

5 Parking Badges for disabled people

Key trends

- The number of parking badges (Blue Badges) for disabled people on issue in England rose by one per cent in the three year period to 31 March 2005 to 2.1 million (Chart 5.1 and Table 5.1).
- There had been a long upward trend in badges issued. However, last years data indicated it was beginning to level off and this year's small increase appears to confirm this.
- The number of badges on issue at the discretion of local authorities, measured from 1995, showed no significant change in the year to 31 March 2005. This stagnation followed a slowing in the numbers issued over the last few years (Table 5.1).
- The number of badges on issue to institutions such as elderly care homes fell by five per cent in the year to 31 March 2005. This follows the pattern for the last few years which saw a steady decline in the number issued. Badges issued for institutions are about one per cent of all badges issued, dropping from around two per cent in recent years. It is speculated that this may coincide with care home closures.
- The North West Region has more badges per head of population, at 53 per thousand, than any other region (Table 5.2).
- London has fewer badges per head of population, at 33 per thousand, compared with most other regions. This may be due to public transport provision for disabled people in London which includes widespread use of low floor buses and taxi-card schemes. Local authorities also provide services and community transport schemes. Additionally, parking restrictions apply to Blue Badge holders in central London. Demographic patterns may also be significant, as the age profile of Londoners is slightly younger than in other regions (Table 5.2).

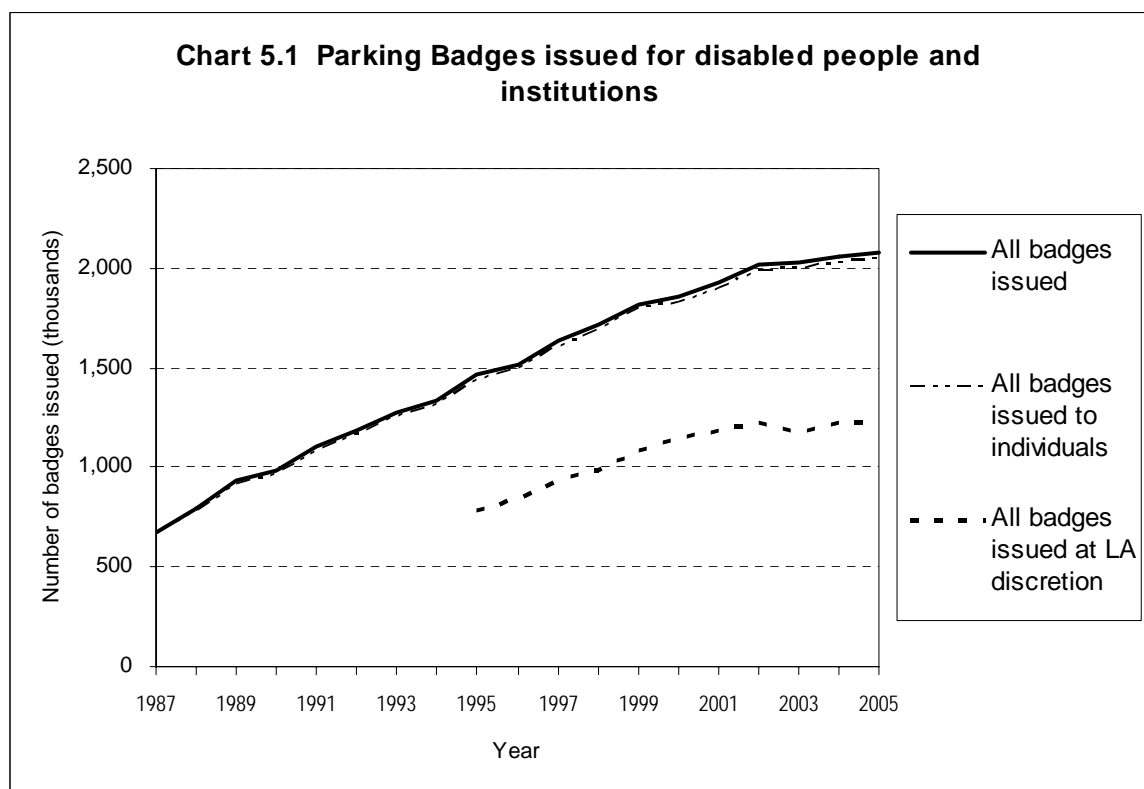


Table 5.1: Number of badges on issue to disabled people in England and rate per 1,000 of total population: 1987 - 2005

At 31 March	All Badges		Badges on issue to individuals				Badges on issue to institutions	
	Thousands	Number per 1,000 population	Thousands	Per Cent	of which issued at LA's discretion		Thousands	Per Cent
					Thousands	Per Cent		
1987	673	14	661	98	..	..	12	1.8
1988	792	17	778	98	..	..	14	1.8
1989	929	20	912	98	..	..	17	1.8
1990	979	21	961	98	..	..	18	1.8
1991	1,102	23	1,082	98	..	..	21	1.9
1992	1,187	25	1,164	98	..	..	23	1.9
1993	1,275	26	1,252	98	..	..	24	1.9
1994	1,336	28	1,313	98	..	..	23	1.7
1995	1,463	30	1,438	98	783	54	25	1.7
1996	1,517	31	1,493	98	843	56	24	1.6
1997	1,636	34	1,610	98	938	57	26	1.6
1998	1,713	35	1,687	98	985	57	26	1.5
1999	1,821	37	1,794	98	1,082	59	28	1.5
2000	1,854	38	1,826	99	1,141	62	27	1.5
2001	1,925	39	1,898	99	1,184	62	27	1.4
2002	2,019	41	1,989	99	1,229	61	30	1.5
2003	2,030	41	2,003	99	1,178	58	26	1.3
2004	2,054	41	2,026	99	1,220	59	27	1.3
2005 p	2,092	42	2,066	99	1,223	58	26	1.2
<i>Percentage change</i>								
2004-2005	2		2		0		-5	
1995-2005	43		44		56		2	
1987-2005	211		213		..		114	

Owing to rounding, components may not sum exactly to totals.

p = provisional data owing to incomplete categories of some returns.

Background

The Department for Transport has produced the results of an annual survey of the number of vehicle badges issued by local authorities to individuals who have disabilities, and for institutions such as care homes. Data for the years before 1994 were collected by the Department for Health.

The survey covers local authorities in England, including unitary authorities, shire counties, London boroughs and metropolitan districts. Data has been carried forward from previous years when it is not possible to obtain data from authorities. The badges may remain valid for a three year period so the survey is a rolling total of those on issue.

There are two main categories for eligibility for a Blue Badge, the automatic category and the discretionary category. For some people who have a specific immobilising or other disability, such as registered blind people, entitlement is automatically granted. Local authorities do have the power to grant badges to other disabled people by asking them to provide evidence of some kind, such as a letter from a GP. The individual is then assessed for eligibility. Nearly 60 per cent of all badges issued were in the discretionary category (Tables 5.1 and 5.3).

Tables 5.1 to 5.3 show over two million valid badges on issue at 31 March 2005. Of these, just under 99 per cent were on issue to individuals and just over one per cent were on issue to institutions. The number of badges on issue has increased to more than three times the number issued in 1987.

Further details, showing badges issued at local authority level are shown in Table 5.3.

Table 5.2: Number of vehicle badges on issue by GO Region at 31 March 2005

Region	All Badges (number)	Population (thousands)	Rate per 1,000 of the area population	Population ¹ per cent aged 60+	Badges issued to institutions (number)	Badges issued to individuals (number)
All England	2,091,817	49,856	42	23	25,620	2,066,197
of which						
London	246,595	7,388	33	14	4,051	242,544
North East	126,142	2,539	50	19	1,145	124,997
North West	362,289	6,805	53	19	3,888	358,401
Yorkshire & the Humber	230,808	5,009	46	19	2,001	228,807
East Midlands	215,353	4,252	51	19	2,043	213,310
West Midlands	221,197	5,320	42	19	2,906	218,291
East of England	214,938	5,463	39	19	2,140	212,798
South East	227,584	8,080	28	19	3,771	223,813
South West	246,911	4,999	49	22	3,675	243,236

¹ Based on ONS mid year population estimates for 2003

Table 5.3: Number of vehicle badges on issue by category and rate of provision per thousand of population for the three year period ending 31 March 2005

Area	All Badges	Rate per 1,000 of the area popn.	Retired % of the popn.	Badges issued to institutions	Badges issued to individuals			
					All	As of right see note(A)	At LA's discretion see note (B)	Other see note (C)
Total England	2,091,817	42	23	25,620	2,066,197	781,753	1,223,267	1,447
London	246,595	33	14	4,051	242,544	86,756	151,477	99
England excluding London	1,845,222	43	24	21,569	1,823,653	694,997	1,071,790	1,348
Inner London	71,722	25	12	1,528	70,194	24,263	45,883	48
Corporation of London	110	14	14	0	110	41	69	0
Camden	2,123	10	12	47	2,076	972	1,103	1
Hackney	D 4,544	22	11	45	4,499	1,151	3,346	2
Hammersmith & Fulham	5,029	29	12	79	4,950	2,442	2,468	40
Haringey	D 8,068	36	11	145	7,923	1,552	6,369	2
Islington	D 7,435	41	11	114	7,321	3,075	4,246	0
Kensington & Chelsea	2,217	13	14	68	2,149	678	1,470	1
Lambeth	D 4,334	16	11	549	3,785	992	2,793	0
Lewisham	2,563	10	12	64	2,499	1,377	1,122	0
Newham	10,207	41	10	68	10,139	5,231	4,908	0
Southwark	D 8,011	32	12	185	7,826	865	6,961	0
Tower Hamlets	5,288	26	10	25	5,263	2,613	2,650	0
Wandsworth	7,526	27	12	139	7,387	2,369	5,016	2
Westminster	D 4,267	19	13	0	4,267	905	3,362	0
Outer London	174,873	39	16	2,523	172,350	62,493	105,594	51
Barking & Dagenham	6,456	39	16	41	6,415	4,006	2,409	0
Barnet	14,707	45	16	189	14,518	2,816	11,702	0
Bexley	9,463	43	18	90	9,373	2,707	6,631	35
Brent	7,893	29	14	123	7,770	2,872	4,898	0
Bromley	D 8,199	27	19	70	8,129	2,596	5,533	0
Croydon	10,709	32	15	150	10,559	4,199	6,359	1
Ealing	9,413	31	13	282	9,131	6,643	2,488	0
Enfield	12,143	43	16	132	12,011	2,360	9,651	0
Greenwich	D 9,576	43	14	310	9,266	2,431	6,835	0
Harrow	9,359	44	17	77	9,282	2,078	7,204	0
Havering	D 12,264	55	20	181	12,083	11,578	505	0
Hillingdon	9,821	40	16	107	9,714	2,833	6,869	12
Hounslow	7,927	37	13	154	7,773	2,372	5,401	0
Kingston-upon-Thames	4,435	29	15	125	4,310	1,040	3,268	2
Merton	5,250	27	14	140	5,110	1,440	3,670	0
Redbridge	D 10,773	44	16	28	10,745	2,408	8,337	0
Richmond-upon-Thames	D 4,212	24	15	0	4,212	..	..	..
Sutton	D 13,137	74	17	324	12,813	6,089	6,724	0
Waltham Forest	9,136	41	13	0	9,136	2,025	7,110	1

NOTES

(A) Badges issued in the automatic categories to recipients of mobility allowances, the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance, Government issued cars or grants towards their own cars, and War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, or to registered blind people.

(B) Badges granted in the discretionary category to people with a permanent and substantial disability who are unable or nearly unable to walk.

(C) Badges granted to drivers with a severe upper limb disability in both upper limbs who cannot turn a steering wheel by hand.

(D) Results from a previous survey.

.. Components not available.

Source: DfT survey of local authorities

Area	All Badges	Rate per 1,000 of the area popn.	Retired % of the popn.	Badges issued to institu- tions	Badges issued to individuals			
					All	As of right see note(A)	At LA's discretion see note (B)	Other see note (C)
North East	126,142	50	19	1,145	124,997	49,832	64,883	25
Darlington UA	6,231	63	20	43	6,188	1,544	4,643	1
Hartlepool UA	3,980	44	19	59	3,921	2,482	1,439	0
Middlesbrough UA	5,082	37	17	120	4,962	2,666	2,296	0
Redcar & Cleveland UA	8,194	59	20	83	8,111	3,694	4,415	2
Stockton-on-Tees UA	8,648	46	17	65	8,583	3,525	5,053	5
Durham	32,021	65	20	190	31,831	9,689	22,142	0
Northumberland	14,651	47	21	237	14,414	5,729	8,685	0
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	10,344	39	18	87	10,257	..	..	0
Gateshead	8,334	44	20	23	8,311	7,088	1,206	17
North Tyneside	7,781	41	21	39	7,742	3,117	4,625	0
South Tyneside	D 6,263	41	21	18	6,245	3,531	2,714	0
Sunderland	14,613	52	18	181	14,432	6,767	7,665	0
North West	362,289	53	19	3,888	358,401	167,663	190,545	193
Blackburn Darwen UA	D 3,950	28	15	75	3,875	3,875	0	0
Blackpool UA	9,546	67	22	136	9,410	5,461	3,949	0
Halton UA	7,306	62	16	262	7,044	4,487	2,544	13
Warrington UA	9,926	51	17	8	9,918	5,081	4,837	0
Cheshire	35,898	53	20	248	35,650	12,808	22,840	2
Cumbria	28,259	58	22	511	27,748	11,978	15,720	50
Manchester	17,877	41	14	192	17,685	7,174	10,508	3
Bolton	14,317	54	17	101	14,216	6,887	7,328	1
Bury	10,028	55	17	164	9,864	4,011	5,838	15
Oldham	7,008	32	17	72	6,936	6,936	0	0
Rochdale	D 10,878	53	17	230	10,648	4,518	6,108	22
Salford	12,271	57	18	65	12,206	5,620	6,577	9
Stockport	D 11,826	42	20	196	11,630	3,427	8,168	35
Tameside	6,560	31	18	90	6,470	3,021	3,449	0
Trafford	14,187	67	19	147	14,040	3,101	10,939	0
Wigan	22,753	75	17	262	22,491	8,304	14,186	1
Lancashire	63,802	56	19	499	63,303	27,426	35,869	8
Liverpool	D 20,959	47	17	259	20,700	14,102	6,591	7
Knowsley	D 8,158	54	18	64	8,094	5,986	2,107	1
St Helens	12,822	73	19	135	12,687	6,627	6,052	8
Sefton	D 14,821	53	22	110	14,711	6,176	8,523	12
Wirral	19,137	61	21	62	19,075	10,657	8,412	6

Area	All Badges	Rate per 1,000 of the area popn.	Retired % of the popn.	Badges issued to institutions	Badges issued to individuals			
					All	As of right see note(A)	At LA's discretion see note (B)	Other see note (C)
Yorkshire & Humber	230,808	46	19	2,001	228,807	103,726	124,620	461
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	14,562	45	22	161	14,401	4,805	9,583	13
Kingston upon Hull UA	11,163	45	17	119	11,044	5,949	5,092	3
North East Lincs UA	7,243	46	20	88	7,155	2,837	4,318	0
North Lincolnshire UA	4,008	26	20	59	3,949	1,126	2,823	0
North Yorkshire	32,786	57	22	431	32,355	11,199	20,725	431
York UA	7,557	41	19	184	7,373	2,472	4,901	0
Sheffield	18,372	36	19	135	18,237	9,681	8,552	4
Barnsley	13,157	60	19	28	13,129	8,420	4,708	1
Doncaster	14,032	49	19	64	13,968	8,105	5,858	5
Rotherham	14,452	57	18	131	14,321	7,399	6,921	1
Leeds	D 30,624	43	18	0	30,624	10,228	20,396	0
Bradford	16,659	35	16	203	16,456	8,877	7,578	1
Calderdale	8,829	46	18	152	8,677	3,264	5,411	2
Kirklees	16,802	43	17	115	16,687	8,975	7,712	0
Wakefield	20,562	65	18	131	20,431	10,389	10,042	0
East Midlands	215,353	51	19	2,043	213,310	76,536	136,684	90
Derby UA	14,068	60	18	146	13,922	1,113	12,809	0
Leicester UA	13,414	47	15	162	13,252	7,096	6,154	2
Nottingham UA	D 11,278	41	16	70	11,208	3,074	8,134	0
Rutland UA	2,000	56	20	17	1,983	249	1,734	0
Derbyshire	47,300	64	20	538	46,762	10,224	36,538	0
Leicestershire	34,719	56	19	150	34,569	15,975	18,592	2
Lincolnshire	D 19,792	30	22	122	19,670	684	18,985	1
Northamptonshire	30,343	47	17	275	30,068	9,396	20,672	0
Nottinghamshire	42,439	56	19	563	41,876	28,725	13,066	85
West Midlands	221,197	42	19	2,906	218,291	72,810	109,879	162
Herefordshire UA	3,061	17	23	48	3,013	1,159	1,854	0
Stoke-on-Trent UA	D 5,322	22	19	40	5,282	2,745	2,537	0
Telford & Wrekin UA	7,433	46	15	58	7,375	3,782	3,592	1
Shropshire	13,466	47	22	129	13,337	5,773	7,564	0
Staffordshire	D 34,471	43	19	545	33,926	12,955	20,971	0
Warwickshire	24,463	47	19	25	24,438	7,737	16,629	72
Birmingham	D 36,145	36	16	705	35,440	..	..	..
Coventry	D 7,085	23	17	63	7,022	7,021	0	1
Dudley	15,954	52	20	413	15,541	3,460	12,003	78
Sandwell	15,813	55	19	331	15,482	6,182	9,299	1
Solihull	10,270	51	20	44	10,226	3,730	6,496	0
Walsall	11,700	46	19	150	11,550	4,316	7,227	7
Wolverhampton	9,921	42	19	130	9,791	4,918	4,873	0
Worcestershire	26,093	48	20	225	25,868	9,032	16,834	2

Area	All Badges	Rate per 1,000 of the area popn.	Retired % of the popn.	Badges issued to institutions	Badges issued to individuals				
					All	As of right see note(A)	At LA's discretion see note (B)	Other see note (C)	
East	214,938	39	19	2,140	212,798	64,573	148,190	35	
Luton UA		7,384	40	14	28	7,356	1,945	5,399	12
Peterborough UA	D	6,309	40	16	86	6,223	933	5,290	0
Southend UA		7,416	46	21	86	7,330	2,175	5,155	0
Thurrock UA		6,612	46	15	20	6,592	2,473	4,117	2
Bedfordshire		15,822	41	17	115	15,707	4,716	10,990	1
Cambridgeshire		21,767	38	17	130	21,637	6,207	15,427	3
Essex		58,429	44	20	245	58,184	14,815	43,365	4
Hertfordshire		44,739	43	18	1,049	43,690	10,375	33,315	0
Norfolk		37,591	46	23	299	37,292	13,242	24,050	0
Suffolk		8,869	13	21	82	8,787	7,692	1,082	13
South East	227,584	28	19	3,771	223,813	84,450	129,274	268	
Bracknell Forest UA		2,917	26	13	50	2,867	956	1,911	0
Brighton & Hove UA		12,250	49	18	250	12,000	5,900	5,900	200
Isle of Wight UA		6,865	50	25	271	6,594	3,014	3,563	17
Medway UA		9,666	38	15	172	9,494	3,297	6,189	8
Milton Keynes UA		8,534	40	12	113	8,421	3,739	4,681	1
Portsmouth UA		3,169	17	17	41	3,128	..	..	0
Reading UA		3,729	26	14	91	3,638	598	3,040	0
Slough UA		3,629	31	13	54	3,575	1,022	2,553	0
Southampton UA		9,474	43	16	42	9,432	3,273	6,159	0
West Berkshire UA		4,795	33	16	130	4,665	1,322	3,318	25
Windsor & Maidenhead		6,694	49	18	1	6,693	..	..	0
Wokingham UA		2,968	20	15	120	2,848	541	2,306	1
Buckinghamshire		15,782	33	18	259	15,523	4,830	10,685	8
East Sussex		32,170	65	26	820	31,350	31,350	0	0
Hampshire		19,448	16	19	214	19,234	4,013	15,219	2
Kent		22,186	16	20	84	22,102	6,248	15,854	0
Oxfordshire		25,920	42	17	386	25,534	6,685	18,848	1
Surrey		33,697	32	19	0	33,697	7,057	26,640	0
West Sussex	D	3,691	5	23	673	3,018	605	2,408	5
South West	246,911	49	22	3,675	243,236	75,407	167,715	114	
Bath & N E Somerset UA		8,504	50	20	67	8,437	2,170	6,267	0
Bournemouth UA		10,116	62	23	137	9,979	2,983	6,996	0
Bristol UA		21,590	55	16	462	21,128	7,944	13,184	0
North Somerset UA		10,462	55	22	248	10,214	3,267	6,947	0
Plymouth UA		13,397	55	19	248	13,149	3,803	9,322	24
Poole UA		7,448	54	23	56	7,392	1,899	5,489	4
South Gloucestershire UA		13,532	55	18	127	13,405	3,991	9,401	13
Swindon UA	D	6,049	33	16	16	6,033	2,066	3,967	0
Torbay UA		8,694	66	26	256	8,438	8,369	31	38
Cornwall		31,910	62	23	122	31,788	10,655	21,111	22
Isles of Scilly		37	18	24	0	37	9	28	0
Devon		34,213	48	24	996	33,217	7,195	26,016	6
Dorset		21,241	53	27	200	21,041	5,618	15,416	7
Gloucestershire	D	20,283	36	20	18	20,265	6,230	14,035	0
Somerset	D	27,115	53	23	418	26,697	7,638	19,059	0
Wiltshire		12,320	28	19	304	12,016	1,570	10,446	0