

## **Optometrist Identification of a Person with Significant Sight Problems**

# **Letter concerning vision impairment needs**

### **About the attached letter**

This letter is to be given by an optometrist to people with sight difficulties who would benefit by seeking advice and support from a council with social services responsibilities or its designated agency.

### **Advice for patients**

If you send this letter to your local council to request advice or support it will not affect the provision of any medical care.

You will need to fill in your details on the two page letter attached. You do not need to send this page or the next.

Your council has a legal duty to:

- advise you of the range of services available to people with sight problems
- carry out an assessment of your needs

If you have any difficulties in relation to these matters, you can obtain independent advice from your local:

- Citizens Advice Bureau
- society for visually impaired people, or
- the RNIB Helpline. Tel. 08457 66 99 99 (local call rate)

If you have a driving licence, please read the important 'Information for driving licence holders'.

## Information for driving licence holders

Every driver must be able to read a pre-September 2001 format number plate at 20.5 metres (or a post September 2001 format number plate at 20 metres) in good light.

If your sight is affecting your ability to drive or if the eye specialist has advised you that you are not safe to drive, you are required to contact the:

Drivers Medical Branch

DVLA

Swansea

SA99 1TU

Tel 0870 600 0301 (Monday to Friday 8.15 to 16.30)

The DVLA must be told at once if:

- you **NOW** have any physical or mental disability or condition which affects your fitness as a driver or which might do so **IN THE FUTURE** (you do not need to tell DVLA if the effect of the disability or the condition is not expected to last more than 3 months).
- You come to know **IN FUTURE** that you have such a disability or condition.

**Failure to comply is a criminal offence. Drivers who do not meet the vision requirements and who come to the attention of the police may be liable for a fine of up to £1,000.**

**Optometrist Identification of a Person  
with Significant Sight Problems:**

**Letter concerning  
vision impairment needs**

For the attention of:



Access Team, London Borough of Hackney, 205 Morning Lane, London E9 6JX. Telephone 020 8356 6262. Fax 020 8356 4638.

Email: [access@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:access@hackney.gov.uk)

This letter can also be downloaded at <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/soc-cc-opticiansletter>

Date:

Dear Sirs,

I have been advised to contact you because poor eyesight is making daily life difficult. I would like to know about the range of specialist information or help which is available locally from your, or other agencies.

My name is:

The optometrist who suggested I contact you is:

Please contact: Me  A friend  A relative  A representative

Name:

Address:

Telephone number (or email address):

Please make contact first by

phone  An interpreter or translation will be required

visit

letter  email

I would prefer information in \_\_\_\_\_ (language)

Please send me further information by:

## Letter of Visual Impairment (LVI 2003)

- large print
- 3.5 inch computer disk
- tape
- email to:

### **Please tick any of these statements that apply to you**

- I live alone
- I have responsibilities as a carer

I have

- difficulty getting about
- problems with hearing
- arthritis
- a heart condition
- other condition(s) – please specify

I am especially concerned about

- cooking on my own
- crossing roads safely
- becoming isolated
- feelings of distress
- coping at work
- coping at school / college
- other – please specify

I am

- Under 18
- Between 18 and 59
- Between 60 and 74
- Over 75

Yours faithfully,

Please return the completed letter to the following address:

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