

Entitlement to a Diamond Travelcard on disability grounds

Persons who have certain disabilities may be eligible to receive a Diamond Travelcard. Although “disability” can cover a wide range of conditions (as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995), only those categories of disability listed in the Transport Act 2000 (listed below) carry an entitlement to a Diamond Travelcard. Furthermore, the disability must have a substantial effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and:

- be permanent or
- have lasted at least 12 months or
- be likely to last at least 12 months.

The Transport Act 2000 lists seven categories of entitlement on disability grounds. The Department for Transport has published guidance for Travel Concession Authorities on the interpretation of these categories, which are detailed below.

A person qualifies for concessionary fares if he/she:

(a) is blind or partially sighted

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show that they are registered as severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) or
- if they can provide evidence from an eye specialist that they would qualify to be registered or
- if they can show that they have a disabled persons’ parking badge (Blue Badge)
- if they can show that they have been awarded a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (by showing the Reasons for Decisions letter) for an injury making them severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted)

(b) is profoundly or severely deaf

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show that they are registered as profoundly or severely deaf (defined as a hearing loss of at least 70dBHL) or
- if they can provide evidence from an aural specialist that they would qualify to be registered

- if they can show that they have been awarded a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (by showing the Reasons for Decisions letter) for an injury making them profoundly or severely deaf

(c) is without speech

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show evidence from a medical professional (a GP, occupational therapist or consultant) that they are unable to communicate orally in any language. This does not include persons whose speech may be slow or difficult to understand.
- if they can show that they receive the Personal Independence Payment and have been awarded at least 8 points against the “Communicating verbally” activity. Their documentation should say one of the following:
 - I’ve decided you can express and understand basic verbal information with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate
 - I’ve decided you cannot express or understand verbal information at all, even with help from someone who is trained or experienced in helping people to communicate

(d) has a disability or an injury which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show that they receive War Pensioner’s Mobility Supplement or
- if they can show that they receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance or
- if they can provide evidence from a medical professional (a GP, occupational therapist or consultant) that they would be eligible to receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (defined as being unable to walk or being unable to walk far without discomfort or danger to their health) or
- if they can show that they have a disabled persons’ parking badge (Blue Badge)
- if they can show that they have been awarded a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (by showing the Reasons for Decisions letter) for an injury which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to walk
- if they can show that they receive the Personal Independence Payment and have been awarded at least 8 points against the “Moving around” activity. Their documentation should say one of the following:

- I've decided that you can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres
- I've decided that you can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres
- I've decided that you can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres
- I've decided that you cannot stand or move more than 1 metre

(e) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show evidence from a medical professional (a GP, occupational therapist or consultant) that they have a condition affecting both arms that prevents them from being able to use their arms to carry out day-to-day tasks or
- if they can show that they have a disabled persons' parking badge (Blue Badge)
- if they can show that they have been awarded a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (by showing the Reasons for Decisions letter) for an injury causing the loss of both arms or the loss of the use of both arms

(f) has a learning disability

A person can prove entitlement under this category if they can show evidence from a medical professional (a GP, occupational therapist or consultant) that they have a learning disability (as defined below).

A learning disability is a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning. A person with a learning disability has a reduced ability to understand new or complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills, and may be unable to cope independently. These disabilities must have started before adulthood and have a lasting effect on development.

Please note that only conditions matching this definition carry an entitlement to a Diamond Travelcard under this category. For example, people with mental illnesses (such as depression, anxiety or schizophrenia), dyslexia or ADHD are not eligible for a Diamond Travelcard, unless they qualify under another category.

(g) would, if he/she applied for a driving licence, have the application refused, otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

A person can prove entitlement under this category:

- if they can show that they have been refused a driving license on the grounds of medical fitness (except on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol) or
- if they can show evidence from a medical professional (a GP, occupational therapist or consultant) that they would be refused a driving license on the grounds of medical fitness (except on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol)
- if they can show that they have been awarded a lump sum under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (by showing the Reasons for Decisions letter) for an injury causing uncontrolled post head injury epilepsy

Those who are currently barred from holding a licence on the grounds of medical fitness are people with:

- (i) epilepsy (unless it is of a type which does not pose a danger)
- (ii) severe mental disorder (includes dementia and some behaviour and personality disorders)
- (iii) liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting (whether as a result of cardiac disorder or otherwise)
- (iv) inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 metres (with lenses if worn)
- (v) other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public (including people with restricted visual fields and insulin-dependent diabetics who experience disabling hypoglycaemia until such time as their diabetes is controlled)

Pass Duration

Concessionary passes are issued to disabled persons for periods up to five years, except where it is clear that entitlement will cease before five years have passed. Pass holders who qualify under category (g) will be issued with a pass valid for a maximum of two years.

When a disabled person's pass expires, he/she will be asked to provide evidence of entitlement in the same way as for a new application.

All evidence of entitlement must be current at the date of application.