

Warwickshire  
Vision Support



# Benefits of Registration

A guide to the benefits  
and concessions of  
registration

Your local charity for local people

# 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	✓	✓

## 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

# Benefits and concessions

On the previous page 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.

## 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. Please contact your local council to check what financial support with paying Council Tax is available in your area.

- **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. Universal Credit has started to replace Tax Credits and five means-tested benefits for people of working age.
- **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 in addition to your basic personal tax allowances make up. You can transfer it to your husband, wife or your civil partner, in part or whole, if you do not have enough taxable income to use it. To claim, contact your local tax office.
- **Age-related personal tax allowances:** There are higher personal tax-free allowances for people born on or before 5 April 1948, with a slightly higher allowance for people born on or before 5 April 1938.
- **VAT relief on specialised goods and services:** Goods that have been designed for disabled or blind and partially sighted people are exempt from VAT. Some building work may also be exempt.

## 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.
- You may also be entitled to the free permanent loan of radios or CD radio cassette players

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").
- **Travel concessions:** The Disabled Person's Railcard gives at least one third off the price of certain rail tickets for the cardholder, and an accompanying adult where applicable, in England, Wales and Scotland. You can get sighted assistance at the start and end of your rail journey. Contact the relevant train operating company in advance to arrange this.

You will also be able to get a bus pass that gives you free concessionary travel throughout the country.

- **Exemption from BT Directory Enquiry charges:** You can get free directory enquiries via the enquiries number 195. Call **0800 587 0195** to request a form.
- **Leisure concessions:** Concessions are available to people with disabilities for various leisure activities.

## **What is the sight register?**

The sight register helps your local council to provide you with the best services it can. The register is confidential so your details cannot be shared.

WVS will contact you upon receipt of your CVI to discuss whether you wish to be included on the register and to carry out a needs assessment.

You do not need to be registered to get support from Warwickshire Vision Support but it may restrict some benefits and concessions to which you are entitled.

## **What does certification/registration involve?**

In order to be registered you need to first be certified by a consultant ophthalmologist. If your sight loss is not permanent, or if you are having treatment that could improve your sight, you may not be certified until the outcome of treatment. Also, loss of sight in one eye does not qualify you certification.

The ophthalmologist will assess your vision using a combination of your visual acuity and your field of vision to judge whether you're eligible to be registered.

Your CVI includes the results from your eye test, as well as information about your circumstances and your preferred format for correspondence.

If your sight is affecting your ability to drive safely, you need to inform DVLA.

## **Certification and registration**

If you register your sight loss, it will be easier to access help and support and it may be easier for you to establish your level of sight to service providers, employers or those awarding benefits etc.

The steps involved in certification and registration

Your eye specialist:

- determines that you are eligible to be certified as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.
- completes the Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI).
- sends copies of the CVI to you, your GP and Warwickshire Vision Support.

Warwickshire Vision Support:

- will contact you to confirm if you agree to be placed on the register of blind and partially sighted people.
- will contact you to arrange a social care assessment of your needs and services such as rehabilitation.

For more information call  
**01926 411331**



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