



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01576

Name of petitioner

Owain Martin

Petition title

Blue Badges for children with Autism and Down's Syndrome

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to change the law so that children with autism and Down's syndrome who are under 16 are entitled to a blue badge as those who are over 16 are as is the case in Wales.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted Duncan McNeil MSP who raised a motion in the parliament earlier this year on this very topic and my own MSP Jim Eadie to express my concern and support of this subject. I also informed them both that I intended to start a petition to raise awareness and support on the issue. As a parent of a severely autistic child who was recently refused a blue badge then becoming aware of the problem facing all autistic and Down's children country wide I have decided to do something about it so that all these children can benefit and their families gain this essential piece of help which makes daily life that little bit easier.

Petition background information

Currently a blue badge is only automatically granted to those who get higher rate mobility in their DLA. Due to the changes in qualification criteria put in place by the current Government most kids with autism and Down's who previously got higher rate mobility will now only get the middle rate thus no automatic blue badge. There is no account taken of the fact that even though these kids can walk they cannot walk anywhere without assistance for personal safety reasons. The situation is made even unfairer by the fact that as soon as an autistic or child with Down's syndrome reaches 16 they change from DLA to PIP once on PIP there is provision for a blue badge to be granted on the grounds of personal safety. As it stands those under 16 are being discriminated against and this anomaly should be rectified. Wales recently changed the law there so that under 16's are treated the same as over 16's Scotland should do the same.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/autismdownsbluebadges>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

12 / 09 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Children with autism and Down's syndrome who are aged under 16 all over Scotland are losing their blue badges due to the Government welfare cuts that are downgrading most of them from higher rate mobility to middle rate mobility. As a result local authorities are turning down requests for blue badge renewals as you only qualify automatically if you are on higher rate mobility. There is no consideration being taken in to the fact that even though these children can walk they cannot walk anywhere on their own for personal safety reasons. The situation is made even more unfair by the fact that when children with autism and downs turn 16 they change from DLA to PIP and PIP has provision for granting a blue badge on personal safety reasons. I have started this petition so that children with autism and downs under 16 are treated the same as those over 16. Wales recently changed the law so that this is the case I urge Scotland to do the same.