



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling**

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Dear Colleague,

**Blue Badges - Changes to eligibility criteria and a review of enforcement.**

I am writing to you today to inform you about the forthcoming publication of guidance to local authorities on the issuing of disabled parking badges (Blue Badges) following the decision to expand the eligibility criteria to include people with non-visible disabilities. This change will mean that from 30 August 2019, people with non-visible disabilities, where this affects their mobility, will also be able to obtain a Blue Badge. This will benefit people who find road travel difficult, by providing better access to work and other amenities, and will help combat loneliness by helping them stay connected to family and friends.

The Blue Badge scheme already means people with physical disabilities can park closer to their destination than other drivers, as they are less able to take public transport or walk longer distances. The extension of these badges to those with less visible conditions, for example some types of autism or dementia, was announced last summer following an eight-week consultation on widening the eligibility criteria. Making this change, is an important part of the Government's drive for greater parity between physical and mental health.

Local Authorities will continue to be responsible for assessing applicants, awarding Blue Badges to people that they judge fulfil the eligibility criteria. To support local authorities, when they start making assessments on people with non-visible disabilities, we have prepared an updated guidance document, which will be published on 15 June 2019. The Government will also be providing an additional £1.7m in 2019/20 to local authorities to administer the scheme. This additional funding will be reviewed in 12 months.

However, I recognise that expanding the eligibility criteria will mean that there will be more Blue Badges issued, placing more pressure on parking spaces. As result, we will also be conducting a review of the enforcement of Blue Badges over the summer, to look at ways we can improve the public's understanding of the purpose of the scheme, including the circumstances under which a Blue Badge can and cannot be used, and how we can better



enforce against those who abuse the scheme, to ensure that it benefits those the scheme is intended for.

I hope you will join me in welcoming these forthcoming changes, which have been eagerly awaited by disability groups and individual members of the public.

W. L. G. Grayling  
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**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**