

Blue Badge Scheme Entitlement from UK welfare system

This note aims to explain the new eligibility criteria introduced in 2013 and 2014 following the introduction of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) as part of the UK Government's welfare reforms.

Background

The blue badge scheme supports those with the most restricted mobility to lead independent lives through the parking concessions it provides. To be eligible for a blue badge, the applicant must meet one of the eligibility criteria as contained in the scheme's Regulations.

Eligibility is considered either subject to an assessment by the applicant's local authority, or without assessment where the applicant can demonstrate through other means that they meet the criteria.

One criteria applies to those who receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (HRMC DLA). Where the applicant can provide proof that they receive HRMC DLA, they can 'passport' to a blue badge.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for those of working age as part of the UK Government's welfare reforms. In order to retain the passporting link from the UK welfare system, new eligibility criteria for a blue badge has been established from PIP. For a full overview of blue badge eligibility for those transferring from HRMC DLA to PIP, please see Annex A.

2013 – PIP passporting arrangement

The Welfare Reform (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulation 2013 provided that the following awards for the mobility component of PIP are eligible for a blue badge (see annex B):

- awarded 12 points for "planning and following a journey" activity; or
- awarded 8 points or more for the "moving around" activity

These two components of PIP are the closest match to the criteria for receiving HRMC DLA, and means the passporting criteria to the blue badge scheme from DLA and PIP are as similar as possible.

2014 – Support measures for current HRMC DLA recipients transferring to PIP

Although the passporting criteria between DLA and PIP are as similar as possible, it is anticipated that some people who previously received HRMC DLA, will not do so following assessment for PIP. In response, and to support those losing entitlement by reason of transferring to PIP, Scottish Ministers agreed to further eligibility criteria. This was introduced by The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2014.

The **first new category** applies to those who do not receive PIP at a rate to passport, and who challenge that decision with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). A blue badge of 1 year duration can be awarded. The **second new category** ensures that those who were in receipt of a 'lifetime' or 'indefinite' HRMC DLA ward will continue to retain passporting entitlement to a blue badge irrespective of the outcome of the PIP application.

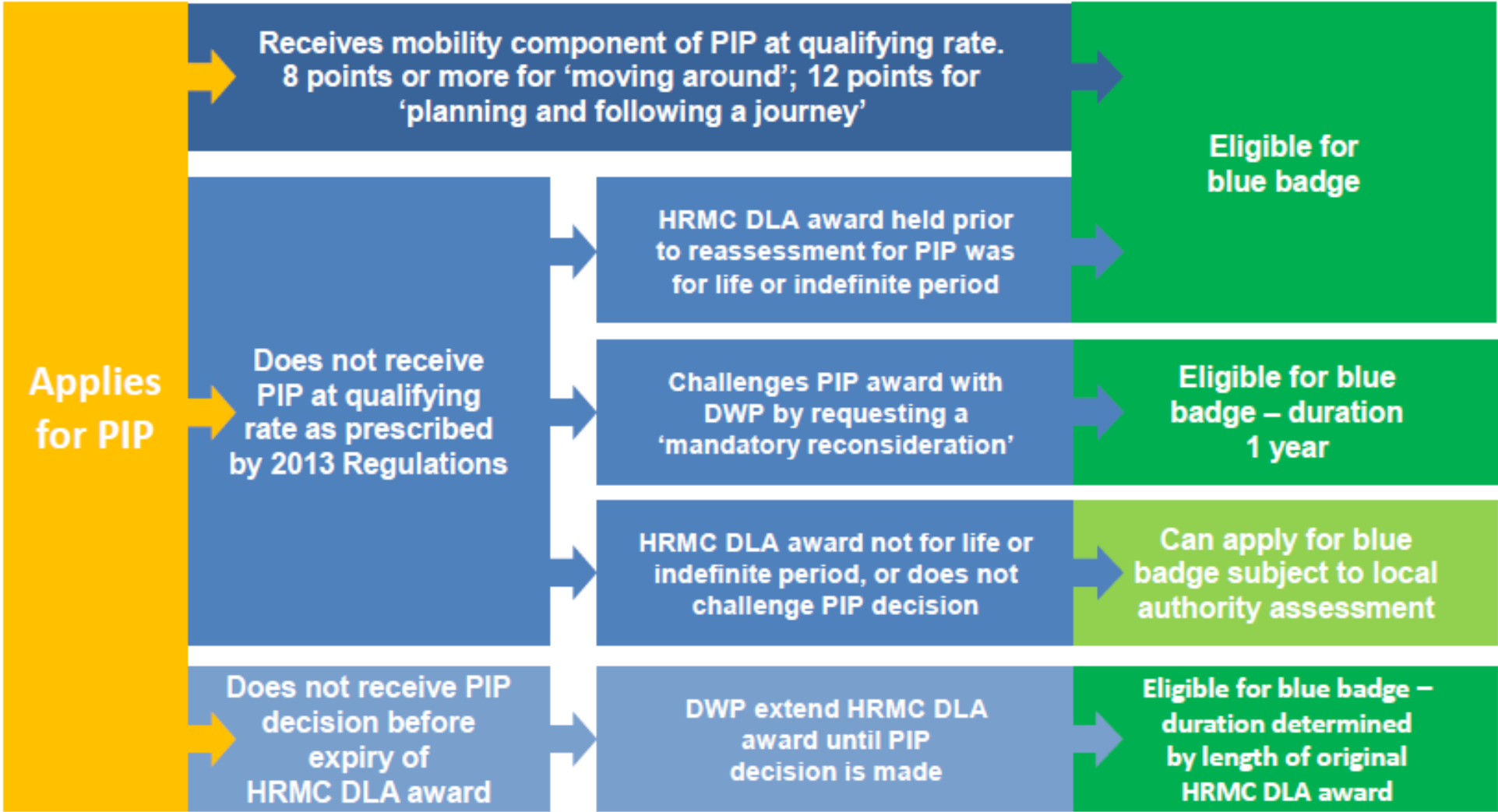
The 2014 Regulations also address the issue of the reported delays to the PIP assessment process. We have ensured that those who are being assessed for PIP from a HRMC DLA award, but do not receive the PIP decision at the time their HRMC DLA award ends, will continue to be able to passport to the blue badge scheme by reason of the extended HRMC DLA award.

Further information

Information on Personal Independence Payment 'Mandatory Reconsiderations' can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/pip/appeals>



Blue badge eligibility for a blue badge for those currently receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) who are being transitioned to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)



2013 Regulations - Personal Independence Payment (PIP) passporting criteria

Determining Blue Badge eligibility using Personal Independence Payment (PIP) award notifications (continued)

People who score 8 points or more in the “Moving around” activity of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) are eligible for a Blue Badge. These points are not cumulative.

When PIP is introduced in April 2013 the award notification letters will not show the point scores the claimant has been given. These will be added from October 2013 onwards. The letters will show the descriptor that the claimant has been given for each activity.

To check if a claimant is eligible for a Blue Badge, you should check which descriptor they have been awarded for “Moving around”. The table below shows you which descriptors score 8 or more points.

Mobility Activities 2. Moving around		Points	
A	I've decided you can stand and then move more than 200 metres.	0	↑ Not eligible
B	I've decided you can stand and then move more than 50 metres but no more than 200 metres.	4	
C	I've decided you can stand and then move unaided more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	8	↓ Eligible
D	I've decided you can stand and then move using an aid or appliance more than 20 metres but no more than 50 metres.	10	
E	I've decided you can stand and then move more than 1 metre but no more than 20 metres.	12	
F	I've decided you cannot stand or move more than 1 metre.	12	

Determining Blue Badge eligibility using Personal Independence Payment (PIP) award notifications

People who score 12 points in the "Planning and following journeys" activity of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) are eligible for a Blue Badge. These points are not cumulative.

When PIP is introduced in April 2013 the award notification letters will not show the point scores the claimant has been given. Points will be added from October 2013 onwards. The letters will show the descriptor that the claimant has been given for each activity.

To check if a claimant is eligible for a Blue Badge, you should check which descriptor they have been awarded for "Planning and following journeys". The table below shows you which descriptor scores 12 points.

Mobility Activities		Points
1. Planning and following journeys		
A	I've decided you can plan and follow a route of a journey unaided.	0
B	I've decided you need prompting from another person to undertake a journey to avoid causing you significant mental distress.	4
C	I've decided you can't plan the route of a journey.	8
D	I've decided you need another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid to follow the route of an unfamiliar journey.	10
E	I've decided you can't undertake any journey because it would cause you significant mental distress.	10
F	I've decided you can't follow the route of a familiar journey without another person, an assistance dog or an orientation aid.	12

Not eligible

↑

Eligible

↓