

## **CHANGES TO BLUE BADGE SCHEME AS A RESULT OF PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT**

[The Welfare Reform \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#) have been laid in the Scottish Parliament. This will allow the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to be included in the passporting arrangements for the Blue Badge Scheme in Scotland, when the UK welfare benefit PIP is introduced to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for those of working age. The regulations will come into force on 8 April 2013.

The Blue Badge Scheme currently enables recipients of the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA) to present their award notification letter as a passport to obtaining a Blue Badge. This will continue for recipients of HRMCDLA who are under 16 or over 64 years of age.

In defining the criteria for the inclusion of PIP in the Blue Badge Scheme, care has been taken to match wherever possible the criteria used for HRMCDLA with PIP.

The Regulations extend the descriptions of disabled persons in section 4(2) of [The Disabled Persons \(Badges for Motor Vehicles\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#) to include specific descriptors of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) awarded under Part 3 (Mobility Activities) of Schedule 1 of the [Social Security \(Personal Independence Payment\) Regulations 2013](#).

Passporting arrangements to the Blue Badge Scheme will apply to those people who receive the Mobility Component of PIP:

- awarded at 12 points (enhanced rate) for "planning and following journeys", which includes those who cannot follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, assistance dog, or orientation aid.

**or**

- awarded at 8 points (standard rate) or more for "moving around".

### **Transitional Arrangements**

The Regulations also include transitional arrangements to allow those who are in receipt of HRMCDLA and subsequently are not awarded PIP, or PIP at the level of award required for passporting, to retain their Blue Badge until its expiry date. On expiry of their badge, a person will then be able to apply to their local authority through the other Blue Badge eligibility criteria.