

Accessible Transport Unit Eligibility Criteria

Disabled Persons Freedom Pass

This information is about your eligibility for a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass. It is provided by the Department for Transport guidance and legislation.

Automatic – Eligible Without Further Assessment

There are seven categories of eligibility for a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass. The seven categories are listed below, together with the evidence required to qualify.

- (a) **A person who is blind or partially sighted**
Evidence required: Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI) signed by a consultant ophthalmologist, BD8 form or registration with Local Authority.
- (b) **A person who is profoundly or severely deaf**
Evidence required: Audiological report, report from an aural specialist or registration with Local Authority. People are generally regarded as having a severe hearing loss if it reaches 70-95 dBHL and a profound hearing loss if it reaches 95+ dBHL.
- (c) **A person who is without speech**
Evidence Required: Medical report, such as audiological report. People in this category are unable to communicate orally in any language. They will be unable to make clear basic oral requests. This does not include people who are able to communicate orally but whose speech is slow or difficult to understand, for example because of a severe stammer.
- (d) **A person who has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse affect on their ability to walk***
Evidence required: Award letter from the Department for Work and Pensions stating that you receive the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance. It must be dated within the last 12 months. If you do not have an entitlement letter dated within the last 12 months you can get one from the Department for Work and Pensions on 08457 123456*. **OR** Evidence required: Award letter from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) that states that you receive the War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement. A replacement can be ordered from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) on 0800 169 2277*.

Note: People applying under this criterion whose award is for a limited period of time (i.e. not indefinite) will only be eligible for the scheme for that period.

If you do not have either of these pieces of evidence, but have severe difficulty in walking, you may still be eligible under the assessed criteria (see later).

- (e) A person who does not have arms or has long term loss of the use of both arms**
Evidence Required: Medical evidence such as medical report, or letter from a consultant.

This includes people with a limb reduction deficiency or both arms, bilateral upper limb amputation, muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injury, motor neuron disease or a condition of comparable severity. It also covers people with deformity of both arms, or who have both arms, but are unable to use them to carry out everyday tasks such as feeding coins into a parking meter.

- (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).**

Evidence Required: Registration with the Council's Learning Disability Service, **AND/OR**;
Evidence Required: Medical evidence such as a cognitive assessment; report from a clinical or educational psychologist, and/or other health professional, **AND/OR**;
Evidence Required: Award letter from the Department for Work and Pensions stating that you receive Disability Living Allowance. It must be dated within the last 12 months. If you do not have an entitlement letter dated within the last 12 months you can order one from the Department for Work and Pensions on 08457 123456, **AND/OR**;
Evidence Required: Statement of Special Educational Needs (where relevant).

Assessment for people applying under this category will be undertaken but the Council's Learning Disability Service. The more pieces of evidence you can provide, the faster the assessment may be. A learning *disability* is different from a learning *difficulty* in that;

- A learning disability describes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning acquired before adulthood, but;
- A learning difficulty is associated with difficulties in acquiring specific academic skills despite normal intellectual/cognitive functioning.

- (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.**

Evidence required: Confirmation from the DVLA of the reasons for which your driving licence has or would be refused or why it has or would be withdrawn, **AND/OR**;
Evidence required: Medical evidence such as medical report, or letter from GP or consultant. It is suggested that people applying under this criteria should include as many of the above pieces of evidence as possible in order to establish your eligibility more quickly.

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.

See 'Notes for Medical Professionals on Driving Licence Eligibility' on page 4 of the application form for further details about how the above conditions may permit eligibility.

Assessed– Eligible Subject to Further Assessment

Severe Mobility Impairment

If you have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse affect on your ability to walk, but you do not have the necessary evidence stated in criteria (d), we can assess your mobility using guidance below. People with temporary disabilities e.g. a broken leg, will not qualify.

To meet this criteria you would have to have a permanent and substantial disability that means you cannot walk or which makes walking very difficult. This means that you have great difficulty walking, and that walking would be at a very slow pace or with a great deal of pain. The carrying of bags or parcels is not considered. Your degree of disability should be similar to that required to claim the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance. The following descriptions (1-3) help explain what this means.

1) You cannot walk

- Because of your disability you cannot put one foot in front of the other.
- If you can only get around by swinging through crutches then you will be considered unable to walk.
- Walking involves always having one foot on the ground.

2) Virtually unable to walk

- You are unable to walk very far without experiencing severe discomfort.
- Your disability must be of a physical, rather than a psychological nature.
- Discomfort is either pain or breathlessness. Extreme fatigue and stress may also be taken into account. It is accepted that discomfort is subjective and that some people have higher pain thresholds than others.
- Unless both of your legs are missing, you will need to show that you experience severe discomfort even when using your artificial aid.
- In assessing whether you are virtually unable to walk the following factors will be taken into account:
 - Distance you can walk without experiencing severe discomfort
 - Speed at which you walk
 - Length of time for which you can walk
 - Manner in which you walk

3) Exertion required to walk

- If the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to your life or would be likely to lead to a serious deterioration in your health, you would qualify for a pass.
- You need to show that you can not walk very far because of the danger to your health.
- This criterion 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.
- If you have epilepsy and are applying under criteria (d), you will need to show that any fits were brought about by the effort required to walk.

Discretionary Disabled Persons Freedom Pass

If you are applying because of a mental health difficulty but are not eligible under any of the criteria (a) - (g), you may still be eligible for a Discretionary Disabled Persons Freedom Pass if you are a client of one of the boroughs Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT's). Please contact your care manager at the CMHT for further information.