

Disabled Freedom Pass Policy

The Council offers a Disabled Freedom Pass for disabled residents which gives free travel on London public transport and local bus services across England under the terms of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007. Most services are free at all times but National Rail services within the London area are free after 9.30am.

If you are aged 60 or over, you can apply for a 60+ London Oyster. If you are aged 66+, you can apply for an Older Persons Freedom Pass. If you believe you are eligible for a Disabled Freedom Pass, you are still welcome to apply, however, if you already have an Older Persons Freedom Pass you will be asked to surrender this. Please contact London Councils on 0300 330 1433 or visit their website at www.londoncouncils.gov.uk

Disabled Freedom Passes are not provided to Carers or travel companions.

Eligibility

Residents are eligible to apply for the Disabled Persons Freedom Pass if their sole or principal residence is in Newham and they have any of the statutory disabilities listed in the Transport Act 2000:

STATUTORY DISABILITIES	EVIDENCE REQUIRED
Blind or partially sighted	<p>A completed CVI Form or BD8 Form from your Optometrist or have a letter from an eye hospital such as Moorfields</p> <p>If you are registered as Blind or Partially Sighted with the Social Care Team we are able to check this for you.</p> <p>Advice on how to register as blind or partially sighted if you have not already can be found on the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) website: www.rnib.org.uk/registrationcard</p>

Profoundly or severely deaf	<p>Evidence of registration or current audiology report that indicates hearing loss higher than 70 decibels in both ears; or a report from an aural specialist.</p> <p>If you are registered as Profoundly or Severely Deaf with the Social Care Team we can check this for you.</p>
Without speech	<p>Medical evidence of your inability to communicate orally in any language.</p> <p>If you are registered as without speech with the Social Care team we can check this for you.</p>
Have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has left you with a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to walk.	Medical evidence to support your application.
Do not have arms or have a long-term loss of the use of both arms	Medical evidence to support your application.
Have a Learning Disability that is defined as 'a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'.	<p>Medical evidence to support your application,</p> <p>If you are registered as having a Learning Disability with the Social Care team, we can check this for you.</p>

<p>Would have your application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 due to physical fitness other than on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.</p>	<p>Medical evidence to support your application of either:</p> <p>Epilepsy that prevents you from driving severe mental disorder; liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting (whether as a result of cardiac disorder or otherwise);</p> <p>Inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 meters (with lenses if worn);</p> <p>Other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public.</p>
<p>Receive the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.</p>	<p>A copy of the first page of your entitlement notice letter, this must be the mobility component and not the care component or ESA/JSA. Your evidence must be dated within the last 3 months and the award of the benefit is expected to be for at least 3 months after your application date and the award letter is at your registered address.</p> <p>If you have lost the award notice, or your award is due to end in the next 3 months please contact the Department for Work and Pensions to provide another copy or confirm your ongoing entitlement to this benefit at: https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline</p>

<p>Receive eight points or more under the 'Moving Around' activity of the mobility component, or eight or more points for 'Communicating Verbally' component, of Personal Independence Payment.</p>	<p>You will automatically qualify for a Freedom Pass if you have been awarded at least 8 points of the 'Moving Around' category or 8 or more points for 'Communicating Verbally' category.</p> <p>You will need to provide the full award letter with breakdown of all the points (all pages).</p> <p>Provided that the award of the benefit is expected to be for at least 12 months after your application date. Evidence must be dated within the last 3 months and cover the period you are applying for at your registered address.</p> <p>If you have lost the award notice, or your award is due to end in the next 3 months please contact the Department for Work and Pensions to provide another copy or confirm your ongoing entitlement to this benefit at: https://www.gov.uk/disability-benefits-helpline</p>
<p>Receive War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS)</p>	<p>You will automatically qualify for the Freedom Pass if you receive a War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.</p> <p>You can see if you're eligible at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/war-pension-scheme-mobility-supplement-wpms</p>

Discretionary Disabled Persons Freedom Pass

As part of the Council's commitment to support disabled residents to lead more active, happier and healthier lives; and to facilitate social inclusion and participation, the Council has extended the scheme to provide Discretionary Disabled Freedom Passes to residents whose disability is very close, but does not fully meet the eligibility criteria.

To be eligible for a Discretionary Disabled Persons Freedom Pass, you must:

- have lived in the borough for over 12 months;
- have a significant mobility issue due to breathing or musculoskeletal conditions that is permanent, or which is likely to last at least 12 months, and this has a substantial effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This excludes temporary conditions such as a broken limb;
- supply supporting medical evidence accompanied by a written statement detailing how your mobility issues affect your day-to-day living.

Discretionary Disabled Freedom Passes are subject to ongoing review and can be withdrawn at any time. If you qualify for other travel schemes, The Council may refuse to issue a Discretionary Disabled Freedom Pass or advise existing pass holders to switch to the other travel schemes.

If you move to a different London borough your Discretionary Disabled Freedom Pass will no longer be valid, and you must apply to your new Local Authority.

If you are a discretionary pass holder, your pass is not valid for travel outside of London. You have the same entitlement as other Freedom Pass holders on TfL buses, tube, trams, DLR and National Rail within Greater London.

How to Apply

Before you start your application, you will need the following:

- a recent passport sized colour photograph taken against a light, plain background (your face must not be covered and you must not be wearing a hat or dark glasses unless it is for religious or medical reasons);
- proof of your current address if the Council does not already hold this information about you, such as a utility bill dated within the last three months, or a tenancy agreement if you are not registered for Council Tax or on the Electoral role
- proof of your identity, such as a National Insurance card, medical card or passport;
- proof of your disability and or proof of benefits (please see above table under 'Evidence Required')
- a supporting letter if you're applying for a London Only pass under the mental health criteria;
- your National Insurance number;
- any medical information that you think will support your application for a Disabled Freedom Pass

The Council encourage online applications for efficiencies in processing, however if you are unable to complete the application online you can download and print a paper copy of the application [here](#) and send the form along with a copies of your supporting evidence to:

Disabled Freedom Pass Application
PO Box 71568
London E6 9LQ

The Council does not cover the cost for any postage or supporting evidence you may need to provide.

Processing Your Application

The Council aims to process your application within 12 weeks of receipt and will write to you to advise you of the outcome. Please only contact us if this time has passed and you have not heard from us.

If you are entitled to a Disabled Freedom Pass your application will be processed and your new pass will be sent to you by post within ten working days of the decision.

If you are aged 60 or over and hold either a 60+ London Oyster or an Older Persons Freedom Pass and also qualify for a Disabled Freedom Pass you will be asked to surrender it.

Appeals Procedure

If you do not agree with the outcome of your application, you have the right to request an appeal within one month of the decision being made.

To appeal email freedompassappeals@newham.gov.uk - clearly outlining why you are appealing. Failure to clearly state the grounds for appeal or providing additional supporting evidence at the time of submitting the appeal will result in the appeal being rejected.

The Council aims to process your appeal within twelve weeks of receipt. You will be informed in writing of the outcome of your appeal.

Lost, Stolen, Damaged or Faulty Passes

London Councils manages replacement passes on the Council's behalf. You will be charged £14.35 to replace a lost or damaged Pass.