

Blue Car Badge Eligibility Trafford Council



Guidance on assessing applicants who are terminally ill

June 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Blue Badge (Disabled Persons' Parking) Scheme was introduced in 1971 under Section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 ('the 1970 Act'). The aim of the scheme is to help disabled people with severe mobility problems to access goods and services, by allowing them to park close to their destination. The scheme is open to eligible disabled people irrespective of whether they are travelling as a driver or as a passenger. The scheme provides a national range of on-street parking concessions to Blue Badge holders. It allows them to park without charge or time limit in otherwise restricted on-street parking environments, and allows them to park on yellow lines for up to three hours, unless a loading ban is in place.
- 1.2 The national Blue Badge application process underwent a fundamental review by central government in 2011, with recommendations implemented in 2012. This review was partly to address the qualifying criteria for Blue Badges and to also implement an independent assessment for those people who did not qualify under the automatic criteria.
- 1.3 Local authorities (LA) are responsible for the day-to-day administration and enforcement of the scheme. They are responsible for determining and implementing administrative, assessment and enforcement procedures which are in accordance with the governing legislation. Trafford Council receives on average 4,000 applications per year for Blue Badges.

2. Background

- 2.1 Trafford Council will follow the guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT). Where there is any conflict the DfT guidance will take precedence.
- 2.2 The DfT guidance regarding applications on the grounds of terminal illness, simply states the following;
'Local authorities may wish to consider having a fast-track application process for people who have a terminal illness that seriously limits their mobility, in order to make the final weeks of their life easier.'

3. Trafford Council's Local Policy

To ease the process for applicants in these circumstances Trafford Council has implemented a fast-track system.

3.1 Under the 'walking disability' criterion, Trafford Council will assess an applicant as eligible if it receives evidence that they are terminally ill. The evidence that Trafford Council requires of the applicant's terminal condition is;

- A DS1500 form from a healthcare professional involved in their care e.g. Macmillan Nurse, G.P. or Consultant.

This form is a specifically designed instruction form regarding a terminally ill patient, from a healthcare professional to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), to allow a disability benefit award. It details the customer's condition and personal details and is only used in cases where the following applies:

"A progressive disease, where death as a consequence of that disease can reasonably be expected within 6 months"

2.2 If the DS1500 form is not received, the applicant may provide a letter from a healthcare professional involved in their care, which stipulates their medical condition, prognosis and demonstrates that their condition either satisfies the 'terminal illness' definition above, or clarifies that they are now receiving palliative care which is defined as 'end of life' care.

2.4 The healthcare professionals should scan and email the completed form or letter to bcg@trafford.gov.uk

2.5 Once the form has been received this will negate the need for applicants to apply for a badge online or have their photo taken.

Applicants will still need to pay the £10 fee, but only after the form has been received, and the fast-track postage option will be used (recorded delivery), ensuring that the badge arrives at the earliest opportunity, usually within 24 hours.