

Counter signatory questionnaire

These questions are for qualified and registered/regulated healthcare, social work or teaching professionals who have seen the applicant during the last 12 months and who is not the applicant's GP.

The healthcare, social work or teaching professional should complete the questions, **providing examples to support their answers which reference how the applicant acts when in the community where possible**, and then they should sign this section.

Information about the counter signatory professional

Name

Job title

Date of last contact with applicant

Registration number

Organisation

Work telephone

Email address

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information about whether the applicant meets the Blue Badge criteria of being someone who, because of a mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, lacks awareness of danger from traffic and is likely to compromise their safety, or that of others.

1. Can the applicant follow the route of a familiar journey on their own? If this is appropriate to their age.

Yes No Sometimes

Please provide examples and give reference to how often this occurs:

In the case of children, does the applicant show any evidence of being able to learn this?

Yes No

If **yes**, give an example of where they can currently walk to:

2. Can the applicant follow the basic instructions such as “slow down”, “stay here” or “stop” in situations involving traffic?

Yes No Sometimes

Please indicate how frequently:

Provide examples on how the applicant responds when given such instructions:

3. Has the applicant put themselves at risk as a result of being unaware of the dangers from traffic?

Yes No Sometimes

Provide examples of this.

How often does this occur?

When was the last time this happened?

How is the applicant being kept safe at present?

4. Does the applicant require continual supervision while travelling in the community (and in the case of children, over and above that is normally required for children of that age)?

Yes No Sometimes

Please explain type of supervision and how applicant responds to it. E.g. hand holding, arm linking, physical or verbal guidance, and give examples of how applicant responds e.g. breaks free from hand holding.

5. Can the applicant deal with unexpected changes in their journey?

Yes No Sometimes

What behaviour does the applicant display around traffic as a result of unexpected changes to their journey? How often does this occur? When did this last occur?

6. Does the applicant walk or run away or become disorientated when exiting a vehicle, causing danger to themselves or others?

Yes No Sometimes

How is this risk managed at present? For example, use of rear door safety lock, parking with applicant towards pavement side.

7. If the applicant is a child, has an NHS buggy been provided for safety reasons?

Yes No Not Applicable

8. What coping strategies are currently in place to ensure the applicant's safety?

9. How would provision of a Blue Badge improve applicant's safety and/or reduce level of support currently required?

10. In your professional opinion, having considered the actual and current risk to this individual applicant, not the potential risk associated with the condition, does the applicant regularly place themselves or others in danger?

Yes No

Please provide details:

Do you think this risk will reduce over time?

Yes No Unsure

Professional counter signing signature against the declarations

Signature

**Date of signature
(DD/MM/YYYY)**

Please print your name

Blue Badge Scheme – Risk in Traffic Application

Information for professionals completing the ‘Counter Signatory Questionnaire’ in the Risk in Traffic application form.

Points to consider

- It is important for you to determine if you know the applicant well enough to complete the application form.** You will need to know about their behaviours, responses and needs when they are out and about – especially when negotiating roads and traffic. You may wish to consult with other professionals before completing the form.
You may also need to advise the applicant/ their families/ or representatives if you consider that you are not the most appropriate person to complete the form.
- The Blue Badge award means that people with the most significant difficulties are enabled to maintain their travel needs in order to access the parts of the community they need to. If you consider that the proposed applicant does not meet the criteria for a Blue Badge under the Risk in Traffic eligibility criteria i.e. if you do not consider that they are someone who, because of a mental health disorder, **lacks awareness of danger from traffic AND is likely to compromise their safety, or the safety of others**; you may need to explain this to applicants and their families/ or representatives.
- Having a Mental Disorder/Cognitive Impairment on its own is not enough to qualify for a badge.** Blue Badges are awarded based upon current adequately evidenced risk to the individual (or others) not upon potential or future risk associated with the condition.
Also, if successful strategies are in place to minimise risk (e.g. if supervision is required but this keeps the applicant safe, or handholding and/or verbal prompting manages risk) it is unlikely that a Blue Badge will be awarded.
- Blue Badge Team relies heavily on the information provided by the professional completing the questionnaire.** You are therefore asked to complete the form with as much detail as possible, giving clear examples of current strategies, when strategies have failed and resulted in actual risk to the safety of the applicant or others.
The Blue Badge assessor may need to contact you if there is insufficient information to assess the application. This may delay the application process.
- Blue Badge awards are not permanent.** Under the current scheme, badges may be awarded for a maximum of three years. Please indicate on the form if there is the potential for the applicant’s responses and behaviours to change in the future, and if it is possible that their safety or risk levels may increase or decrease e.g. if they are adjusting to a new routine or if you are working with them to increase their safety awareness and promote independent living.

Thank you for your attention and help to ensure that Blue Badges are awarded to those that need them the most.