

Oxford University Hospitals **NHS**

NHS Foundation Trust

Oxford Eye Hospital

# Sight loss

Registration, benefits  
and concessions





# What is registration?

If you have sight loss, you may be entitled to certification and registration. If you are registered, this may entitle you to some benefits and concessions (see table on pages 5 and 6). Registration data is also used by policy makers and the Government, so that they know how many people are registered in England.

In order to be registered with Oxfordshire County Council as severely sight impaired (SSI) or sight impaired (SI) you must first be certified by a Consultant Ophthalmologist. If your sight loss is not permanent, or if you are having treatment which may improve your sight, you may not be certified until the outcome of the treatment is certain.

Certification and registration are voluntary processes, so it is up to you whether you would like to be registered. Your decision will not affect the care you receive or your ability to access care from Social and Community Services.

# What are the criteria for registration?

The criteria for certification and registration are based on a combination of your visual acuity (straight ahead vision) and visual field (peripheral vision or vision at the edge of your sight).

To be certified and registered, your sight usually has to meet one of the following categories:

## **Severely sight impaired (SSI) (previously known as Blind registration)**

- Visual acuity of less than 3/60 with a full visual field.
- Visual acuity between 3/60 and 6/60 with a severe reduction of visual field.
- Visual acuity of 6/60 or better with gross field loss.

## **Sight impaired (SI) (previously known as partially sighted registration)**

- Visual acuity of 3/60 to 6/60 with a full field of vision.
- Visual acuity 6/24 or better with moderate field loss.
- Visual acuity of 6/18 or better with gross field loss.

If you would like further information on the advantages of registration, please contact the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer.

Tel: **01865 231 137**

Please leave a message if you reach the voicemail and we will call you back.

# What benefits does being registered offer?

The following table is a summary of the benefits and concessions you may be entitled to if you are registered severely sight impaired (SSI) or sight impaired (SI).

## Entitled to:

Benefit/concession	SSI	SI
Blind person's tax allowance	✓	X
Television licence fee reduction Tel: 0300 790 6071	✓	X
Blue Badge Scheme – car parking Tel: 01865 792 422	✓	X
Free postage – “Articles for the blind” Free postage for printed materials/books/ magnifiers/mobility aids and audio and electronic media	✓	✓
Free NHS eye examination	✓	✓
Disabled Persons Railcard Tel: 0845 605 0525	✓	✓
Free bus travel Tel: 0845 310 1111	✓	✓
Free directory enquiries from landlines and mobiles Tel: 0800 587 0195 to register for the service	✓	✓
Cinema pass for carer	✓	X
Protection under the Equality Act	✓	✓
Assessment by social services	✓	✓

## Benefits you may be entitled to:

Benefit/concession	SSI	SI
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 a guide at theatres, galleries or tourist attractions	✓	✓

(Table: adapted from RNIB Starting Out series)



If you have a specific requirement,  
need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read,  
another language, large print, Braille or  
audio version, please call **01865 221 473**  
or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

Author: Patsy Terry, Department of Optometry,  
Oxford Eye Hospital  
August 2016  
Review: August 2019  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Oxford OX3 9DU  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)

