



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1380
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/05298/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

09 May 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April regarding the petition to make blue badges lifelong for individuals who have a lifelong diagnosis.

As my predecessor said in previous correspondence, blue badges are valid for three years. This length of award is set out in legislation and is common across the UK. However, applicants who will permanently meet the eligibility criteria can be awarded a badge on a 'not for reassessment' basis, which means that when re-applying in three years' time they will not need to provide any additional medical evidence to support their application, only proof of identity and residency. These are reasonable and proportionate requirements on applicants and necessary to prevent fraud and misuse.

Regarding the training of desk-based assessors, this is a matter for local authorities which have the statutory duty to administer the Blue Badge scheme in Wales. The Welsh Government does not ordinarily keep records on the training and qualifications of local authority staff.

There is no statutory appeals process against a decision made by a local authority on a blue badge application. The Welsh Government does not have the legal power to intervene in the assessment of individual cases. Our guidance to local authorities recommends they have a clear policy on how they will review blue badge decisions should they be challenged by an applicant. Applicants who are unhappy about the way the process was conducted should be made aware of the local authority's standard complaints procedure, in the same way that any other user of the local authority's services would be informed of their right to complain.

As noted in previous correspondence, over the last 20 years the Blue Badge scheme has been subject to several reviews and as a result we have made changes in conjunction with stakeholders. We are committed to ensuring that the Blue Badge scheme remains robust and fair, and that the process of obtaining a badge is as efficient as possible.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport