

The Blue Badge Scheme in Scotland

Rights and responsibilities of a Blue Badge holder



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This leaflet is available in large print, Braille audio tape and CD formats from:

Mobility Team
Transport Scotland
Scottish Government
2D-North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 1525

E: bluebadge@transportscotland@gsi.gov.uk

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PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET CAREFULLY

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your local council. The address and telephone number of your council will be in your local telephone book. When phoning, ask the switchboard to put you in touch with the section dealing with Blue Badges.

You should contact your council:

- if your badge needs to be renewed;
- if you move house;
- if a badge needs to be returned because the holder has died;
- if a badge needs to be returned because you are no longer entitled to its use; or
- if you would like to apply for a disabled persons' parking bay outside your home.

When you receive your badge you should record the following useful information here so it is always to hand. These details will help you if your badge is lost or stolen or if you need to renew your badge:

Badge number	
Issued by (name of your council)	
Expiry date	
Issuing Office Address	
Issuing Office Telephone Number	

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RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A BLUE BADGE HOLDER

1. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BLUE BADGE HOLDER

The purpose of the scheme is give greater access to local services by allowing badge holders to park near to their destination, either as a passenger or driver. It is down to you as the badge holder to use the Blue Badge properly.

If you have a Blue Badge but do not have a car, other people may use their own cars to drive you around. **Please ask them to read this leaflet** as they also need to know their rights and responsibilities with the Blue Badge.

It is a criminal offence to misuse the badge. Making sure that the scheme is not abused will benefit genuine badge holders by ensuring spaces are available for those who need them most.

2. WHO CAN USE THE BADGE?

The badge is for your use and benefit only. It must only be displayed if you are travelling in the vehicle as a driver or passenger. If you are a passenger then a non-disabled person can use it to drop you off or pick you up. Once assisted to your destination, you should remove your badge from the vehicle and the driver should make an appropriate payment or move the vehicle.

3. MISUSE OF A BLUE BADGE

Misuse of a badge is an offence and may lead to a £1,000 fine. Common forms of misuse of the badge include the following:

- allowing family members or carers to use your badge when you are not with them to do something on your behalf, such as shopping or collecting something for you;
- allowing non-disabled people to take benefit from your badge while you sit in the car;
- displaying a badge photograph side up so that the details on the front cannot be read;
- copying or tampering with the badge; and
- using the badge if it is expired or if you are no longer eligible.

The badge remains the property of the issuing council. They can ask for the badge to be returned if they consider that it is being misused.

4. HOW TO DISPLAY THE BADGE

When you are parking and want to enjoy the benefits of your badge **you must display the badge** on top of the dashboard of the vehicle where it can be clearly read through the front windscreen. If there is no dashboard in your vehicle, you must still display the badge in a place where it can be clearly seen and read from outside the vehicle. The front of the badge should face upwards, showing the wheelchair symbol.

The side showing the photograph should not be visible through the windscreen.

You must also ensure that the details on the front of the badge remain legible. If they become unreadable through fading or wear and tear, you must return the badge to your council so that they can issue you with a new one.

Blue Badges given to organisations supporting people with disabilities must not be used by non-disabled members for their own benefit. These badges must not be on display except when the vehicle is being used for the benefit of people with disabilities.

A blind person needs to ensure that anyone displaying their badge on their behalf understands how to display the badge correctly. **Incorrect display of the badge may result in a parking fine.**

5. POWER TO INSPECT A BADGE

Police officers, traffic wardens and council parking attendants have the power to inspect Blue Badges. The power was introduced in Scotland on 1 January 2004. The power is designed to protect the rights of legitimate badge holders by stopping people who are forging, stealing or tampering with badges which are not their own. These enforcement officers should produce an identity card with their photograph on it to prove they are who they say. If any of these people ask to see the badge, you must show it to them. You may be fined if you fail to allow enforcement officers to inspect your badge.

6. RENEWING A BADGE

The Blue Badge lasts for a period of between 12 months and 3 years. When this time is up, you will need to apply again to your council for a new badge. It is best to do this several weeks before your current badge runs out. Some councils may send out reminders.

7. IF YOU LOSE YOUR BADGE

Lost or stolen Badges should be reported to the police immediately. You should contact your council to let them know and they will arrange a replacement badge for you.

8. RETURNING YOUR BADGE

You must return a badge to your council if:

- the badge has expired;
- your medical condition or mobility improves and you no longer qualify for the badge;
- a replacement badge has been issued for one which is lost or stolen and the original has been found – return the original badge;
- the badge becomes damaged or faded and cannot be read;
- the badge is no longer required, for example should the badge holder be confined to the house;
- when your entitlement ends for a temporary badge; and
- some councils may require details of a change of vehicle.

If you change any personal details or move house you should notify your council so that they may amend their records.

Please also note that the badge should be returned to the issuing council on the death of the badge holder.

9. DRIVERS WHO HOLD A BLUE BADGE

If you are a driver and your disability is likely to affect your ability to drive (even if your car is adapted) the law requires you to inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea SA99 1TU, or phone 0300 790 6806 or you can email them at drivers.dvla@gtnet.gov.uk. More information is able on the [Directgov](#) website.

WHERE CAN I PARK?

If you do not drive yourself, it is important that you share this information with anyone who will be carrying you as a passenger.

10. WHERE YOU CAN PARK

The parking concessions available to badge holders include:

- parking free of charge and without time limit at parking meters on-street and "pay-and-display" on-street parking. In some instances exemptions from time limits imposed on other users;
- parking on single or double yellow lines in Scotland without any time limit; and
- parking in greenways outwith times of operation.

The Blue Badge must be displayed at all times to obtain these parking concessions. If in doubt at any time, you should check with the council.

Always try to park in bays instead of parking on yellow lines.

11. PARKING RESTRICTIONS

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there is no time restriction on parking for badge holders, unless local restrictions apply.

In England and Wales you will need a parking clock which must be displayed every time you park on yellow lines or in other places where there is a time restriction. The clock should be set to show the time of arrival.

Badge holders living in Scotland who intend to visit England or Wales should apply to their council for the loan of a parking clock which can be used for the duration of their stay.

12. PLACES WHERE YOU CANNOT PARK

The Blue Badge does not entitle the holder to park anywhere and conditions differ in different areas and countries. You cannot park in the following places:

- places where a ban on loading is in force, normally indicated by one or two yellow marks on the kerb. Roadside signs display times of operation for loading bays; some allow specific time limits for badge holders;



- parking places reserved for specific users such as resident's bays. Always check whether badge holders are exempt from these restrictions;
- pedestrian crossings (including zebra, pelican, toucan and puffin crossings), including areas marked with zigzag lines;
- clearways (no stopping);
- a bus stop clearway during hours of operation;
- double or single red lines during their hours of operation;
- an urban clearway within its hours of operation. You may pick up or drop off passengers. All parking is forbidden;
- school "keep clear" markings during the hours shown on a yellow no-stopping plate;
- bus, tram or cycle lanes or cycle tracks. Badge holders are not entitled to drive in bus lanes during their hours of operation;
- where there are double white lines in the centre of the road (even if one of the lines is broken);
- suspended meter bays or when use of the meter is not allowed; and
- where temporary parking restrictions are in force along a length of road, e.g. as indicated by no-waiting cones.

13. SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE PARKING

Do **not** park where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. Examples of dangerous or obstructive parking include the following, although there are others:

- school entrances, bus stops, on a bend, or near the brow of a hill or hump bridge;
- parking opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space;
- where it would make the road narrow, such as by a traffic island or roadworks;
- where it would make it difficult for others to see clearly, e.g. close to a junction;
- where it would hold up traffic, such as in narrow stretches of road or blocking vehicle entrances;
- where emergency vehicles stop or go in and out, such as hospital entrances;
- where the kerb has been lowered or the road raised to help wheelchair users; and
- on a pavement unless signs permit it.

If you park where it would cause an obstruction or danger to other road users your vehicle could be removed by the police. You could also be prosecuted and have your badge withdrawn. The vehicle must be moved if a police officer or a traffic warden in uniform requests it.

14. WHERE THE SCHEME DOES NOT APPLY

The scheme does not apply on private roads. The scheme does not apply in off-street car parks. However, some operators may provide spaces for people with disabilities. You should check the signs to see what concessions are available, and whether badge holders have to pay. Always display your Blue Badge when occupying one of these spaces. If you are unsure whether you can park, you should check with a traffic warden, police officer or the relevant parking attendant.

The scheme does not apply in certain town centres, where access is prohibited or is limited to vehicles with special permits issued locally.

The scheme does not apply on the road systems at some airports (e.g. Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick). You should therefore contact the airport concerned in advance to check their car parking arrangements.

Remember – the badge belongs to you, not to the vehicle you are travelling in. You will therefore only be issued with one badge. As long as the journey is being made for you, and you are in the car with your badge, you can travel in any car.

15. OTHER BENEFITS FOR BADGE HOLDERS

In many areas councils provide reserved parking places for badge holders. You should use these spaces in preference to parking on yellow lines. Councils may impose a time limit on the use of such spaces. You must always display a valid badge when occupying one of these spaces.

Some councils also waive charges in their own off-street car parks. You are advised to check the notices in the car park to see if, and where, you can park free of charge.

Holding a Blue Badge does not in itself mean that you do not have to pay road tax, but you may be exempt if you meet certain other criteria set by the DVLA. For more information on the criteria for road tax exemption, contact the DVLA on 0300 790 6802 or pick up their booklet V188 which is available from DVLA offices, information is available for the [Directgov](https://www.direct.gov.uk) website.

16. RESIDENTIAL DISABLED PARKING BAYS

As a badge holder, you can request that a disabled parking place be created near to your residence. You should contact the Roads Department in your council who will conduct an assessment. Please note that the disabled parking place does not belong to you, other badge holders may park there when displaying their badge.

TRAVEL ADVICE

17. REGIONAL VARIATIONS

While the scheme operates throughout the UK, there are variations in its application in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, there is no time restriction on parking for badge holders, unless local restrictions apply. In England and Wales you will need a parking clock which must be displayed when you are parking on yellow lines or in a Blue Badge parking bay which has a time limit. In both cases, you should set the clock to show the quarter hour period during which the period of exempted waiting began and display it next to your badge on the dashboard.

Badge holders living in Scotland who intend to visit England or Wales should apply to their council for the loan of a parking clock which can be used for the duration of their stay in England and Wales.

18. ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL LONDON

As a badge holder you do not have to pay the London Congestion Charge. To qualify for exemption from the Charge, you must pre-register with Transport for London and pay a one-off registration fee of £10. You need to apply at least 10 days before your journey.

You do not need to own or drive a vehicle to register for this concession.

You can register up to two vehicles which you normally use for travelling in Central London. You can get a registration form by writing to Congestion Charging, PO Box 2985, Coventry CV7 8ZR, by visiting the Congestion Charge website at www.cclondon.com, or by calling their helpline on 0845 900 1234 (Minicom 020 7649 9123).

19. RED ROUTES

Red routes are major roads in Greater London which are marked with a single or double red line where stopping is not allowed except at designated times and in specially marked places. A vehicle displaying a Blue Badge may stop, but only to pick up or set down the badge holder.

20. TOLL EXEMPTIONS

Badge holders are exempt from tolls at certain river crossings, bridges and tunnels. In most cases, you will have to apply in advance to qualify for a concession. Information about tolls is available on the [Directgov](#) website.

21. USING THE BLUE BADGE ABROAD

A standardised Blue Badge for people with disabilities has been adopted, however there are no formal reciprocal arrangements in place for disabled parking badges outside the UK. We do have informal arrangements with other European Union countries.

The [Parking Card for People with Disabilities in the European Union](#) gives helpful information on concessions, however it is important to check the concession details for the country you are visiting and make sure you apply the rules when you park. It is always a good idea to enquire locally before you park, as some countries operate local concessions.

There are no current arrangements for you to use your badge outside the European Union, in countries such as the USA or Australia, although they may be prepared to recognise the Blue Badge. We advise you to check what concessions are available before travelling to non-EU countries.

Anyone who misuses a Blue Badge will be liable to whatever penalties for unlawful parking apply in the country in question.

22. CONTACTS

In the first instance you should contact your local council.

Council	Switchboard Number
Aberdeen City	08456 080 910
Aberdeenshire	01467 628 032
Angus	08452 777 778
Argyll & Bute	01546 602 127
Clackmannanshire	01259 450 000
Dumfries & Galloway	03033 333 000
Dundee City	01382 434 000
East Ayrshire	01563 576 000
East Dunbartonshire	03001 234 510
East Lothian	01620 827 827
East Renfrewshire	0141 5773 000
Edinburgh, City of	0131 2002 324
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	01859 502 367
Falkirk	01324 506 070
Fife	08451 550 000

Council	Switchboard Number
Glasgow, City of	0141 287 2000
Highland	01349 886 604
Inverclyde	01475 717 171
Midlothian	0131 270 7500
Moray	01343 543 451
North Ayrshire	01294 324 800
North Lanarkshire	01698 332 000
Orkney Islands	01856 873 535
Perth & Kinross	01738 475000
Renfrewshire	0141 842 4455
Scottish Borders	01835 824 000
Shetland Islands	01595 693 535
South Ayrshire	0300 123 0900
South Lanarkshire	0303 123 1015
Stirling	0845 277 7000
West Dunbartonshire	01389 737 000
West Lothian	01506 775 000

For general enquiries, please contact:

Mobility Team
Transport Scotland
Scottish Government
2D-North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 1525

E: bluebadge@transportscotland@gsi.gov.uk

For enquiries in respect of England, please contact:

Department for Transport
Personal Mobility Policy Branch
Mobility and Inclusion Unit
Zone 4/23
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

For enquiries in respect of Northern Ireland, please contact:

Disabled Persons Badge Scheme

Castles Barracks

Wellington Place

Enniskillen

BT74 7HN

For enquiries in respect of Wales, please contact:

Welsh Assembly Government

Transport and Planning Administration Division

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Information about the location of disabled parking spaces throughout the UK can be found on the [Directgov](https://www.direct.gov.uk) website by searching for “disabled parking”.