

DISABLED FREEDOM PASS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following information explains how the Authority assesses your application for a Disabled *Freedom Pass*. This follows the Department of Transport guidance and legislation.

The *Freedom Pass* for people with disabilities gives concessionary travel on most public transport in London. The scheme is intended to apply only to those people with disabilities who meet the following eligibility criteria.

AUTOMATIC CRITERIA

Evidence will need to be supplied to support applications under the automatic criteria.

- (a) **A person who is blind or partially sighted**
Evidence required: BD8 form or registration document
- (b) **A person who is profoundly or severely deaf**
Evidence required: Audiological report
- (c) **A person who is without speech**
Medical evidence required
- (d) **A person with a disability / injury which has a substantial and long-term adverse affect on their ability to walk *****
Evidence required: If you receive either the Higher mobility rate of Disability Living Allowance or if you have been awarded a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, then please provide a copy of the official letter stating your name and address and the date of your award
- (e) **A person who does not have arms or has long term loss of the use of both arms**
Medical evidence required
- (f) **A person who has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning.**
Medical evidence required or proof of registration with your local authority
- (g) **A person who would, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.**

Under Section 92 of the Act those currently barred from holding a licence are people with:

- Epilepsy (unless it is of a type which does not pose a danger)
- Severe mental disorder
- Liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting (whether as a result of cardiac disorder or otherwise)
- Inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 meters (with lenses if worn)
- Other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public.

Evidence required: Confirmation of the reason, issued by the DVLA or medical evidence supplied by your GP.

*****(d)** If you do not qualify under the automatic criteria and are supplying information about a substantial and long term adverse ability to walk we will use the following guidance to assess your application:

- the applicant's degree of disability should be permanent and not just intermittent or temporary, and if they were assessed, would meet or almost meet that required for the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance. The following descriptions and explanations are to help explain what this means.

Unable to walk:

- The applicant needs to show that because of their disability they cannot put one foot in front of the other.
- If the applicants only way of getting about is to "swing through" crutches then they will be considered unable to walk.

Virtually unable to walk:

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 the applicants' legs are missing then they will need to show that they experience severe discomfort even when using their artificial aid.

In assessing the above the following factors will be taken into account:

- Distance applicant can walk, without experiencing severe discomfort. (The maximum distance is 100 metres)
- Speed at which they walk.
- Length of time they can walk.
- Manner in which they walk.

The question is about walking out of doors not in their home.

Exertion required to walk:

This is to establish if walking would constitute a danger to the applicants' life or whether it would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in their health.

- The criteria are 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 the applicant to recover.
- People with epilepsy will need to show that any fits were brought about by the effort required to walk.

The London Borough of Richmond also issues discretionary passes to people with mental health needs using the following criteria:-

"Those clients known to the Community Mental Health Teams on an enhanced care programme approach whose travel needs are documented as a therapeutic requirement, e.g. access to treatment, day activities. Enhanced need means a client has multi-disciplinary input".

Applicants will not be eligible for any of the following reasons:

- People with temporary disabilities lasting less than 12 months e.g. a broken leg, will not qualify.
- Children under 5 years old