

## **Concessions available to Disabled People**

**Background.** During the current economic climate, many disabled people are having to get by on less money, therefore it's important that we manage our money wisely and take advantage of the various discounts and concessions available to disabled people.

**Why should disabled people get concessions?** It's a fair question, and indeed, some disabled people don't want discounts and concessions but would prefer to pay full price and in return receive a full and equal service. However, the reality is that on trains, wheelchair users still occasionally have to travel in the goods carriage, theatres still have too few sign language interpreted performances and cinemas don't schedule sufficient numbers of audio described screenings. Moreover our benefits/income does not always meet the additional disability related costs that we incur.

**National Disabled Persons Railcard.** The card costs £20 per year or £54 for three years and allows card holders and one other adult to get a 1/3 off rail fares. The railcard also entitles you to other concessions including discounts on hotel bookings and food outlets within train stations. Eligibility is open to people who are registered Deaf or Blind or are in receipt of certain benefits such as Disability Living Allowance.

**National Concessionary Travel Pass.** All eligible disabled people in England are entitled to free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England. If you qualify, you can travel for free on local buses anywhere in England between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays. Also, if you have a travel pass and live within Greater Manchester, you can travel free on the Metrolink during off-peak times. Eligibility is open to people who are registered deaf or blind, have walking difficulties, or have been or would be refused a driving license for medical reasons.

**Blue Badge.** The Blue Badge Scheme provides a range of parking concessions for people with mobility difficulties, including free parking on meters. The badge enables holders to park close to where they need to go. The scheme operates throughout the UK and badge holders are exempt from tolls at certain river crossings, bridges and tunnels. Eligibility is open to people who are registered

blind, or have walking difficulties, or are in receipt of certain benefits such as Disability Living Allowance.

**Television License Discount.** If you are registered blind or have a significant visual impairment, you can get a 50 per cent reduction on the cost of a TV license. You may also be entitled to a concessionary TV license if you live in residential care or sheltered housing. If you are blind you need to prove that you are registered blind or have a significant visual impairment. If you live in residential care, you may be entitled to an Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) concessionary TV license, which costs £7.50 a year. If you live in residential care, your housing manager can tell you whether your accommodation is eligible for the ARC concessionary license.

**Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card.** This is a national card that can be used to verify that the disabled person is entitled to one free ticket for a person to accompany them to the cinema. Eligibility is open to people who are registered blind, or are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. The card costs £5.50 and must be renewed annually. Application forms are available from most cinemas or by contacting The Card Network.

## **Contact details**

### **National Disabled Persons Railcard:**

Disabled Persons Railcard Office, PO Box 11631, Laurencekirk. AB30 9AA

Tel: (Voice) 0845 6050525 (Minicom) 0845 6010132

Email: [disability@atoc.org](mailto:disability@atoc.org)

Web: [www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk](http://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk)

### **National Concessionary Travel Pass:**

Travel Concessions, Customer Services, PO Box 429, Manchester. M60 1HX

Tel: 0161 244 1050

Email: [passes&permits@tfgm.gov.uk](mailto:passes&permits@tfgm.gov.uk)

Web: [www.tfgm.com/f](http://www.tfgm.com/f)

### **Television License Discount:**

TV Licensing, Bristol. BS98 1TL

Tel: 0844 800 5808.

Email: [enquiries@tvlicensing.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tvlicensing.co.uk)

Web: [www.tvlicensing.co.uk](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk)

**Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card:**

The Card Network, Network House, St Ives Way, Sandycroft. CH5 2QS

Tel: (Voice) 0845 123 1292 (Minicom) 0845 123 1297

Email: info@ceacard.co.uk

**Blue Badge Scheme**

You can apply for a Blue Badge online through the Directgov website:

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Bluebadgescheme/DG\\_181208](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Bluebadgescheme/DG_181208)

**Bolton**

Access Bolton

Customer Service Division, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton. BL1 1RU

Tel: 01204 337266

**Bury**

Blue Badge Team, Textile Hall, Manchester Road, Bury. BL9 0DG

Tel: 0161 253 6855

**Manchester**

Level 4, Victoria Mill, Lower Vickers Street, Miles Platting, Manchester. M40 7LH

Tel: 0161 277 5919

**Oldham**

Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham. OL1 1UT.

Tel: 0161 770 3806

**Rochdale**

Blue Badge Applications, PO Box 615, Rochdale. OL16 9TF

Tel: 01706 922806

**Salford**

Community, Health and Social Care Blue Badge office

Unity House, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford. M27 5AW

Tel: 0161 793 2259

Email: bluebadge@salford.gov.uk

## **Stockport**

You can pick up an application form from any Stockport Direct Local Centre or library.

To find details of your local Stockport Direct Local Centre phone 0161 217 6009.  
Tel: 0161 474 3422 to be sent an application pack

## **Tameside**

Tameside Adult Services, Stalybridge Resource Centre, Waterloo Road, Stalybridge. SK15 2AU  
Tel: 0161 342 2400

## **Trafford**

Access Trafford Contact Centre, Sale Waterside, Sale. M33 7ZF  
Tel: 0161 912 2000  
You can also pick up an application form from your local library

## **Wigan**

Department of Adult Services,  
Wigan Council, Civic Centre, Millgate, Wigan. WN1 1AZ  
Tel: 01942 827819  
Email: [bluebadges@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:bluebadges@wigan.gov.uk)  
Application forms for a Blue Badge can also be downloaded from the appropriate council website.

This information sheet is available in a variety of formats, including: large print, Braille, audio and electronic.

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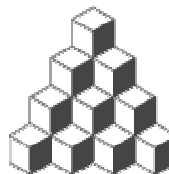
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