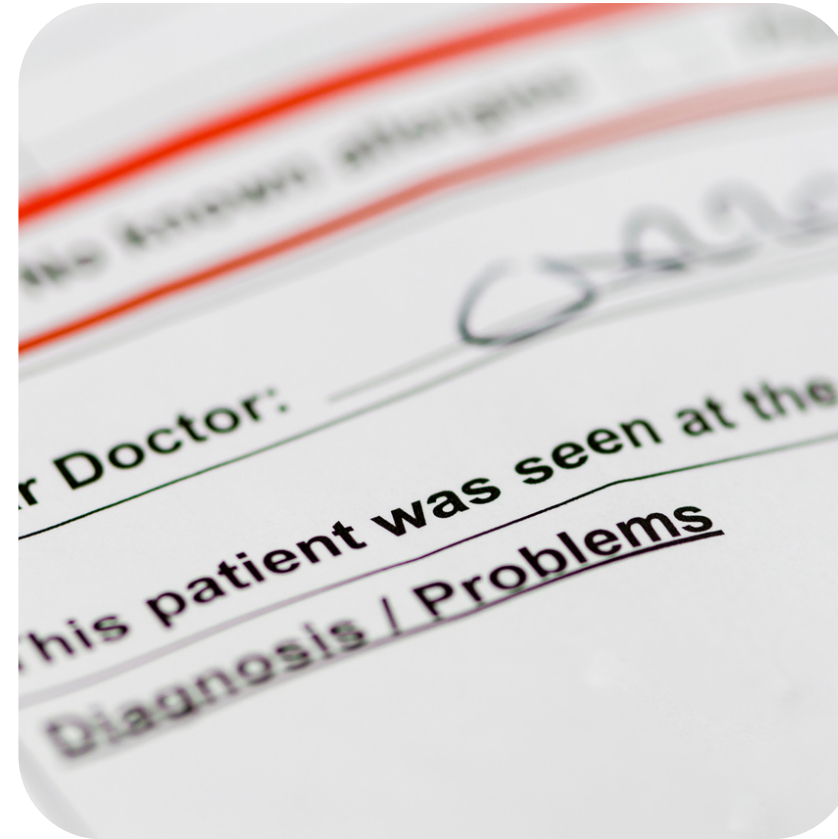
You may be eligible for a badge if one or more of the following applies:

- you cannot walk at all
- you cannot walk without help from someone else or using mobility aids
- you find walking very difficult due to pain, breathlessness or the time it takes
- walking is dangerous to your health and safety
- you have a terminal illness, which means you cannot walk or find walking very difficult and have a DS1500 form
- you have a severe disability in both arms and drive regularly, but cannot operate pay-and-display parking machines
- you have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child always needs to be accompanied by bulky medical equipment
- you have a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that means the child must always be kept near a vehicle in case they need emergency medical treatment
- you are constantly a significant risk to yourself or others near vehicles, in traffic or car parks
- you struggle severely to plan or follow a journey
- you find it difficult or impossible to control your actions and lack awareness of the impact you could have on others
- you regularly have intense and overwhelming responses to situations causing temporary loss of behavioural control
- you frequently become extremely anxious or fearful of public/open spaces

A recent prescription



A Doctor's letter



The evidence

Your local council will decide if you are eligible for a badge. They cannot start the assessment process until they have all the necessary evidence. It may take 12 weeks or longer to assess your application. If they decide that you are not eligible and you think that they did not take account of all the facts, you can ask them to consider your application again.



A benefits letter dated in the last 12 months

How to apply



People may get a Blue Badge- Evidence

You may need to provide the following, depending on your application route or your disability or condition:

- information about any medication you are currently taking (including dose and frequency)
- information about any treatments or surgery you have had or are due to have, that relate to your condition (including dates, if possible)
- official diagnosis letters
- any other relevant information or reports that are relevant to your application that demonstrate, or help to demonstrate, your eligibility. Due to the variability of the impact of various disabilities and health conditions, it is recommended that supporting information includes details of the impact of your condition on your ability to make a journey, the frequency that these impacts occur and whether they are specifically brought on by making a journey. Independent confirmation from healthcare or educational professionals are ideal, if available.

Applicants must have consent from any third parties (such as doctors) whose information is used to support the application, before it is submitted to us.

How to apply



People who may get a Blue Badge

- The supporting information should provide information as to the impact, severity and frequency of the very considerable difficulty whilst walking, the very considerable psychological distress and/or serious risk of harm as a result of the condition when completing the journey. Some medical documents may state “Not to be disclosed without prior consent of the signatory”. Applicants MUST have consent from any third parties (such as Doctors) whose information is used to support the application BEFORE it is submitted to the County Council. The council may ask you to attend an eligibility assessment so that you can see a trained Expert Assessor face to face. These Expert Assessors are fully qualified Occupational Therapists or Nurses. Expert Assessments can be carried out randomly or if it is felt that meeting with the applicant would be beneficial.

Other help with the costs of being disabled



Royal Places



Theatre tickets



Grants

More information

Turn2us Grants www.turn2us.org.uk/Get-support/Turn2us-Funds
Provide a list of grants and the criteria for them

Gardening with a Disabilities Trust www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/
Can help you to adapt your garden or to purchase adapted tools/equipment for your garden

Cinema Exhibitors Association (CEA) www.ceacard.co.uk
Gets you a free ticket for your carer

Saturday Hospital Fund Charity www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org/apply-for-a-grant/
Provides for those needing equipment or treatments. You need an organisation to apply for you.

Merlin Entertainment (Apply via The Access/NIMBUS card route)
Free carers ticket and priority queue access

The Access Card (The Nimbus Card) www.accesscard.online/apply/
Provides you a range of benefits, for those that are eligible this includes free carers tickets to West End shows, to Royal Places and theme parks.

Carers Card UK www.carerscarduk.co.uk
Access to hundreds of online discounts

De Montfort Hall, Leicester www.demontforthall.co.uk/access/
Free ticket for your carer

The Curve, Leicester www.curveonline.co.uk/access/ Free ticket for your carer

Please note- some of these cards required a small fee to be paid, with renewal required every few years. All require evidence