



transport.gov.scot

The Blue Badge Scheme

Rights and responsibilities
of a Blue Badge holder in Scotland

Please read this leaflet carefully and keep it safe

The Blue Badge scheme is administered by your Local Authority. You should contact them if:

- your badge is about to expire and you need another
- you move house
- your badge needs to be replaced due to damage
- your badge needs to be returned because you are no longer entitled to it
- you would like to apply for a disabled person's parking bay outside your home
- a badge needs to be returned because the holder has died.

Your Local Authority's contact details are on the letter that accompanied your badge. Contact details can also be found online. You can also go online to reapply or report any lost or stolen badges and update any of your information.

When you get your Blue Badge you should check the details on it are correct. We have provided a section on page 32 for you to record the key information. The surrounding pages have been kept blank so that you can remove page 32 and keep it safe.

As a badge holder, you can ask that a disabled parking place be created near to your home. You can visit our website to find out if you are eligible. You can also contact the Roads Department in your Local Authority directly.

Contents

Top 10 tips for using your Blue Badge	4	Using your badge outside Scotland and Toll concessions in the rest of the UK	18
The Blue Badge scheme and Where the scheme does not apply	5	Using your badge in London and Central London Congestion Charge	19
Your responsibilities as a Blue Badge Holder and Who can use the badge?	6	Using your badge abroad	20
Misuse of a Blue Badge	7	Low Emission Zones	21
How to display your badge	8	Using Public Transport	22
Returning your badge	9	Useful Bus information	23
If you lose your badge	10	Useful Rail information	24
Reapplying for a badge and Power to inspect a badge	11	Useful Road information	25
Where you can park	12	Useful Demand Responsive Transport information	26
Parking Restrictions	13	Useful Ferry information	27
Places where you cannot park	14	Useful Aviation information	28
Top tips for Parking	16	Notes pages	29
Organisational Blue Badges	17	Your Blue Badge	32
			3

Top 10 tips for using your Blue Badge

- 1.** You must follow the rules when using your Blue Badge, if you don't you are committing a crime.
- 2.** You can only use your Blue Badge as a driver or passenger.
- 3.** No-one else should use your badge if you are not in the vehicle with them.
- 4.** If you are not getting out of the vehicle, you should not use your Blue Badge to get a parking space.
- 5.** You must not let other people use your badge.
- 6.** You must display your Blue Badge the right way up so the number can be seen clearly and your photo is face down.
- 7.** You must apply for a new badge before your old badge runs out.
- 8.** If your badge gets damaged you must apply for a new one.
- 9.** Keep your badge safe. If it is lost or stolen, you must tell the police and the Local Council.
- 10.** Check signs to make sure that Blue Badge holders are allowed to park there.

The Blue Badge scheme

A Blue Badge will help you to park close to your destination, either as a passenger or driver.

As long as you are travelling in the vehicle with your badge, and you get out of the car when it is parked, you can use it to travel in any vehicle.

The scheme only applies to on-street parking. Off-street car parks, such as hospitals or supermarkets are governed by separate rules.



Where the scheme does not apply

The scheme does not apply on private roads and in private car parks. However, operators should normally provide spaces for disabled people.

Check signs to see what concessions, if any, are available, and whether badge holders have to pay. Always display your Blue Badge when occupying one of these spaces.

The scheme does not apply on the road systems at some airports. You should therefore contact the airport concerned in advance to check their car parking arrangements.

Your responsibilities as a Blue Badge holder

You must use the Blue Badge responsibly, following the rules in this leaflet.

When people don't use the Blue Badge properly, it harms disabled people and makes it more difficult for others to benefit from the scheme.

You must make sure that anyone driving you is also aware of the rules in this leaflet.

Who can use the badge?

The badge is issued to you. It 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 someone else can use it to drop you off or pick you up.

The driver should not wait in a disabled person's parking place and should remove the badge from display and park as they normally would. They can then return to a disabled persons parking place to collect the badge holder when required.

Misuse of a Blue Badge

Misuse of a badge is a crime. You may be prosecuted if you misuse a badge.

Examples of misuse include:

- allowing other people to use your badge when you are not with them
- allowing others to take benefit from your badge while you sit in the car
- displaying a badge so that the details on the front cannot be read
- copying or tampering with the badge
- using the badge if it is expired
- using the badge if you are no longer eligible.

Local Authorities have the right to investigate individuals who they believe are misusing their badge, or allowing others to misuse their badge. Should you be found guilty of misuse, your badge can be withdrawn.

Please note once your badge is withdrawn, the Local Authority has the right to refuse any future badge applications.



How to display your badge

When you are parking and want to use the benefits of your badge, you must place it on top of the dashboard, where it can be clearly read through the front windshield. If there is no dashboard in your vehicle, you must still display the badge in a place where it can be clearly read from outside.

The front of the badge should face upwards.

The photo should not be visible through the windshield.

If your badge becomes unreadable through wear and tear, return the badge to your Local Authority so that they can issue you with a new one.



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
- the badge becomes damaged or faded and cannot be read
- your entitlement for a temporary badge ends
- the badge holder dies
- you have misused your badge and have received a withdrawal notice.

If you continue to display the badge when you no longer need it you may be fined up to £1,000.

If you lose your badge

Lost or stolen badges should be reported to the police immediately. You should then contact your Local Authority and provide them with the police 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. Your Local Authority may charge you for a replacement badge.

If you have been issued with a replacement badge, but you later find the original, you must return the original badge to the Local Authority.

Reapplying for a badge

You should apply for a new badge from your Local Authority no more than 12 weeks before it is due to expire. You can check your specific Local Authority's timescales on their website.

You can reapply for a badge online at www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can apply using a paper form, which you can get from your Local Authority. Your expired badge should then be returned to your Local Authority.

Power to inspect a badge

Police officers, Local Authority parking attendants and enforcement officers have the power to inspect Blue Badges. They should be wearing uniform and produce photographic ID to prove who they are. You are required by law to show enforcement officers your badge. You can be prosecuted if you fail to allow enforcement officers to inspect your badge.

Where you can park

The parking concessions that are available to badge holders in Scotland include:

- parking free of charge and without time limit at on-street parking meter spaces
- parking free of charge and without time limit at on-street pay-and-display spaces
- parking free of charge at on-street disabled person's parking spaces
- parking free of charge on single or double yellow lines, unless there are loading restrictions in place and as long as it is safe to do so.

Whenever possible, you should park in bays instead of parking on yellow lines.

See 'Places where you cannot park' for further information.

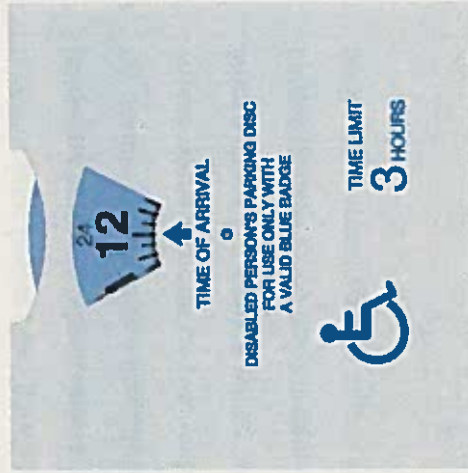


Parking Restrictions

In Scotland there is no time restriction on parking for badge holders, but localised restrictions may apply. You can check for these on nearby signs or with the Local Authority. The Blue Badge must be displayed at all times to obtain these parking concessions.

When there is a time limit, you will need to use a parking clock. The clock (pictured) is sent to you together with the Blue Badge. If you do not receive one you may have to request one.

The clock must be displayed on your dashboard beside your badge and should be set to show the time 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.



Places where you cannot park

Even with a Blue Badge you cannot park in the following places:

- in loading/unloading bays unless signs specify time limits for badge holders
- on double or single red lines during their hours of operation
- where there are one or two yellow markings on the kerb (see image)
- where there are double white lines in the centre of the road, even if one of the lines is broken
- parking places reserved for specific users such as residents or taxis
- pedestrian crossings and zigzag lines



No loading
at any time



No loading
Mon - Fri
8.00 - 9.30 am
4.30 - 6.30 pm
←

Source: Highway Code

Places where you cannot park

- clearways (no stopping) including urban and bus stop clearways, during their hours of operation
- school 'keep clear' markings during the hours shown on yellow no-stopping plate (see image)
- bus, tram or cycle lanes (Badge holders are not entitled to drive in bus lanes)
- suspended meter bays or when use of the meter is not allowed
- where temporary parking restrictions are in force e.g. roadworks or no-waiting cones.

Never park where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. Parking here could result in a fine or having your vehicle removed.



Top Tips for Parking

1. If you are not getting out of the vehicle, you should not use your Blue Badge to get a parking space.
2. If you are a passenger, someone else can use your Blue Badge to drop you off or pick you up.
3. If you are a passenger and the driver is remaining in the car, the badge must be removed from the vehicle and the driver should park in a non-disabled parking space.
4. You should check for time restrictions on nearby signs or with the Local Authorities and use a parking clock.
5. You can park on single or double yellow lines, unless there are loading restrictions in place.
6. Never park where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users.

Organisational Blue Badges

Organisations that both care for and transport disabled people who would qualify for a Blue Badge may apply for an organisational Blue Badge.

Organisational badges may only be used when people who would qualify for a Blue Badge in their own right are being transported. The badge is not allowed to be used at other times.

The badge should only be displayed when staff of the organisation, using registered organisational vehicles, are dropping off or picking up eligible disabled people from the place where the vehicle is parked.

An organisational badge must be returned to the Local Authority if:

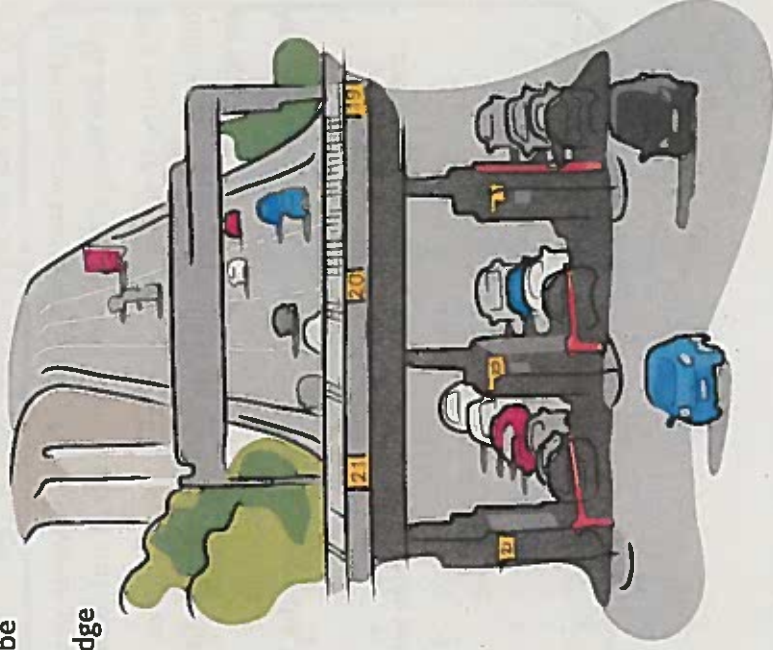
- the organisation has ceased to exist
- the organisation no longer cares for people who are eligible for a Blue Badge in their own right.

Using your badge outside Scotland

When travelling outside Scotland, but within the UK, please check with the relevant authority in England, Wales or Northern Ireland as the rules may be different. You can find useful links to information at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge/using-your-blue-badge

Toll concessions in the rest of the UK

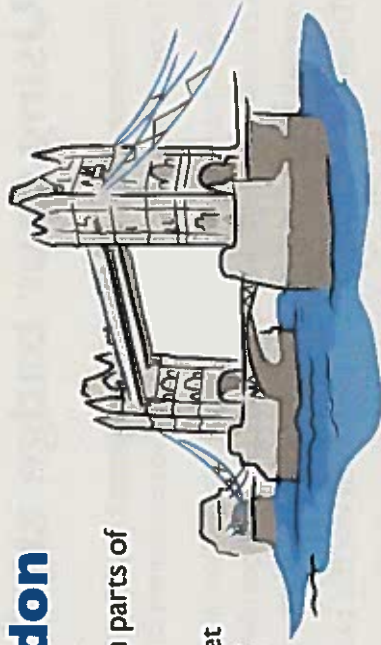
There are no tolls in Scotland, but as a Blue Badge holder you may not have to pay the full fare at some river crossings, bridges and tunnels elsewhere in the UK. In most cases, you have to apply in advance to get a concession. Full details can be found at: www.gov.uk/toll-concessions



Using your badge in London

The Blue Badge scheme does not fully apply in certain parts of Central London.

If you are planning to visit Central London, you can get further information from www.disabledmotoring.org/blue-badge/blue-badge-in-london



Central London Congestion Charge

As a badge holder you do not have to pay the Congestion Charge. You must first register with Transport for London. Further information can be obtained by calling their helpline on 0343 222 2222 or visiting www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/congestion-charge



Using your badge abroad

The concessions provided in European Union countries vary. You can check which countries will recognise your badge on the UK Government's Blue Badge website.

Before travelling you should print a translation document which states the badge details in the country's language. You should display this beside your badge. These can be downloaded from: www.disabledmotorists.eu/en/world_map/europe

There are no arrangements for you to use the badge outside the EU, although they may be prepared to recognise the Blue Badge. For further information please visit www.disabledmotorists.eu

Low Emission Zones

Low Emission Zones (LEZ) are being put in place in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow to improve air quality and people's health by setting emissions standards of minimum Euro 4 for petrol vehicles, and Euro 6 for diesel vehicles.

Vehicles that do not meet the emission standards set for a LEZ will not be able to drive within the zone. A penalty charge will be payable by the vehicle's registered keeper when a non-compliant vehicle enters the LEZ.

Blue Badge holders will be exempt from LEZ restrictions. We will make more information available about the Blue Badge exemption before LEZs are introduced.

For the latest updates, please visit the LEZ website www.lowemissionzones.scot

Using Public Transport

As a Blue Badge holder, you are entitled to free bus and coach travel in Scotland with a bus pass. Depending on where you live, you might also get free limited train and ferry travel.

Contact details of all public transport operators can be obtained from Traveline Scotland.

A fuller guide is available at www.mygov.scot/transport-help

The law says all transport providers should give accessible information and provide practical help to make your journey successful. In some cases (for rail, ferry and air travel) you may need to book special assistance in advance.

Transport providers will give free extra help to disabled people to help plan their journey.

For more info please visit www.accessibletravel.scot or www.travelinescotland.com

In all cases, you can contact providers to get reassurance.

Bus

- As a Blue Badge holder you can get a **National Entitlement Card**. This gives you free travel on most bus services in Scotland.
- **My Bus** is a bookable bus service offering local door-to-door transport.
For more information please visit: www.spt.co.uk/bus/mybus
- A **Thistle Assistance Card** can make it easier to discreetly get help from transport staff.
For more information please visit: www.thistleassistance.com

Rail

- **Passenger Assistance:** Disabled people travelling by rail can book additional assistance to help with their journey. You can find more information by contacting the rail operator or visiting their website.
- A **Disabled Persons Rail Card** can provide disabled people with reduced ticket costs. To see if you are eligible visit www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk and apply online.
- A **Passenger Assistance App** has been created to make booking Passenger Assistance simpler. Learn more by visiting www.passengerassistance.com
- **National Rail Enquiries** provides up to date information on tickets, timetables and disruptions.

Road

- As a Blue Badge holder, you may be exempt from paying Road Tax. To find out more visit: www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-tax-exemption-disability
- **The Motability** scheme enables disabled people to use their mobility allowances to obtain a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter. You can find out more information at: www.motability.co.uk

If you are a driver and your disability is likely to affect your ability to drive you must tell the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). If you want to keep driving but are worried about your ability to do so, you should talk to your GP, they can refer you to a Driving Assessment Service for an assessment and/or advice.

Demand Responsive Transport

Demand responsive transport is a transport service where day-to-day operation is determined by the requirements of its users. Typically this involves users calling a booking service, which will then plan a route for the day to pick-up users and take them to their required destination.

- **Community Transport:** Most local communities offer a community transport service which can transport you between your home and destination, if you are unable to use public transport. For more information visit: www.ctauk.org/find-ct-provider
- **Taxi:** Some Local Authorities offer Taxicard schemes which provide disabled people with subsidised taxi fares where journeys are pre-booked. To find out if this is offered in your area, contact your Local Authority.

Ferry

- Calmac Ferries have an **Assisted Travel Guide** to provide passengers with information and step by step guides for passengers who require additional assistance. Read it online at www.calmac.co.uk/help-for-passengers/assisted-travel-guide
- On selected Calmac 'Turn Up and Go' routes, Blue Badge holders can book their tickets by calling in advance, avoiding the need to leave their vehicle and queue at the booking office. For more information visit: www.calmac.co.uk/tickets/turn-up-and-go
- Northlink Ferries provide passengers with information on their **accessible travel and cabin options**, as well as boarding assistance. Read more at www.northlinkferries.co.uk/the-journey/accessibility-options/
- For additional guidance and contact information for all ferry operators visit www.discoverferries.com/why-ferries/accessible-travel/

Aviation

- The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) provides information on **passenger rights and contact information for booking special assistance** at all major UK airports. For more information please visit www.caa.co.uk/Passengers/PRM/Passengers-with-disabilities-and-reduced-mobility/
- The Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) operate a number of smaller airports in Scotland including:
 - Barra
 - Benbecula
 - Campbeltown
 - Dundee
 - Inverness
 - Islay
 - Kirkwall
 - Stornoway
 - Sumburgh
 - Tiree
 - Wick



This leaflet is available at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge

You can also request this leaflet in alternative formats.
To do so please email: info@transport.gov.scot

This leaflet is Crown copyright. You may re-use this information (excluding logos and images) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government licence.

To view this licence, visit: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence

Produced by Transport Scotland, an executive agency of the Scottish Government.

January 2022

