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# Blue Badge Scheme

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Do you qualify for a Blue Badge?

You are automatically eligible to apply for a badge if you are over two years old and either:

- Receive the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance are registered blind, receive a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement.

You may also be eligible for a badge if you are over two years old and either:

- Have a permanent and sustainable disability which means you cannot walk, or which makes walking very difficult.
- Drive a motor vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms, and are unable to operate all or some types of parking meter (or would find it very difficult to operate them).
- If you are a parent of a child who is less than two years old, you may apply for a badge for your child if they have a specific medical condition which means that they either:
  - Must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty

- Need to be kept near a vehicle at all times, so that they can, if necessary, be treated in the vehicle, or quickly driven to a place where they can be treated, such as a hospital.

Blue Badges are issued by Social Services and entitle the holder to certain parking concessions. The concessions apply to on-street parking. These include:

- Free parking on a single or double yellow line for a period of up to 3 hours as long as you are not causing an obstruction (except where there is a ban on loading or unloading or other restrictions).
- Parking on a resident's bay in the Borough in which the badge was issued.
- Concessions in some "pay and display" car parks.
- Parking on a "disabled drivers only" parking bay.
- Free parking without time limit at parking meters on street and pay and display bays.
- Exemption on parking times imposed on other users (check local signs).
- In many areas local authorities provide reserved parking places for blue badge holders.

Note: Badge holders must always display a valid badge when occupying one of these spaces.

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

To be eligible to apply for a Blue Badge from Harrow Social Services you need to be in receipt of the mobility component of Disability Living

Allowance at the higher rate or meet other 'disability' criteria.

For further information or to request a Blue Badge application, contact:

***Harrow Social Services' Blue Badge Team***

Telephone: 020 8901 2680

Online at: <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/bluebadge>

Or visit: Access Harrow, P.O Box 592, Civic Centre, Station Road Harrow, HA1 9BN

Please be aware that Harrow has recently changed how the scheme is administered. The scheme is now administered by an outside organisation called Access Independent. If you do not meet the automatic criteria, the chance of being awarded a Blue Badge is minimal, even if you have previously been issued one.

The new form applies whether you are a new applicant or renewing your Blue Badge. HAD are unfortunately not currently in a position to offer assistance with filling in these forms.

If you are turned down and wish to appeal, you need to contact Access Independent on 01223 501 603.

## **Hidden Disabilities**

People with hidden disabilities, such as dementia, will be able to access blue badge parking permits in England from the 30 August. People with hidden disabilities, including autism and mental health conditions will be able obtain Blue Badges, removing the barriers many face to travel.

## **Where the scheme applies**

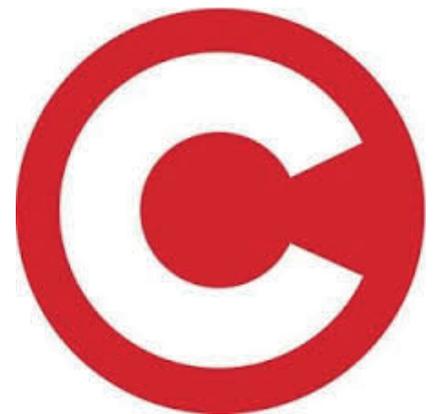
The badges - sometimes known as disabled parking permits - can be used throughout the UK and while travelling abroad within the

European Union (EU) and in some other European and non-European countries. The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), an independent road safety charity, publishes a booklet with detailed information on the use of the Blue Badge in EU countries. The booklet can be downloaded from the IAM website: [www.iam.org.uk](http://www.iam.org.uk). The Blue Badge scheme does not apply to off-street car parks, private roads or at most airports.

There are no current arrangements for you to use the badge outside the European Union, in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand, 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.

## **London Congestion Charge**

Blue Badge holders qualify for a 100 per cent exemption from the London Congestion Charge, but you must register with Transport for London (TfL) at least 10 days before your journey and pay a one-off £10 registration fee.



If you need more information on congestion charging or wish to download a registration form, please refer to TfL's web-site:

[www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging/)

OR phone: 0845 900 1234

Minicom users: 020 7649 9123

## **Parking Guidelines for London**

Please note that the Central London Boroughs do not recognise the Blue Badge Scheme as they have very little parking space available. They have their own schemes for disabled drivers who reside or are employed in their Borough.

These Central London Boroughs are:

***Kensington & Chelsea***

Telephone: 020 73613000)***City of London***

Telephone: 020 7332 1548

***Westminster***

Telephone: 020 7823 4567

***Camden***

Telephone: 020 7974 4646

Parking regulations for disabled people in these Boroughs differ. Please contact the parking offices in the Borough that you wish to park in.

Please note that the portion of Camden in Central London is known as Camden's Green Badge area. Please contact their parking office for details.

**Parking Guidelines for the non-Central London Boroughs**

The non-Central London Boroughs are:

Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden (non Green Badge area), Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kingston Upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond Upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth.

The following guidelines apply to the non-Central London Boroughs listed above:

Single & Double Yellow Lines -

Free parking on Single & Double Yellow lines for up to three hours except where loading restrictions apply.

### Pay & Display -

Free parking with no time restrictions during the enforced time period except in Ealing where a three hour limit applies.

### Resident Bays -

Free parking with no time restrictions during the enforced time period except in Bromley, Greenwich, Hackney, Hounslow, Lewisham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton and Tower Hamlets where parking is not permitted. Time restrictions apply in Barking & Dagenham and Ealing.

### Shared Use Bays (Pay & Display and Resident) -

Free parking with no time restrictions during the enforced time period except in Ealing where a three hour limit applies.

Please note that the above arrangements are subject to change so always check the notices that apply to the parking bays.

### **Where NOT to park**

- Red Routes prohibit parking for Blue Badge holders within the controlling hours, except for setting down or picking up the Blue Badge holder.
- Do not park where there is a loading ban in force. You are permitted to set down or pick up a passenger.
- Please note in pedestrian areas, waiting and loading restrictions may be in force, even when there are no yellow lines.
- On clearways stopping is not permitted and there is no concessions for Blue Badge Holders.
- Solid or broken double white lines in the centre of the road indicate that you are not permitted to park on that street.
- Bus lanes and Bus stops during the hours of operation.

- Cycle lanes or pavements.
- On any pedestrian crossing.
- On zig-zag markings.
- Blue Badge rules do NOT often apply at airports.
- On a bend in a road.
- Near the brow of a hill.
- Humped back bridge.

## **Off-street disabled parking bays such as supermarkets**

Most disabled persons' parking bays in off-street car parks - for example, supermarket car parks - are not covered by Blue Badge scheme regulations. Car parks and parking bays like these are likely to be privately owned and managed by the individual business. The agreement, and any cost to use them, will be between the owner and the motorists/customers.

If you are a disabled motorist (or passenger) and you complain to, for example, a supermarket that a non-disabled motorist has parked in a disabled bay, an employee of the store could ask the driver to move their car from the disabled bay but they will not be in a position to legally insist on it.

If you think that people are unfairly parking in disabled bays, speak or write to the management of the store or car park.

The Government (Department for Transport) supports 'Baywatch' - a partnership between several major supermarkets and disability organizations - including Disabled Motoring UK. The campaign aims to end the abuse of parking bays put aside for disabled drivers' use.

## **Misuse of the Blue Badge**

Local councils can take away a badge if the badge holder misuses it - for example, by allowing other people to use it or if a person's disability improves so that they are no longer eligible for the scheme. If you are a badge holder, it can only be used for your benefit. If a trip is for someone else and you are a passenger and staying in the vehicle, you cannot use the badge simply to let them benefit from free parking.

Blue Badges need to be properly issued and displayed. It is an offence if a badge is not removed from a vehicle and people other than the badge holder take advantage of the parking concessions under the scheme.

Misuse of the badge itself by a non-disabled person is an offence. The maximum fine if someone is convicted is £1,000 plus any additional penalty for the related parking offence.

If you suspect or know of someone misusing the Blue Badge scheme, please call Harrow Fraud investigation team on 020 8424 1834.

Misuse of the scheme includes the Badge being used by friends or relatives.

This fact sheet is one of a series, providing information and advice on a number of topics.

## **HAD.ORG.UK FACTSHEETS:**

Fact Sheet 1	Blue Badges
Fact Sheet 2	Utilities
Fact Sheet 3	Wheelchairs
Fact Sheet 4	Accessible Public Transport
Fact Sheet 5	Voluntary Transport
Fact Sheet 6	Holidays
Fact Sheet 7	Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Schemes
Fact Sheet 8	Motoring
Fact Sheet 9	Aids & Adaptations
Fact Sheet 10	Welfare Benefits
Fact Sheet 11	Direct Payments
Fact Sheet 12	Education & Learning
Fact Sheet 13	Sports
Fact Sheet 14	Visiting Places of Interest
Fact Sheet 15	Access to Shops, Cafes and Everyday Services
Fact Sheet 16	Leisure at Home
Fact Sheet 17	Performing Arts
Fact Sheet 18	Concessionary Travel
Fact Sheet 19	The Care Act 2014
Fact Sheet 20	A General Guide to Housing Benefit
Fact Sheet 21	Housing Benefit for Disabled Students
Fact Sheet 22	Universal Credit

## **HOUSING MATTERS:**

1	General Guide to Housing Benefit
2	Homelessness (Out of Hours) Emergencies
3	10 Rights of Private Tenants
4	Applying as Homelessness (Priority Need)
5	Private Tenants: smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
6	The Right to Rent
7	Rent Increases : Assured Shorthold Tenancies