

The Blue Badge Scheme in Scotland

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;
- if you move house;
- if your badge needs to be replaced due to damage;
- if your badge needs to be returned because you are no longer entitled to it;
- 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.

Your local authority's contact details are on the letter that accompanied your Badge.

Contact details can also be found at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge/

You can also reapply, report any lost or stolen badges and update key information online at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge

When you get your badge you should check the details are correct and record the following 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 reapply for a badge:

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

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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.

You have been given one Blue Badge. 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, including those provided by local authorities, hospitals or supermarkets are governed by separate rules.



2. 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, this harms disabled people. It makes it more difficult for others to benefit from the scheme.

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



3. 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. But once assisted to your destination, the badge must be removed from the vehicle.

The driver should then park as normal, including moving the vehicle if it's in a disabled person's parking space or on yellow lines.

4. Misuse of a Blue Badge

Misuse of a badge is a crime. Common forms of misuse include:

- allowing other people 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 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; and
- using the badge if it is expired or if you are no longer eligible.

You may be prosecuted if you misuse a badge.

The local authority may also require the badge to be returned if they consider it is being misused.

5. How to display the badge

When you are parking and want to use the benefits of your badge, you must display the badge properly:

- ✓ Usually this means placing it 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 photo should not be visible through the windscreen. If your badge becomes unreadable through fading or wear and tear, return the badge to your local authority so that they can issue you with a new one.



6. Power to inspect a badge

Police officers, local authority parking attendants and enforcement officers have the power to inspect Blue Badges. The power is designed to protect legitimate badge holders.

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, the law says you must show it to them. You can be prosecuted if you fail to allow enforcement officers to inspect your badge.



7. Reapplying for a badge

You should apply for a new badge from your local authority some weeks before it runs out.

You can reapply for a badge online at www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge. If you don't have access to a computer, you can visit a public library to use computers for free.

You can also apply using a paper form, which you can get from your local authority.

The expired badge should be returned to your local authority. 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 then contact your local authority to let them know that your badge is lost or stolen 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 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;
- the badge becomes damaged or faded and cannot be read;
- the badge is no longer needed, for example if the badge holder is confined to the house; and
- when your entitlement ends for a temporary badge.

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

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.

Where can I park?

If you don't drive yourself, remember you must share this information with anyone who will be carrying you as a passenger. This section explains the rules in Scotland, the rules for using your badge elsewhere are explained later in this leaflet.

10. Where you can park

The parking concessions that can be 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; and
- ✓ 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.

In some places time limits and restrictions might apply. There are other places where you must not park. These rules are explained below.

The Blue Badge must be displayed at all times to obtain these parking concessions. Whenever possible, you should park in bays instead of parking on yellow lines.

11. Restrictions on how long you can park

In Scotland there is no blanket time restriction on parking for badge holders, but local restrictions may apply. You can check for these on nearby signs or with the local authority.

In the rest of the UK you may only park on yellow lines, or in other places where there is a time restriction, for up to three hours.



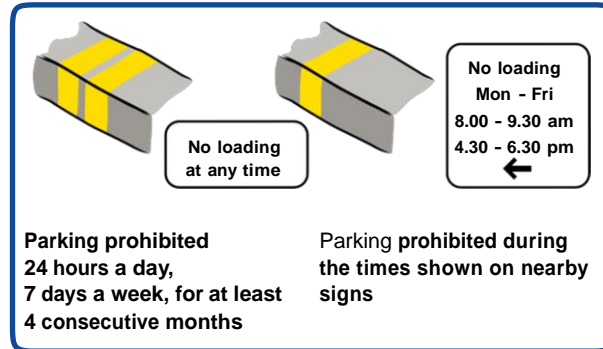
When there is a time limit, you will need to use a parking clock. The clock must be displayed on your dashboard beside your badge. The clock should be set to show the quarter hour period during which you arrived. You must wait for at least an hour after a previous period of parking before you can park the same vehicle in the same road or part of a road on the same day.

The clock is sent to you together with the Blue Badge.

12. Places where you cannot park

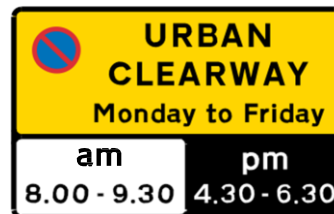
The Blue Badge does not entitle the holder to park anywhere and conditions differ in different areas and countries. You cannot park in the following places:

- in loading/unloading bays unless nearby signs specify time limits for badge holders;
- where there are one or two yellow markings on the kerb. Nearby signs will show the times when badge holders can or cannot park in these areas;



- parking places reserved for specific users such as resident's bays or taxi ranks. 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, 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

Never park where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. Examples of dangerous or obstructive parking include parking:

- at school entrances, bus stops, on a bend, or near the brow of a hill or hump bridge;
- 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.



14. Where the scheme does not apply

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

Check 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.

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. You should therefore contact the airport concerned in advance to check their car parking arrangements.



Organisational badges

15. 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.



16. Special 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 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.

Organisations should be able to demonstrate it is being held securely and that staff with access to the badge understand the rules of the scheme. The badge remains the property of the local authority. They can ask for the badge to be returned if it is being misused, or if there is another reason they consider it inappropriate for the organisation to hold it.

As with any other badge, it must not be copied or altered. Should an organisation consider it needs more badges, an application can be made to the local authority.

17. 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.

Using your badge outside Scotland

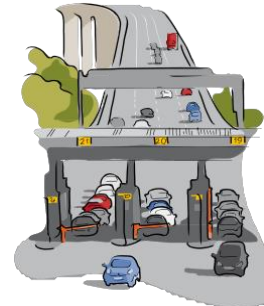
18. Using the badge to park in the rest of the UK

When travelling outside Scotland, but within the UK, the concessions may not always be the same. Please check with the relevant authority in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. You can find useful links to information at www.mygov.scot.

19. 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.



20. Using the 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 about parking before travelling from www.bluebadgelondon.org.uk

As a badge holder you do not have to pay the Congestion Charge. You must first register with Transport for London and pay a registration fee of £10. You need to apply at least 10 days before your journey. Further information can be obtained from www.tfl.gov.uk or by calling 0845 900 1234

21. Using the badge abroad

While the United Kingdom is a member of the European Union, you can use your badge when travelling in the European Union. The concessions provided in other EU countries vary. You can check these on www.ec.europa.eu and on this website you can also get a parking notice. You can place this parking notice next to your Blue Badge that provides an explanation of the badge in the language(s) spoken in the country you are visiting. Information about future arrangements will be published on www.mygov.scot

There are no arrangements for you to use the badge outside the EU, in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand, although they may be prepared to recognise the Blue Badge. For further information please visit www.disabledmotorists.eu

Making motoring easier

22. A disabled parking bay outside your home

As a badge holder, you can ask that a disabled parking place be created near to your home. You can visit www.mygov.scot/disabled-parking-space to find out about the eligibility criteria. You can also contact the Roads Department in your local authority directly.

23. Your ability to drive

If you are a driver and your disability is likely to affect your ability to drive, even if your car is adapted, you must tell the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. You can find out more information at www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions or phone 0300 790 6806. You can also write to them at Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea SA99 1TU.

Talk to your GP if you want to keep driving but are worried about your ability to do so. Depending on the circumstances, they can refer you to the Scottish Driving Assessment Service. This is a NHS service that can provide assessment, advice and adaptations.

24. Road tax exemption

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 criteria. You can find out more information by visiting www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-tax-exemption-disability or calling 0300 790 6802.

25. Motability

The Motability Scheme enables disabled people to use their mobility allowances to obtain a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter. Motability may also be able to provide grants to disabled people who would otherwise be unable to afford the vehicle, adaptations or driving lessons they need. You can find out more information at www.motability.co.uk or by calling 0300 456 4566.

26. Traffic news

Transport Scotland provides a travel news service online at www.trafficscotland.org and a 24-hour traffic customer care line on 0800 028 1414. You can check current road conditions on Scotland's motorways and trunk roads. Other road problems should be reported to the local authority responsible.

Travel advice

27. Other ways to travel

As a Blue Badge holder, you are entitled to a range of travel concessions. Assistance services exist to make travel easier for all disabled people.

You can expect all transport providers to give clear information and provide practical help to make your journey successful. You can also expect the vehicles you travel on to have accessibility features. For example, all single and double decker buses in Scotland have ramps and are low-floor.

28. Planning your journey

Journeys by can be planned using Traveline Scotland at www.travelinescotland.com.

Their service has timetables from across the country. It incorporates accessibility features. For example, you can plan a journey at a walking pace that suits you.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call their 24-hour travel information helpline on 0871 200 22 33. Calls cost 12p per minute plus your operator's access charge.

29. Assistance to use public transport

Transport providers provide free extra help to disabled people. In some cases you will need to book in advance. To find out more about the assistance available, contact your transport provider or visit www.mygov.scot/transport-help.

Travel mode	The help you can get
Bus and coach	<p>Examples of the kind of assistance you can get include getting the bus to wait while you sit down, and being told by the bus driver when you've reached the stop you want to get off at. Staff are trained to help disabled people.</p> <p>You don't need to book assistance for bus trips in advance, however you should do this for coach trips.</p> <p>You can take assistance dogs and wheelchairs on buses and most coaches, but there are size and weight limits for wheelchairs. In some cases you can also use a mobility scooter. Contact the bus or coach company for more information.</p> <p>You can get contact details for bus and coach companies from TraveLine Scotland.</p>

Travel mode	The help you can get
Train	<p data-bbox="405 141 1430 353">Examples of the kind of assistance you can get include having someone meet you and accompany you to your train; a ramp on and off your train; staff helping you to your seat; keeping you updated while on the train; someone meeting you from your train and taking you to your next train or the exit; and carrying your bags. Staff are trained to help disabled people.</p> <p data-bbox="405 398 1374 533">If you can't travel from your nearest train station because it's not accessible to you, the train company will provide an accessible alternative (like a taxi) to take you to the nearest or most convenient accessible station.</p> <p data-bbox="405 577 1401 645">You should book assistance in advance, although rail staff will help as much as they can if you don't book.</p> <p data-bbox="405 689 1406 790">You can take assistance dogs and wheelchairs on trains, but there are size and weight limits for wheelchairs. You can check your wheelchair is OK when you book assistance.</p> <p data-bbox="405 835 1406 936">More detail is available in a booklet called Making Rail Accessible that you can get from any staffed railway station or the train company's website. For ScotRail services, you can also call 0800 912 2901.</p>

Travel mode	The help you can get
Ferry	<p data-bbox="408 141 1414 353">Examples of the kind of assistance you can get include having someone meet you and accompany you to your ferry; staff helping you embark the ferry; staff helping you to your seat; keeping you updated while on the ferry; someone meeting you from the ferry and taking you to the exit; and carrying your bags. Staff are trained to help disabled people.</p> <p data-bbox="408 398 1350 465">Tell the ferry operator as soon as you can when you book that you would like help.</p> <p data-bbox="408 510 1422 611">You can take assistance dogs and wheelchairs on ferries, but there are size and weight limits for wheelchairs. You can check your wheelchair is OK when you book assistance.</p> <p data-bbox="408 656 1406 757">You can find out more through the ferry company. They will explain what they can do to help. Details of all ferry companies and routes are available through Traveline Scotland.</p>

Travel mode	The help you can get
Air	<p>You can get assistance when you fly to and from the UK and Europe. This could include transfer from a designated point, such as the car park or bus stop, to the terminal building; the use of an airport wheelchair to get to the gate; extra help getting through security searches; help with boarding the aircraft and getting seated; and specific seats on the aircraft. Staff are trained to help disabled people.</p> <p>You need to book assistance through the airline. They will explain the services they can offer and make arrangements with the airports concerned. They will also explain the rules about fitness to fly.</p> <p>The Civil Aviation Authority can also provide information. Their website is at www.caa.co.uk/passengers and you can contact the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Team on 0330 022 1916.</p>
Tram	<p>The Edinburgh Trams network is accessible for disabled people. You can get more information about accessibility features on the Edinburgh Trams network at www.edinburghtrams.com/access or by calling 0131 338 5780.</p>

The free Thistle Assistance Card can make it easier to discreetly get help from transport staff. The card has blank spaces to write down information about any help you may need. You can get this through your local authority.

Transport operators will try to help if you would like to familiarise yourself with stations, ports, airports, vehicles or vessels before you go. Contact them to ask.

30. Free or discounted public transport

As a Blue Badge holder you can get a National Entitlement Card. This gives you free travel on most bus services in Scotland.

In some cases you can get free travel on some other public transport.

You may be entitled to have a companion travel for free too, but you will need to provide additional evidence for this.

Contact your local authority or Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to get a National Entitlement Card, using your blue badge as evidence of entitlement. You can get more information about the scheme at www.mygov.scot/disabled-bus-pass

Many transport providers also provide discounted travel for disabled people. For example, having a Disabled Person's Railcard can cut most rail fares by a third.

31. Options if you can't use public transport

Community transport is a local transport service which can carry you if you are unable to use public transport. Many community transport services will pick you up from your home, and drop you off as close as possible to your destination. The driver will help passengers board, and many vehicles are low-floor and wheelchair friendly. You usually need to book in advance and there may be a fare, but this is normally much less than driving or taking a taxi. To find your local community transport services you can:

- search online at www.ctauk.org/find-ct-provider
- contact your local authority
- ask your GP surgery, who should be able to provide relevant contact details.

Many taxis are wheelchair accessible and some local authorities provide Taxicard schemes for disabled people. Taxicards provide scheme members with subsidised taxi fares where journeys are pre-booked. You can only make a limited number of Taxicard trips each year. To find out if you are entitled to a Taxicard, contact your local authority.

If you are unable to use public transport to travel to work, you may be entitled to assistance from the Access to Work scheme. This provides financial support to help support disabled people in work. Full information on Access to Work can be found online at www.gov.uk/access-to-work or by calling 0800 121 7479.

32. Walking and cycling

If you have problems using local streets and pavements, contact your local council to report a defect. They may also be able to install alterations to help, like dropped kerbs. They can also provide advice about quiet walking and cycling routes, and any all-ability bike centres near you.

33. Health information

You can get more information about keeping healthy, illnesses and treatments through NHS inform. You can visit their website on www.nhsinform.scot or call 0800 22 44 88. Using NHS inform means that you no longer need to look in lots of different places for official health information.

If you're finding some tasks difficult because of an injury, illness, disability or a major life change your local social care service might be able to help. This can include support to make more journeys in ways you choose. For example, in Scotland you can speak to an occupational therapist without having to go through your GP.

You can get more information about the services near you from Care Information Scotland at www.careinfoscotland.scot or by calling 0800 011 32 00.

Top 10 tips for using your Blue Badge

1. You must follow the rules of the Blue Badge scheme. Misuse is a crime.
2. Only you can 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. It could be taken away from them on the spot. It could also be taken away from you and you might not be allowed to apply for another one.
6. Make sure your Blue Badge is displayed the right way up so the number is face up and can be seen clearly and your photo is face down. You could be fined for not doing so.
7. Apply for a new badge before your badge runs out. Your badge can be taken away from you if it is out of date.
8. If your badge is damaged, apply for a new one as soon as you can.
9. Keep your badge safe. If it is lost or stolen, you must tell the police and the council.
10. Check signs to make sure that Blue Badge holders are allowed to park there.

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

You can also get it in large print, Braille, audio tape and CD formats from Transport Scotland.

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