Eligibility assessment

Please refer to the relevant criteria below to find out what evidence you need to provide to prove your eligibility. You will need to send this to us with your application form or upload it when you apply online at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/diamondtravelcard

We accept photocopies.

Proof of eligibility

Eligibility reason 1: you are of pensionable age

Eligibility is based on female state pension age. As the pensionable age for women increases, so will the age of eligibility.

To find out when you are eligible for your Diamond Travelcard please use the following link: www.gov.uk/state-pension-age

Eligibility reason 2: you receive an automatic qualifying benefit

The benefits for automatic eligibility are:

1. Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance
2. Personal Independence Payment (PIP), where you have been awarded at least eight points against either the PIP ‘Moving around’ and/or ‘Communicating verbally’ activities
3. War Pensioner’s Mobility Supplement

Eligibility reason 3: eligibility under qualifying disabilities

Your disability must be permanent and have lasted at least 12 months, or likely to last at least 12 months or are likely to recur. The disability must have a substantial effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

If you are asked to provide medical evidence (in the form of a letter or report from your consultant/GP) that explicitly states you meet the criteria outlined.

Medical evidence should be dated and provided on headed paper.

We cannot accept evidence that is out of date (i.e. more than 12 months old).

The seven national qualifying categories of disability are outlined on the following page.

Please note, it is your responsibility to ensure that your Diamond Travelcard is valid and should be renewed when necessary as outlined by the expiry date shown on the card.
1. Registered blind or partially sighted
The applicant is unable to read the top letter in the eye test chart (used by opticians) with their glasses, if worn, at a distance of six metres or less.
Acceptable evidence:
• CVI (Certificate of visual impairment)
• Disabled Persons Registration Card
• Evidence from eye specialist confirming sight is impaired
• Social Services letter confirming registration as blind/partially sighted

2. Profoundly or severely deaf
The applicant has a hearing loss of 70 dbHL or above.
Acceptable evidence:
• Social Services letter confirming applicant meets hearing loss criteria
• Audiological report confirming applicant meets hearing loss criteria

3. Without speech
The applicant is unable to communicate orally in any language. The applicant cannot make basic oral requests or ask specific questions to clarify instructions.
Acceptable evidence:
• Social Services letter confirming applicant is without speech
• Letter from medical professional confirming the applicant is without speech
• Personal Independence Payment statement – applicant awarded a score of at least eight points for “communicating verbally”

4. Severely disabled and unable to walk
To be eligible the applicant must provide evidence that they have a disability/injury which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to walk.
Acceptable evidence:
• Disability Living Allowance showing Mobility Component at a higher rate
• Personal Independence Payment statement – applicant awarded a score of 8 points or more for moving around
• War pension with mobility supplement

5. Severe disability in both arms
The applicant does not have arms or has the long term loss of the use of both arms.
Acceptable evidence:
• Letter from medical professional confirming loss of arms or long term loss of both arms

6. Significant learning disability
The applicant has a learning disability that was present at birth or diagnosed during early years which significantly reduces understanding of new or complex information, causes difficulty in learning new skills and may result in the applicant being unable to cope independently.
Acceptable evidence:
• Social Services letter confirming and detailing a significant learning difficulty
• Letter from a medical professional detailing applicant’s learning disability (when disability was diagnosed, description of effect on daily activities)

7. Have been refused a driving licence due to physical or mental incapacity
The applicant has a condition that prevents them from holding a license to drive due to refusal on section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (physical fitness) other than on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs and alcohol.
Acceptable evidence:
• Letter from DVLA giving notice of refusal or withdrawal of license (dated within last 12 months)
• Letter from medical professional confirming that the applicant would be refused a driving licence on medical grounds

Companion Pass
If you require the assistance of a companion at all times when travelling on buses, please supply a letter from a medical professional confirming this.

Any additional information
Please provide us with any information you think we should know that is not covered elsewhere in your application. Medical evidence or professional letters must be dated and written on headed paper and attached to your application form.