

# The Blue Badge Scheme in Scotland

## Rights and responsibilities of a Blue Badge holder



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

The Blue Badge Team  
Transport Scotland  
2D-North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 1525

Email: [bluebadge@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bluebadge@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk)

The leaflet can also be downloaded from [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

## Please read this leaflet carefully

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

We have included a table on page 29 that lists the local authority switchboard numbers.

You should contact your local authority:

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

You can also renew your badge, report any lost or stolen badges and update key information online at [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

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:

<b>Badge serial number</b>	
<b>Issued by (name of your local authority)</b>	
<b>Issuing office address</b>	
<b>Issuing office telephone number</b>	
<b>Badge expiry date</b>	

# CONTENTS

Page

## **Rights and responsibilities of a Blue Badge holder**

1. The Blue Badge scheme	7
2. Your responsibilities as a Blue Badge holder	8
3. Who can use the badge?	9
4. Misuse of a Blue Badge	9
5. How to display the badge	10
6. Power to inspect a badge	12
7. Renewing a badge	13
8. If you lose your badge	13
9. Returning your badge	14
10. Drivers who hold a Blue Badge	15

## **Where can I park?**

11. Where you can park	16
12. Parking restrictions	17

13. Places where you cannot park	18
14. Safe and responsible parking	20
15. Where the scheme does not apply	21

## **Organisational badges**

16. Who can get an organisational badge?	23
17. Rules that apply to organisations	24
18. Returning an organisational badge	24
19. Other benefits for badge holders	25
20. Residential disabled parking bays	25

## **Travel advice**

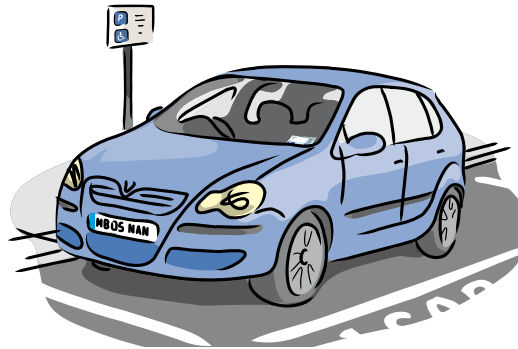
21. Travelling in central London	26
22. Central London Congestion Charge	27
23. Toll exemptions	27
24. Using the Blue Badge abroad	28
25. Contacts	29

# Rights and responsibilities of a Blue Badge holder

## 1. The Blue Badge scheme

A Blue Badge will help you to park close to your destination, either as a passenger or driver. However the badge is intended for on street parking only.

Off street car parks, such as those provided in local authority, hospital or supermarkets are governed by separate rules.



## 2. Your responsibilities as a Blue Badge holder

The purpose of the scheme is to give greater access to local services. 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.**





### 3. 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 parking payment or move the vehicle.

### 4. 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 local authority. They can ask for the badge to be returned if they consider that it is being misused.

## 5. 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.

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 local authority 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.**

## 6. Power to inspect a badge

Police officers, traffic wardens and local authority parking attendants have the power to inspect Blue Badges. 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.



## 7. Renewing a badge

The Blue Badge lasts for a period of between 12 months and three years. You should apply for a new badge from your local authority some weeks before it runs out. You can renew the badge online at [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

The new Blue Badge Improvement Service will send you a letter to remind you. If you provide your mobile telephone number or an email address when you apply, reminders can be sent to your email or mobile phone.

**Do not use the badge if it has expired or you may be fined.**

## 8. If you lose your badge

Lost or stolen badges should be reported to the police immediately. You should contact your local authority to let them know that your badge is lost or stolen and provide them with the crime reference number. Your local authority will arrange for a replacement badge, with the same expiry date as the original badge, to be sent to you. Please note that your local authority can charge you for a replacement badge.

## 9. Returning your badge

You must return a badge to your local authority 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; and
- when your entitlement ends for a temporary badge.

If you change any personal details or move house you should notify your local authority so that they may amend their records. This can be done online at [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

Please also note that the badge should be returned to the local authority on the death of the badge holder.

## 10. 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 [eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk) More information is available on the Directgov website, at [www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Yourvehicleandlicence/DG\\_10029770](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Yourvehicleandlicence/DG_10029770)



# 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.

## 11. 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;
- parking on single or double yellow lines in Scotland without any time limit; and
- parking in greenways outside 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 local authority.

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



## 12. Parking restrictions

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



*Blue Badge parking clock*

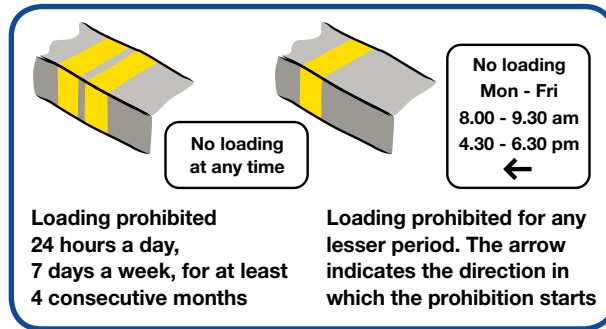
In the rest of the UK you may park on yellow lines, or in other places where there is a time restriction, for up to three hours. You will need a parking clock which must be displayed on your dashboard beside your badge. The clock should be set to show the quarter hour period during which you arrived. You must wait for at least an hour after a previous period of parking before you can park the same vehicle in the same road or part of a road on the same day.

The clock should be sent to you together with the Blue Badge. If you do not have a parking clock and intend to visit England, Wales or Northern Ireland you should apply to your local authority for a parking clock which can be used for the duration of your stay.

## 13. Places where you cannot park

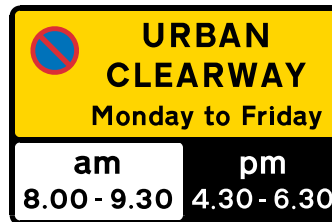
The Blue Badge does not entitle the holder to park anywhere and conditions differ in different areas and countries. You cannot park in the following places:

- 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.

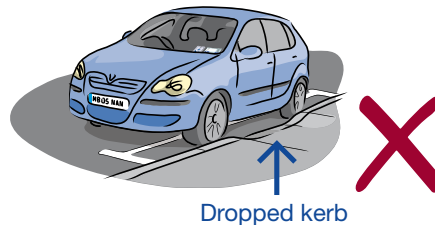


## 14. Safe and responsible parking

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

- 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 you could be fined or have your vehicle removed.



## 15. Where the scheme does not apply

The scheme does not apply on private roads and 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.**

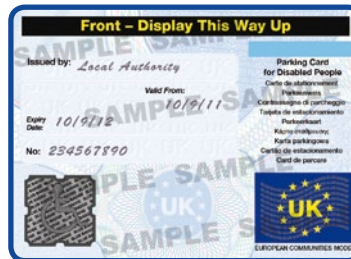
# Organisational badges

## 16. Who can get an organisational badge?

Organisations that both care for and transport disabled people who would qualify for a Blue Badge in their own right may apply for an organisational Blue Badge through their local authority. The badge may be used by the organisation when transporting disabled people who would be eligible for a Blue Badge in their own right. **The badge is not allowed to be used at other times.**

The parking concessions available for users of organisational Blue Badges are the same as those for Blue Badges issued to individuals.

Please read the rest of this leaflet for information on what parking concessions you are entitled to and how to use the badge.



## 17. Rules that apply to organisations

An organisational badge will have the stamp or logo of the organisation on the reverse of the badge, rather than a photograph. This side should be hidden from view when the badge is on display. Organisational badges may only be used when people who would qualify for a Blue Badge in their own right are being transported. The badge should only be displayed when employees of the organisation are dropping off or picking up eligible disabled people from the place where the vehicle is parked.

**You must never copy the badge or attempt to alter the details.** The badge remains the property of the local authority. They can ask for the badge to be returned if it is being misused. All employees of an organisation who are responsible for transporting disabled people need to be made aware of the rules of the scheme. **It is a criminal offence for anyone to misuse a badge, and doing so could lead to a £1,000 fine.**

## 18. Returning an organisational badge

In addition to the advice contained on page 14 of this leaflet, an organisational badge must be returned to the local authority if:

- the organisation has ceased to exist; or
- the organisation no longer cares for people who would qualify for a Blue Badge in their own right.



## 19. Other benefits for badge holders

In many areas local authorities provide reserved parking places for badge holders. You should use these spaces in preference to parking on yellow lines. Local authorities 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 local authorities 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. More information on the criteria for road tax exemption is contained in the DVLA booklet V188 which can be obtained by phone on 0300 790 6802 or downloaded from the Directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Yourvehicleandlicence/DG\\_10028003](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Yourvehicleandlicence/DG_10028003)

## 20. 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 local authority 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.

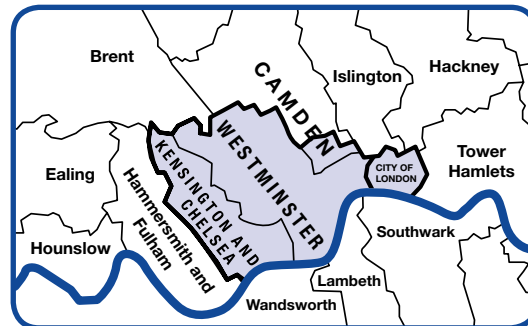
# Travel advice

## 21. Travelling in central London

The Blue Badge scheme does not fully apply in four central London boroughs due to specific traffic management concerns that exist in these areas. They are the City of Westminster, the City of London, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and part of the London Borough of Camden (see map for boundaries).

These boroughs offer their own individual parking concessions to disabled people who live or work in their areas. They do, however, provide a number of bays for Blue Badge holders. Information on where these are located can be found by contacting the relevant borough or by viewing the [www.bluebadgelondon.org.uk](http://www.bluebadgelondon.org.uk) website.

It is always best to check local conditions on the directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/AToZOfLocalCouncils/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/AToZOfLocalCouncils/index.htm)



## 22. Central London Congestion Charge

As a badge holder you do not have to pay the London Congestion Charge. To qualify for the 100% discount from the Charge, you must first register with Transport for London (TfL) and pay a 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 4782, Worthing BN11 9PS, by visiting the Congestion Charge website at [www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/6736.aspx](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/6736.aspx), or by calling their helpline on 0845 900 1234 (Textphone 020 7649 9123).

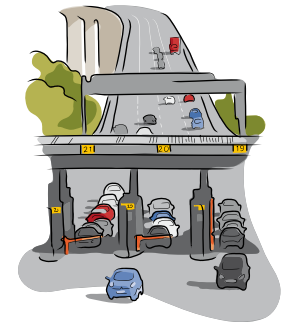


Further information for Blue Badge holders can be obtained from the TfL website at: [www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/blue-badge-holders-guide.pdf](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/blue-badge-holders-guide.pdf)

## 23. Toll exemptions

There are no longer any tolls in Scotland. However there are still tolls at certain river crossings, bridges and tunnels in other parts of the UK. Blue Badge holders may be exempt from payment of tolls.

Information about tolls is available on the Directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Bluebadgescheme/DG\\_181209](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/MotoringAndTransport/Bluebadgescheme/DG_181209)



## 24. Using the Blue Badge abroad

The Blue Badge is recognised throughout the European Union. That means that you can take advantage of the parking concessions available in all other EU countries.

Please note that the concessions provided in other EU countries may not be the same as in the UK. The leaflet 'The Parking Card for People with Disabilities in the European Union' and the appropriate foreign language text to be displayed alongside your Blue Badge can be downloaded from [www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

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.**



## 25. Contacts

In the first instance you should contact your local authority.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Switchboard Number</b>
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

Local Authority	Switchboard Number
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	01859 502 367
Falkirk	01324 506 070
Fife	08451 550 000
Glasgow, City of	0141 287 2000
Highland	01349 886 606
Inverclyde	01475 717 171
Midlothian	0131 270 7500
Moray	01343 543 451
North Ayrshire	<del>01294 324 800</del> <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">01294 476 000</span>
North Lanarkshire	01698 403 200
Orkney Islands	01856 873 535
Perth & Kinross	01738 475 000
Renfrewshire	0141 842 4455

## Local Authority

## Switchboard Number

Scottish Borders

~~01835 824 000~~

0300 100 1800

Shetland Islands

01595 693 535

South Ayrshire

0300 123 0900

South Lanarkshire

~~0303 123 1015~~

0303 123 1008

Stirling

0845 277 7000

West Dunbartonshire

01389 737 000

West Lothian

01506 775 000

## **For general enquiries, please contact:**

The Blue Badge Team  
Transport Scotland  
2D-North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 1525

Email: [bluebadge@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bluebadge@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## **For enquiries in respect of England, please contact:**

Department for Transport  
Traffic Division  
Zone 3/26  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
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:**

Blue Badge Team  
Integrated Transport Unit  
Local Government and Communities  
Welsh Government  
Cathys Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Information about the location of disabled parking spaces throughout the UK can be found on the Directgov website by searching for 'disabled parking'.

Copies of this leaflet can be downloaded from  
[www.bluebadgescotland.org](http://www.bluebadgescotland.org)

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