

PE2140/A: Introduce a parking badge for pregnant women

Transport Scotland written submission, 12 February 2025

Thank you for your correspondence on 20 January regarding the above petition which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce a new parking badge to assist women being able to get in and out their cars while they are pregnant, and for the initial months after their pregnancy.

It is acknowledged that pregnancy can become challenging for some in the later stages of pregnancy, or during postpartum recovery. While pregnancy and postpartum recovery can at times be incredibly difficult, these are usually considered as temporary conditions.

However, if a pregnancy or childbirth has resulted in severe complications that have led to mobility challenges, potentially making walking difficult on a more permanent basis (for more than 12 months), there may be grounds for that individual to apply for a Blue Badge.

Parking concessions are given to those that qualify through legislation outlined in [The Disabled Persons \(Badges for Motor Vehicles\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000](#). The Blue Badge scheme is designed to allow disabled people who experience severe barriers in their mobility to park closer to their destination.

The eligibility criteria for a Blue Badge are based on functional mobility rather than diagnosed medical conditions, whether they are physical or hidden. This is mainly because not everyone who has a particular diagnosed medical condition needs a parking concession. While pregnancy and postpartum recovery would not automatically qualify under the legislation, individuals may still apply if significant long-term complications arise. [Full details on the Blue Badge eligibility criteria can be found on my.gov.scot](#).

Scottish Government will always advocate for patients to consult directly with their GP or Midwife if they are experiencing difficulty during or after their pregnancy. In addition to this, local authority support services will also be able to provide advice on more local antenatal and postnatal resources and support.

It is also worth noting that the Blue Badge scheme only applies to on-street parking. Off-street car parks, such as supermarkets or high street carparks are governed by separate rules. Therefore, the decision to offer any alternative parking concessions (such as parent and child parking) at these types of facilities would be the responsibility of the relevant authority or landowner.

Disabled persons' parking places play a vital role in enabling disabled people to carry out day-to-day activities. While there are no plans to create separate concessionary badges or to widen the automatic eligibility criteria, it is imperative that the Blue Badge scheme remains open to all, while remaining a helpful concession to those who need it the most.

I hope the Committee finds the contents of this letter helpful.