

Registering as Sight Impaired or Severely Sight Impaired

If you have a permanent vision impairment, you may be eligible to be registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired. Being registered often makes it easier to get practical help, and you may qualify for certain benefits.

Registration is voluntary. The loss of sight in one eye does not qualify you for registration and your vision must be not correctable by wearing glasses.

How do I register?



A hospital consultant ophthalmologist must examine your eyes. If you are not already attending your local eye clinic, your GP or optometrist can make a referral.

The ophthalmologist will measure your visual acuity (how good you are at seeing detail) and your field of vision (how much you can see from the side of your eye while looking straight ahead). They will look at the combined results to decide whether you're eligible to be registered as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.

If the ophthalmologist thinks that you are suitable for registration, they will complete a 'Certificate of Vision Impairment' (CVI) form. This form records information about your condition and completes your certification. When the Vision Impairment team receive a CVI they make contact with the person and ask if they would like to be added to the local register and offer advice and support.



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