

25. As in the case of blind and partially sighted people, local authorities may, where appropriate, require applicants to show evidence of registration before issuing a permit, or evidence that they are registerable, for example, an audiological report, or a report from an aural specialist

### **"(c) is without speech"**

26. Included within this category are people who are unable to communicate orally in any language. Those people will be:

- unable to make clear basic oral requests e.g. to ask for a particular destination or fare;
- unable to ask specific questions to clarify instructions e.g. "Does this bus go to the High Street?"

27. This category would not, in the Department's opinion, cover people who are able to communicate orally but whose speech may be slow or difficult to understand because, for example, of a severe stammer.

28. In considering an application on these grounds the local authority may reasonably seek medical evidence to support the application in appropriate cases.

### **"(d) has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to walk"**

29. To simplify the assessment process, local authorities may wish to accept receipt of the following state benefits, which link eligibility to the ability to walk, as evidence of eligibility under this definition provided that the award of the benefit has been for at least 12 months:

- Higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) ;
- War pensioners mobility supplement.

Applicants claiming these benefits will be able to produce documentary evidence of their entitlement

30. In assessing the eligibility of other applicants local authorities will wish to consider:

- whether the applicant cannot walk for distances up to 100m without stopping, severe discomfort or help from another person.
- whether a mobility aid is used - wheelchair, crutches, walking frame, stick, etc.

31. It is envisaged that permits will be issued to people who can only walk with excessive labour and at an extremely slow pace or with excessive pain. In other words, the degree of disability should not fall far short of that required to qualify for the higher rate mobility component of DLA.

32. Where the applicant is not in receipt of either of the benefits mentioned above, or the local authority chooses not to use that mechanism, the Department advises that the authority should normally seek medical evidence to support the claim that the applicant's walking ability is permanently and substantially impaired. As mentioned in paragraph 16 above, some authorities will have their own medical advisers, or independent medical advisers. Occupational therapists may also be able to provide the necessary assessment to support the claim.

### **"(e) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms"**

33. This category includes upper limb double amputees and those with congenital absence of both upper limbs.

34. In the Department's opinion, it also covers both people with deformity of both arms and people who have both arms if in either case they are unable to use them to carry out day to day tasks, for example, paying coins into a fare machine. In these latter cases the Department advises that a local authority should normally seek independent medical evidence to support the application.