

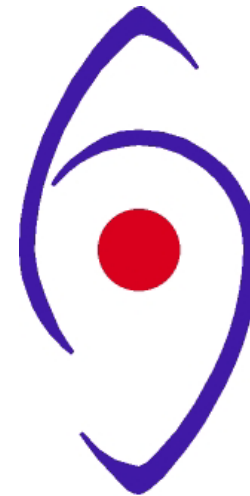
**Visual Impairment Services
Highland**

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The Resource Centre
38 Ardconnel street
Inverness
IV2 3EX

Tel: 01463 233663

E-mail: highlandvision@hotmail.com



registration

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What if I do not wish to be registered?

If you do not wish to be formally registered you can still ask to be assessed for help you may need to keep you independent. The Eye Specialist can arrange for you to get this help by passing on your name to Highland Vision Services who will arrange for one of their staff to visit your home. They can help you to cope with the effects of poor vision by providing support, advice and special equipment if you need it. Talking to you about your vision is an important part of the service but they can also help with the practical tasks we all have to perform everyday.

If you prefer you can visit the Resource Centre at 38 Ardconnel Street, Inverness, where there is a wide range of special aids and equipment on display for you to try. It is open Monday to Friday - 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Benefits	Blind	Partially Sighted
Travel pass allowing free bus/train travel within the Highland Region and certain destinations out with.	Yes	Yes
Provision of support, advice and help with practical tasks	Yes	Yes
Free postage for some equipment and mail.	Yes	Yes
Special rehabilitation training for employment.	Yes	Yes
Voting - either postal or by proxy.	Yes	Yes
Tape library facilities and talking newspapers.	Yes	Yes
Free permanent loan of radio/radio cassette players.	Yes	Yes

Benefits	Blind	Partially Sighted
Under certain circumstances slightly more generous treatment if you are entitled to Income Support; additional Disability Premium and Disabled Child Disability Premium and Disabled Child	Yes	IN SOME CASES
Provision of support, advice and help with practical tasks	Yes	Yes
Special rehabilitation training for employment.	Yes	Yes
Disability Living Allowance if under 65 (Attendance Allowance if over 65)	Might be eligible	Might be eligible
A reduction of £1.25 off the cost of a T.V. licence.	Yes	No
Orange Badge parking concession	Yes	No

What is registration?

If there is unfortunately something wrong with your eye sight that cannot be improved medically, the Consultant may ask you to consider registration. This is an official way of saying that you have a permanent visual impairment.

Being registered means that your name will be entered on a list held by Highland Vision Services who act as agents for the Highland Council, to confirm that you have a serious sight problem.

Registration is worth considering as it will entitle you to claim services and benefits specially for visually impaired people. But you don't have to register if you don't wish to - it is entirely up to you.

There are two kinds of registration - as "blind" or as "partially sighted". If you are told that you can be registered as blind this does not mean that you will necessarily lose all your sight.

What is registration?

The word blind is used partly for legal reasons and simply means that your eye sight, as measured by your Eye Specialist, has fallen below certain limits. One out of ten people registered as blind have some useful sight. For registration as partially sighted your sight, though poor, is not bad enough to be registered as blind.

If you do wish to become registered, your Consultant Ophthalmologist will decide whether you are registerable as blind or as partially sighted and will fill in the Form, B.P.1, which will then be sent to Highland Vision Services.

What are the benefits of registration?

Here are some of the benefits and services which registration may entitle you to. Some are just for those registered as blind and some are for both blind and partially sighted people.

Benefits	Blind	Partially Sighted
Someone from Highland Vision Services will visit you in your own home and make an assessment of the services you need and the special equipment you may require.	Yes	Yes
Provision of support, advice and help with practical tasks	Yes	Yes
Special rehabilitation training for employment.	Yes	Yes
Extra Income Tax relief.	Yes	NO
Free eye tests.	Yes	Yes