

# Information and Guidance for the Blind and Partially Sighted collection (SSDA902)

For the collection period  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

Issued: October 2007

# CONTENTS

---

(Press CTRL and click on relevant section to automatically go to that page)

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING THE SSDA902 FORM .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 TABLE 1 .....	4
2.2 TABLES 2 AND 3 .....	5
<b>3 DEAFBLIND REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 INTERNET DATA COLLECTION GUIDANCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5 DEFINITIONS OF DATA REQUIRED FOR SSDA902 RETURN FOR 2007/08.....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 CLIENT GROUPS .....	7
5.2 DEFINITIONS.....	7
<b>6 COPY OF THE SSDA902 FORM FOR 2007/08 .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7 CONTACTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>

Copyright © 2007, The Information Centre, Social Care Statistics. All rights reserved.

This work remains the sole and exclusive property of The Information Centre and may only be reproduced where there is explicit reference to the ownership of The Information Centre.

This work may be re-used by NHS and government organisations without permission. Commercial re-use of this work must be granted by The Information Centre.

## 1 Background Information

Data on this return are required by the Secretary of State under the legislation prescribed in the National Assistance Act 1948 and Local Authority Circular (93) 10 and will be used to give information on Local Authorities' plans for service provision by identifying people who have visual, dual sensory and combined disabilities.

Under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 local authorities are required to compile and maintain classified registers of "persons who are blind, deaf or dumb and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity". Local Authority Circular (93)10 provided further guidance to local authorities on registration practice and the collection of statistics for each of the following groups: Additional information can be found on the following link:

[http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/PublicWebsite/public\\_regcard2.hcsp](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/PublicWebsite/public_regcard2.hcsp)

- Blind
- Partially sighted
- Deaf with speech
- Deaf without speech
- Hard of hearing
- General classes (those whose primary handicap is neither visual nor auditory)

Information on the numbers of people (other than persons with mental health needs) who fall within the scope of section 29 of the Act of 1948 and are recorded on these LA registers is collected using 2 separate statistical returns:

- SSDA902 Registration of blind persons and partially sighted persons;
- SSDA910 Registration of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This year's data collection is the SSDA902 return and is concerned with the registration of people who are blind and partially sighted.

Statistics on registered disabled persons are, in general, collected from local authorities in England on a three year rolling cycle. Information on blind and partially sighted people was last collected for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. This information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/people-registered-as-blind-and-partially-sighted-triennial-2006-england>

A decision was made to bring the SSDA902 collection forward by a year, for collection in 2007/08, due to concerns regarding the fall in the number of people newly registered as blind and partially sighted between March 2003 and March 2006.

Information for deaf and hard of hearing people was last collected for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and is due to be published as "Registered Deaf and Hard of Hearing" in October this year. This information will be located on the following web page:  
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/regdeaf07>

Information on general classes of disability was last collected for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1993 and published as "Registers of people with physical disabilities (General Classes)" in February 1994. The collection of this information was discontinued as registrations were found to be an inaccurate reflection of the actual number of people with disabilities. Further statistics on physical disability are now collected by The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) .

The most recent "Statistics on the characteristics of the population of disabled people in Britain including people with long standing health conditions" publication, produced by the Disability Rights Commission, can be accessed at:  
[www.drc.org.uk/docs/Disability\\_Briefing\\_March\\_2006.doc](http://www.drc.org.uk/docs/Disability_Briefing_March_2006.doc)

## 2 General Guidance for Completing the SSAD902 Form

- **When completing your return, please use zeros where indicating NO activity.**
- **Please only leave cells blank if data are NOT available.**
- **All blank cells will be treated as data not available.**

(\*Please refer to section 8.1 in the Omnibus guidance for instructions on entering blank cells into the data:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/Services/Omnibus%20Guidance/Omnibus%20Survey%20General%20Guidance.doc>)

Form SSAD902 relates specifically to the "Registers of the Blind and Partially Sighted " maintained by local authority Social Services Departments and seeks information on the numbers of people registered as either blind or partially sighted, by age ranges. The statutory definition for "Blind" can be found below, along with the equivalent definition for partial sight.

<b>Blind:</b>	Those who are so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential.
<b>Partial Sight:</b>	Those who are substantially and permanently disabled by defective vision caused by congenital defect, illness or injury.

### 2.1 Table 1

If a person has registered as partially sighted during the course of the year and then registers as blind (or vice versa) then they should only appear in either column 1 or column 3 but not both. The appropriate column will be the one applying to the most

recent registration in the year i.e. the status as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. However, they should appear in both columns 2 and 4 as they were new registrations in both categories during the year.

If a person who was registered in one category before the start of the year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2007) registers in another category during 2007/08, they should only appear in the columns relating to the most recent category.

## 2.2 Tables 2 and 3

When completing tables 2 and 3 there should be no double counting. A client may only be entered in one row of the appropriate table. In the case of a single additional disability the choice is straightforward.

In the case of multiple disabilities, it is suggested that, additional disabilities including deaf/hard of hearing are prioritised over mental health/learning/physical disabilities.

If for example a client was Blind/Severely Sight Impaired with additional disabilities they would be counted in table 2. If the additional disabilities of this client were 'Mental Health Problems' and 'Deaf with Speech' they would go into the row relating to 'Deaf with Speech'.

If the multiple disabilities do not include any kind of hearing loss then the first relevant row should take priority. If for example the client had Learning and Physical disabilities they should be placed in Learning disabilities as they appear first in the table.

## 3 Deafblind registration

Statutory guidance under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 has been issued to councils with social services responsibilities. This is in response to concerns highlighted by the Department of Health's consultation exercise which looked at the social care services for deafblind people. Under the Guidance authorities will be asked to take specific action aimed at improving services for deaf blind people.

Councils have been asked to:

- Identify, make contact with and keep a record of deaf blind people in their catchment area
- Ensure that assessments of deaf blind people are carried out by a specifically trained person/team equipped to assess the needs of a deaf blind person
- Ensure that appropriate services are provided to deaf blind people
- Ensure that they are able to access specifically trained one-to-one support workers for those people they assess as requiring one
- Provide information about services in formats and methods that are accessible to all deaf blind people

## 4 Internet Data Collection Guidance

**Q1. We have authorised our SSDA902 return but wish to make some minor changes to our data. How can we do this?**

A1. If you wish to make changes to your data, you will need to contact us and we will change the status of your return back to “in progress”. Once you have made the necessary amendments you will have to re-authorise your return.

## 5 Definitions of Data required for SSDA902 return for 2007/08

### 5.1 Client Groups

In cases of doubt, client groups should be the same as those used for the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care return e.g. Dementia will be classified as mentally ill, physical disability includes frailty.

### 5.2 Definitions

- **Mentally ill.**

Only those suffering from mental illness within the terms of the Mental Health Act 1983, including those in hospital.

- **People with learning disabilities.**

Only those persons with 'severe mental impairment' or 'mental impairment' as defined in the above Act.

- **People with physical disabilities.**

Only those blind persons suffering from defects of a permanent and substantial character, eg a person suffering from paralysis, or crippling diseases, etc.

- **People who are deaf without speech.**

Those who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

- **People who are deaf with speech.**

Those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech and lip-reading.

- **Hard of hearing people.**

Those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip-reading.

- **People who are deaf without speech.**

Those who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

- **People who are deaf with speech.**

Those who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech and lip-reading.

- **Hard of hearing people.**

Those who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip-reading.



## 7 Contacts

Any CASSR staff who require advice regarding SSDA902 or who have questions on issues relating to the content and coverage of these returns are invited to contact the SSDA902 helpdesk at The Information Centre [disabilities@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:disabilities@ic.nhs.uk).

Further information on the SSDA902 return is also available via the IC's website at: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-social-care-information/social-care-collections/collections-2008>

The person responsible for SSDA902 is:

Annabelle McGuire: Deputy Section Head for Social Care Statistics  
The Information Centre for health and social care  
1 Trevelyan Square  
Boar Lane  
Leeds LS1 6AE

Phone 0113 254 7157  
Fax 0113 254 7299  
E-mail (Internet) [Annabelle.McGuire@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:Annabelle.McGuire@ic.nhs.uk)

### For all enquiries regarding this return please contact:

Trina Cheung: Information Analyst  
The Information Centre for health and social care  
1 Trevelyan Square  
Boar Lane  
Leeds LS1 6AE

Phone 0113 254 7006  
Fax 0113 254 7299  
E-mail (Internet) [disabilities@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:disabilities@ic.nhs.uk)

Note: We would welcome comments on this return.

Please send any comments to: [disabilities@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:disabilities@ic.nhs.uk)

(We are asking for comments via e-mail as this makes it easier to collate them)