

# A Quick Guide to Benefits and concessions



Below is a summary of the benefits and concessions you may be entitled to if you are registered Severely Sight Impaired SSI (Blind) or Sight Impaired SI (Partially Sighted).

Please note that the information in this leaflet is for guidance only and is not an authoritative statement of the law.

## Benefits and concessions

### Entitled to

Benefit/concession	SSI	SI
Blind person's tax allowance	✓	
Television licence fee reduction	✓	
Blue Badge Scheme – car parking	✓	
Free postage – “Articles for the blind”	✓	✓
Free NHS eye examination	✓	✓
Disabled Persons Railcard	✓	✓
Free bus travel	✓	✓
Free directory enquiries	✓	✓
Cinema pass for carer	✓	
Protection under the Equality Act	✓	✓
Assessment by social services	✓	✓

### You May be entitled to:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax disability reduction
- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Free ticket for guide at theatres, galleries etc

## Welfare benefits

Although once you are registered as severely sight impaired or sight impaired you are not automatically entitled to any welfare benefits – there are some benefits that you may be entitled to, subject to age and other circumstances.

- **Personal Independence Payment (PIP):** Help for disabled people with the extra costs of a disability.
- **Attendance Allowance:** Help for disabled people aged 65 or over with the extra costs of a disability.
- **Employment and Support Allowance:** Help for people with limited ability to work due to disability or illness
- **Tax Credits:** Help for people in work or with dependent children
- **Housing Benefit:** Help with paying your rent. Housing Benefit is a means-tested benefit to help you with your rent if you have a low income.
- **Local support for Council Tax bills:** Help with paying your Council Tax.
- **Council Tax disability reduction:** You may get a reduction to your Council Tax bill if you have a room set aside to meet needs related to your disability.
- **Universal Credit:** Help for people of working age who are on a low income.
- **Pension Credit:** Help for people of pension age on low or modest incomes

## Tax allowances and exemptions

- **Blind person's personal income tax allowance:** This allowance is available only to those registered Severely Sight Impaired. It is in addition to your basic personal tax allowance. It can be transferred to a husband, wife or civil partner, in part or whole, if you do not have enough taxable income.

## Concessions

If you're registered **severely sight impaired (blind)** you are entitled to the following concessions:

- Reduction of 50 per cent on the television licence fee: applies if a registered severely sight impaired (blind) adult or child lives in the household.
- Car parking concessions: the Blue Badge Scheme
- Free postage on items marked or labelled "Articles for the blind": Call the Royal Mail Customer Service Centre for more information.

If you're registered **severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted)** you are entitled to the following:

- **Free NHS eye examination by an optometrist:** The examination is also free for anyone aged 60 or over.
- **Other NHS costs:** You may be able to get a voucher towards the cost of glasses (check with your optometrist whether you qualify for a "voucher for complex lenses").