

Parking badges for disabled people¹

Key results

- The number of parking badges for disabled people (Blue Badges) on issue in England increased by 2 per cent over the period 31 March 2006 to 31 March 2007. It now stands at 2.3 million (Chart 1 and Table 1).
- There has been a long upward trend in badges issued, with the number of badges on issue more than trebling since 1987. At 31 March 2007, there were 45 badges on issue per 1,000 people compared to 34 per 1,000 ten years earlier.
- The number of badges on issue at the local authority's discretion increased by 3 per cent over the twelve-month period to 31 March 2007 while the number of badges issued to those in automatic categories remained virtually unchanged. At 31 March 2007, just under two thirds of blue badges were on issue at Local Authorities' discretion.
- The number of badges on issue to institutions such as elderly care homes rose by 2 per cent over the twelve-month period to 31 March 2007. The proportion of all badges issued that are allocated to institutions has changed little, at 1.2 per cent.
- The North West has more badges per head of population than any other region. Local Authorities in the North West have currently issued 62 badges per 1,000 people, compared with a national average (in England) of 45 per 1,000 people (Table 2).
- London issues fewer badges per head than any other region, at 31 per 1,000 people. This is due, in part, to demographic patterns. London has the lowest rate of car ownership in England, and has a slightly younger age profile. Additionally, the Blue Badge parking scheme does not operate in parts of Central London, meaning that the scheme is less useful to residents of these areas.
- Further details, showing badges issued at local authority level, are shown in Table 3.

¹ 2007 figures revised on 20 November 2008.

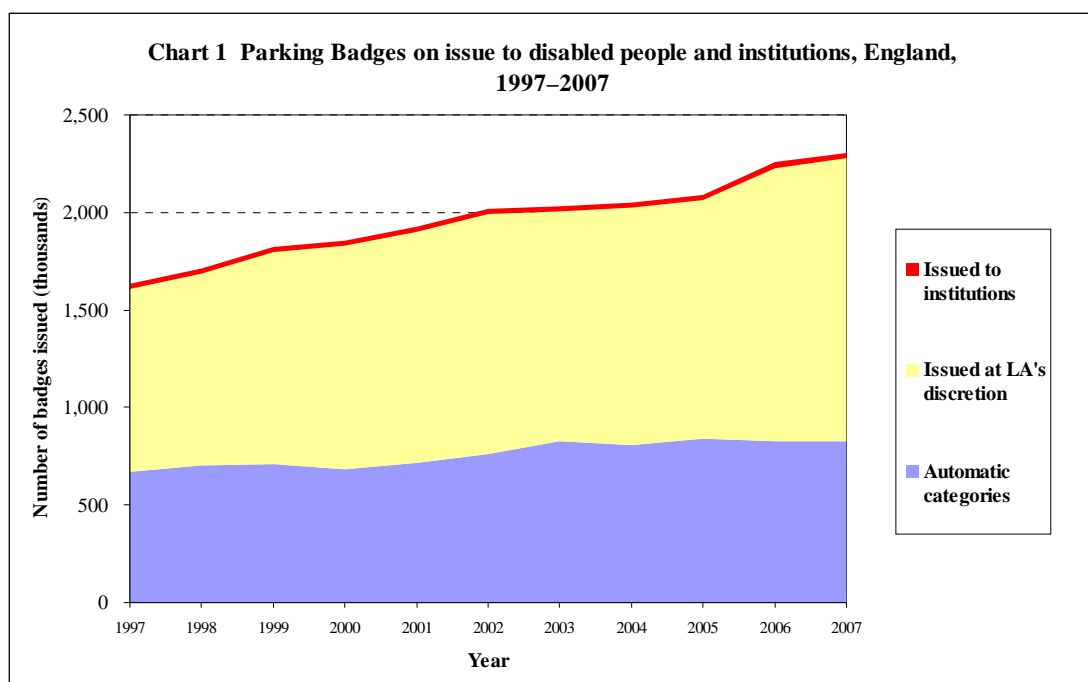


Table 1: Number of parking badges on issue to disabled people in England and rate per 1,000 of total population: 1997–2007¹

At 31 March	All Badges		Badges on issue to individuals				Badges on issue to institutions	
			Issued to those in automatic categories		Issued at LA's discretion		Thousands	Per Cent
	Thousands	Number per 1,000 population ²	Thousands	Per Cent	Thousands	Per Cent		
1997	1,636	34	672	41	938	57	26	1.6
1998	1,713	35	702	41	985	57	26	1.5
1999	1,821	37	712	39	1,082	59	28	1.5
2000	1,854	38	685	37	1,141	62	27	1.5
2001	1,925	39	714	37	1,184	62	27	1.4
2002	2,019	41	761	38	1,229	61	30	1.5
2003	2,030	41	825	41	1,178	58	26	1.3
2004	2,054	41	806	39	1,220	59	27	1.3
2005	2,092	41	843	40	1,223	58	26	1.2
2006	2,258	44	825	37	1,404	62	28	1.2
2007	2,307	45	827	36	1,452	63	29	1.2
Percentage change								
2006-2007	2		0		3		2	
2005-2006	8		-2		15		9	
1997-2007	41		23		55		8	

1 Components may not sum exactly to totals due to rounding.

2 Based on ONS mid-year population estimates.

r revised figures

Table 2: Number of parking badges on issue to disabled people by Government Office Region at 31 March 2007

Region	All Badges (number)	Population ¹ (thousands)	Rate per 1,000 of the population	Population ¹ per cent of retirement age or above	Badges issued to institutions (number)	Badges issued to individuals (number)
All England	2,306,567	51,092	45	19	28,517	2,278,050
<i>of which</i>						
London	231,768	7,557	31	14	3,793	227,975
North East	135,819	2,565	53	20	1,320	134,499
North West	425,755	6,864	62	19	5,051	420,704
Yorkshire & the Humber	214,775	5,177	41	19	2,030	212,745
East Midlands	192,831	4,400	44	19	1,903	190,928
West Midlands	260,681	5,382	48	19	2,966	257,715
East of England	254,618	5,661	45	20	2,183	252,435
South East	332,749	8,309	40	20	5,510	327,239
South West	257,571	5,178	50	22	3,761	253,810

¹ Based on ONS 2007 mid-year population estimates.

Background

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

The survey covers local authorities in England. The badges may remain valid for a three-year period so the survey shows 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. Entitlement is automatically granted for those who

- are claiming the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance;
- have a government-issued car, or a grant for their own car;
- are eligible for War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement; or
- are registered blind.

Local authorities have the power to grant badges to other applicants at their discretion. Assessment criteria vary, but eligibility is usually based upon evidence from a physical examination, or a letter from a GP, or both. Over 60 per cent of badges issued are at the LA's discretion. Severe upper limb disabilities, although allowing automatic entitlement to a badge, are included here as "discretionary".

Participation in the survey is non-compulsory, so data are carried forward from previous years when local authorities do not submit a return. Missing components are also estimated using previous years' data.

Table 3: Number of parking badges on issue to disabled people by type and Local Authority for the period ending 31 March 2007

Area	All badges ¹	Rate per 1,000 of the LA population ²	Retired percentage of the population	Badges issued to institutions	Badges issued to individuals		
					All categories	Automatic	Issued at LA's discretion
Total England	2,306,567	45	19	28,517	2,278,050	826,542	1,451,508
London	231,768	31	14	3,793	227,975	80,011	147,964
England excluding London	2,074,799	48	20	24,724	2,050,075	746,531	1,303,544
Inner London	65,252	22	11	1,383	63,869	25,546	38,323
Camden	2,587	11	11	50	2,537	1,055	1,482
Corp London	110	14	15	0	110	41	69
Hackney LB	4,542	22	10	45	4,497	1,151	3,346
Hammersmith	4,989	29	12	79	4,910	2,402	2,508
Haringey	1,604	7	11	0	1,604	1,594	10
Islington	7,435	40	11	114	7,321	3,075	4,246
Kensington and Chelsea	2,613	15	15	60	2,553	1,006	1,547
Lambeth	4,334	16	10	549	3,785	992	2,793
Lewisham	6,898	27	12	151	6,747	3,624	3,123
Newham	4,804	19	10	32	4,772	3,803	969
Southwark	8,011	29	11	185	7,826	860	6,966
Tower Hamlets	5,288	25	9	25	5,263	2,613	2,650
Wandsworth	7,770	28	11	93	7,677	2,425	5,252
Westminster	4,267	18	13	0	4,267	905	3,362
Outer London	166,516	37	16	2,410	164,106	54,465	109,641
Barking and Dagenham	6,428	39	14	37	6,391	4,021	2,370
Barnet	16,491	50	16	170	16,321	2,210	14,111
Bexley	11,420	51	19	92	11,328	3,516	7,812
Brent	7,757	29	14	182	7,575	2,425	5,150
Bromley	8,199	27	20	70	8,129	2,596	5,533
Croydon	9,326	27	15	132	9,194	3,902	5,292
Ealing	9,413	31	13	282	9,131	6,643	2,488
Enfield	13,089	46	16	274	12,815	1,701	11,114
Greenwich	3,481	16	14	49	3,432	1,844	1,588
Harrow	9,695	45	17	77	9,618	2,039	7,579
Havering	11,300	49	21	50	11,250	3,750	7,500
Hillingdon	9,662	39	16	76	9,586	2,216	7,370
Hounslow	7,782	35	13	215	7,567	2,888	4,679
Kingston LB	4,922	31	14	162	4,760	1,162	3,598
Merton	6,664	33	14	199	6,465	1,786	4,679
Redbridge	10,773	42	15	28	10,745	2,408	8,337
Richmond	4,720	26	15	53	4,667	2,996	1,671
Sutton	8,077	43	16	226	7,851	3,351	4,500
Waltham Forest	7,317	33	13	36	7,281	3,011	4,270
North East	135,819	53	20	1,320	134,499	56,429	78,070
Darlington	6,424	64	20	4	6,420	1,477	4,943
Durham	37,069	73	20	202	36,867	11,268	25,599
Gateshead	6,254	33	21	59	6,195	2,911	3,284
Hartlepool	3,869	42	19	46	3,823	2,314	1,509
Middlesbrough	5,309	38	18	105	5,204	2,666	2,538
Newcastle	10,344	38	17	87	10,257	6,995	3,262
North Tyne	9,010	46	20	168	8,842	3,291	5,551
Northumberland	17,031	55	22	273	16,758	6,702	10,056
Redcar and Cleveland	8,381	60	21	57	8,324	3,687	4,637
South Tyneside	7,245	48	21	52	7,193	4,058	3,135
Stockton-on-Tees	10,313	54	18	94	10,219	4,445	5,774
Sunderland	14,570	52	19	173	14,397	6,615	7,782

1 Non-responses or missing category breakdowns have been estimated using previous years' returns.

2 Based on ONS 2007 mid-year population estimates.

Badges issued to individuals

Area	All badges ¹	Rate per	Retired % of the population	Badges issued to institutions	Automatic categories		Issued at LA's discretion
		1000 of the area population ²			All	LA's	
North West	425,755	62	19	5,051	420,704	192,629	228,075
Blackburn with Darwen	9,873	70	15	75	9,798	3,875	5,923
Blackpool	10,557	74	22	132	10,425	6,826	3,599
Bolton	13,842	53	18	114	13,728	6,938	6,790
Bury	10,429	57	18	171	10,258	4,214	6,044
Cheshire	38,308	56	21	386	37,922	13,201	24,721
Cumbria	29,510	59	23	600	28,910	12,459	16,451
Halton	7,692	64	17	276	7,416	4,862	2,554
Knowsley	8,158	54	18	64	8,094	5,986	2,108
Lancashire	69,306	59	20	943	68,363	29,566	38,797
Liverpool	48,319	111	17	304	48,015	19,665	28,350
Manchester	16,768	37	13	332	16,436	6,868	9,568
Oldham	10,532	48	17	71	10,461	5,859	4,602
Rochdale	10,878	53	17	230	10,648	4,518	6,130
Salford	13,057	60	18	74	12,983	5,835	7,148
Sefton	18,621	67	23	234	18,387	10,287	8,100
St. Helens	10,693	60	20	302	10,391	6,393	3,998
Stockport	23,208	83	20	210	22,998	13,779	9,219
Tameside	9,225	43	18	36	9,189	4,761	4,428
Trafford	14,187	67	19	147	14,040	3,101	10,939
Warrington	8,715	45	18	0	8,715	4,766	3,949
Wigan	24,434	80	19	276	24,158	8,474	15,684
Wirral	19,443	63	22	74	19,369	10,396	8,973
Yorkshire & The Humber	214,775	41	19	2,030	212,745	101,833	110,912
Barnsley	13,344	59	19	42	13,302	7,967	5,335
Bradford	15,363	31	16	201	15,362	8,610	6,752
Calderdale	9,073	45	18	157	8,916	3,119	5,797
Doncaster	15,360	53	20	177	15,183	8,657	6,526
East Riding	7,400	22	23	1	7,399	1,225	6,174
Hull City	11,389	44	16	107	11,282	6,287	4,995
Kirklees	17,681	44	17	101	17,580	9,613	7,967
Leeds	11,435	15	17	90	11,345	4,783	6,562
North East Lincolnshire	7,022	44	20	95	6,927	3,017	3,910
North Lincolnshire	3,505	22	21	5	3,500	2,544	956
North Yorkshire	35,621	60	22	487	35,134	11,695	23,439
Rotherham	15,673	62	19	118	15,555	8,583	6,972
Sheffield	20,539	39	18	149	20,390	11,696	8,694
Wakefield	23,680	74	19	150	23,530	11,469	12,061
York City	7,490	39	19	150	7,340	2,568	4,772
East Midlands	192,831	44	19	1,903	190,928	70,326	120,602
Derby City UA	13,391	56	18	110	13,281	6,726	6,555
Derbyshire	48,315	64	21	441	47,874	10,314	37,560
Leicester City UA	5,741	20	14	350	5,391	2,391	3,000
Leicestershire	13,208	21	20	49	13,159	2,987	10,172
Lincolnshire	19,792	29	23	122	19,670	684	18,986
Northamptonshire	30,397	45	17	275	30,122	9,396	20,726
Nottingham	13,221	46	14	63	13,158	6,209	6,949
Nottinghamshire	47,025	61	20	468	46,557	31,333	15,224
Rutland UA	1,741	45	22	25	1,716	286	1,430
West Midlands	260,681	48	19	2,966	257,715	93,559	164,156
Birmingham	43,629	43	16	858	42,771	16,583	26,188
Coventry	13,253	43	17	95	13,158	6,482	6,676
Dudley	18,357	60	21	440	17,917	4,885	13,032
Herefordshire	3,061	17	24	48	3,013	1,159	1,854
Sandwell	17,276	60	18	275	17,001	7,044	9,957
Shropshire	13,444	46	23	145	13,299	6,186	7,113
Solihull	11,116	55	21	10	11,106	3,767	7,339
Staffordshire	49,783	60	21	509	49,274	17,049	32,225
Stoke-on-Trent	5,322	22	19	40	5,282	2,745	2,537
Telford UA	7,688	48	17	64	7,624	3,841	3,783
Walsall	11,337	45	20	80	11,257	4,475	6,782
Warwickshire	29,711	56	20	163	29,548	5,124	24,424
Wolverhampton	10,012	42	20	111	9,901	5,067	4,834
Worcestershire	26,692	48	21	128	26,564	9,152	17,412

¹ Non-responses or missing category breakdowns have been estimated using previous years' returns.

² Based on ONS 2007 mid-year population estimates.

Area	Badges issued to individuals						
	All badges ¹	Rate per	Retired % of the population	Badges issued to institutions	Automatic		Issued at LA's discretion
		1000 of the area population ²			All categories		
East	254,618	45	20	2,183	252,435	72,037	180,398
Bedfordshire	17,078	42	17	165	16,913	5,078	11,835
Cambridgeshire	28,688	48	18	116	28,572	8,359	20,213
Essex	61,632	45	21	6	61,626	18,796	42,830
Hertfordshire	47,203	44	18	1,204	45,999	10,829	35,170
Luton	8,089	43	14	37	8,052	1,771	6,281
Norfolk	36,514	43	24	234	36,280	11,134	25,146
Peterborough	6,546	40	17	86	6,460	1,170	5,290
Southend	7,552	47	21	96	7,456	2,069	5,387
Suffolk	34,331	48	22	197	34,134	10,327	23,807
Thurrock	6,985	47	16	42	6,943	2,504	4,439
South East	332,749	40	20	5,510	327,239	82,773	244,466
Bracknell	3,086	27	14	26	3,060	689	2,371
Brighton UA	12,250	48	17	250	12,000	5,900	6,100
Buckinghamshire	15,962	33	19	273	15,689	2,316	13,373
East Sussex	32,750	64	26	750	32,000	8,000	24,000
Hampshire	19,446	15	21	214	19,232	4,011	15,221
Isle of Wight	7,655	55	27	336	7,319	3,323	3,996
Kent	58,540	42	21	113	58,427	18,461	39,966
Medway	10,959	43	16	49	10,910	3,564	7,346
Milton Keynes UA	9,425	41	13	143	9,282	3,901	5,381
Oxfordshire	26,382	42	18	155	26,227	321	25,906
Portsmouth UA	3,169	16	16	41	3,128	2,000	1,128
Reading	4,202	29	14	83	4,119	1,380	2,739
Slough	3,654	30	13	35	3,619	899	2,720
Southampton UA	10,246	44	15	69	10,177	3,631	6,546
Surrey	46,853	43	19	1,850	45,003	8,845	36,158
West Berkshire	5,334	35	17	131	5,203	1,525	3,678
West Sussex	51,663	67	24	871	50,792	11,342	39,450
Windsor and Maidenhead	6,694	47	18	1	6,693	1,601	5,092
Wokingham	4,479	29	16	120	4,359	1,064	3,295
South West	257,571	50	22	3,761	253,810	76,945	176,865
Bath and NE Somerset	6,919	39	20	76	6,843	2,843	4,000
Bournemouth UA	11,249	69	22	129	11,120	3,436	7,684
Bristol	23,255	56	15	457	22,798	8,956	13,842
Cornwall	33,992	64	24	97	33,895	11,199	22,696
Devon	34,761	46	25	1,045	33,716	8,500	25,216
Dorset	23,151	57	28	257	22,894	4,734	18,160
Gloucestershire	27,159	47	21	142	27,017	9,208	17,809
Isles of Scilly	38	18	29	0	38	4	34
North Somerset	11,185	55	23	260	10,925	3,636	7,289
Plymouth UA	14,758	59	19	262	14,496	6,111	8,385
Poole UA	7,692	56	24	56	7,636	1,964	5,672
Somerset	27,115	52	24	418	26,697	7,638	19,059
South Gloucestershire	5,949	23	19	50	5,899	1,199	4,700
Swindon	9,277	49	17	116	9,161	2,947	6,214
Torbay UA	8,751	65	26	92	8,659	3,000	5,659
Wiltshire	12,320	27	21	304	12,016	1,570	10,446

1 Non-responses or missing category breakdowns have been estimated using previous years' returns.

2 Based on ONS 2007 mid-year population estimates.