

LONDON TAXICARD SCHEME

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The London Taxicard Scheme provides subsidised door-to-door transport for people who have serious mobility impairment and difficulty in using public transport.

If you have a disability lasting for more than 12 months you may qualify for a Taxicard.

CRITERIA

You will normally qualify for the Taxicard scheme if you are blind or receive one of the following benefits.

- **Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA).**
 - As we need to check that you receive DLA higher rate for mobility (help with getting around), you must enclose a copy of your letter of entitlement or entitlement notice dated within the last 6 months, this will show how long you are entitled to the allowance, if you need a copy or replacement you can obtain one from the Disability Benefits Agency (telephone 08457 123456)
- **War Pension Mobility Supplement**
 - We need to see the official letter of award. If you cannot produce your letter of award, a replacement may be obtained from the Veterans Agency (telephone: 0800 169 2277)
- **Registered Blind**
 - We need to see evidence of registration with a local authority or a BD8 or Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI – 2003 registration)

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

If you are **not** in receipt of any of the above benefits and are **not** registered as a blind person, but you have a serious mobility impairment and difficulty in using public transport you may still be eligible.

The degree of disability should meet or almost meet that required for the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance.

HOW WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

We will look at all the information you have provided.

1. If you are in receipt of one of the allowances or are registered blind, you will normally be eligible for the scheme, but we will also look at the information provided on your application form to confirm you have a serious mobility impairment and difficulty in using public transport.
2. If you are **not** in receipt of one of the allowances or are **not** registered blind, we will look at all the information you have provided on your application form, and try to make a decision.
3. If we are unable to make a decision based on the information on your application form, we will ask you to provide further information, this could be by attending an interview with an Officer from the Accessible Transport Unit or by attending a mobility assessment. The mobility assessments are carried out by an independent, professionally qualified occupational therapist.

The following guidance produced by Benefits Now for people who are applying for Disability Living Allowance is used as the basis of our assessments.

Unable to walk:

Being unable to walk means that you cannot take a single step.

- You need to show that because of your disability you cannot put one foot in front of the other.
- Walking involves always having one foot on the ground.
- If your only way of getting about is to “swing through” crutches then you will be considered unable to walk.

Virtually unable to walk:

You will need to show that, as a result of a physical disability, you are unable to walk very far without experiencing severe discomfort.

- Discomfort can mean either pain or breathlessness. Extreme fatigue and stress may also be taken into account. It has been accepted that discomfort is subjective and that some people have higher pain thresholds than others.
- Unless both your legs are missing then you will need to show that you experience severe discomfort even when using your artificial aid.

When deciding whether you are virtually unable to walk the following factors will be taken into account. The question is about walking out of doors, not in your home.

- Distance over which you can walk without experiencing severe discomfort.
- Speed at which you can walk.
- Length of time for which you can walk.
- Manner in which you can walk.

Exertion required to walk:

This is to establish if the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to your life or whether it would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in your health.

You need to show that you should not walk very far because of the danger to your health.

- The criteria is intended for people with serious chest, lung or heart conditions.
- Some people with haemophilia may also qualify.
- Serious deterioration does not need to be permanent but it should require medical intervention for you to recover.
- You will need to show that any danger to your health is a direct result of the physical effort required to walk.
- People with epilepsy will need to show that any fits were brought about by the effort required to walk.

Severely disruptive behaviour:

You need to show that:

- You are entitled to the care component of DLA at the higher rate **and**
- You suffer from arrested or incomplete development of the brain **and**
- Your brain impairment means that you exhibit disruptive behaviour **and**
- The nature of your behaviour means that another person has to be present and watching over you in order to prevent injury to yourself and others and/or damage to property.

NOT ELIGIBLE

You will not be eligible for any of the following reasons

- You have a temporary disability lasting less than 12 months
- The application is for a child aged under 2 years of age
- You have difficulties associated with carrying parcels or heavy shopping, and this is not related to an identified walking difficulty
- You have a Learning Difficulty, and
 1. do not receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) the higher rate Mobility component
 2. do not have a serious mobility/walking difficulty