

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002929
Date 01 November 2018

Blue Badge

Request:

Please could you answer the questions below about your local authority's policies on Blue Badges and the number of applicants your authority receives for Blue Badges?

Blue Badge applications

1. How many Blue Badge applications has your local authority received in 2017?
Please include all Blue Badge applicants (not just those with Parkinson's).
[3,061](#)
2. Of these Blue Badge applications in 2017, please can you tell us:
 - a. How many were rejected?
[37](#)
 - b. How many were issued as a passported benefit from Personal Independence Payments/ Disability Living Allowance awards?
[Moving around - PIP – 377](#)
[Higher Rate Mobility Component of DLA – 1038](#)
3. How many rejected Blue Badge applications resulted in an appeal (or request to review the decision), and how many appeals or reviews were successful?
[We received 8 appeals for 2017 of which:](#)
 - [2 successful](#)
 - [6 unsuccessful](#)
4. Do you record how many of those applications were from people living with Parkinson's or another neurological condition?
[No](#)

If yes, please outline:

 - a. How many applications of people with Parkinson's and/ or a neurological condition were made.
 - b. How many applications of people with Parkinson's and/or a neurological condition were rejected.

Blue Badge policies

5. Does your local authority charge Blue Badge holders to park in any of its car parks?

Yes

If yes, please outline:

- a. The reason the charges were introduced?

With reference to your above question, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
- (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To give you a bit more understanding, parking charges for Disabled Blue badge holders were introduced on city centre car parks prior to 1979 and our electronic records start from 2004. Therefore, to get this information would require a full-scale look into all paper records. This would involve searching for the relevant Committee that held responsibility for fees and charges for car parks which would be stored in our Archives. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

- b. When these charges were introduced, and how much these charges are?
See response to question 5a above.
- c. How many parking bays/car parks are affected?

	Total Spaces	Parking bays available to Disabled Blue Badge Holders	Chargeable
City Centre (Off-street) car parks	2211	59	Yes
City wide (Off-street) car parks	1660	95	No
Pay & Display bays (On-street)	455	455	No
Dedicated Blue badge parking (On-street)	108	108	No

- d. If these charges apply to on-street or off-street parking, or both?
Disabled parking is chargeable on 17 city centre off-street car parks and disabled parking is free of charge on 24 city wide off-street car parks
- Disabled blue badge holders can park free of charge when parked in on-street disable parking bays and On-Street Pay & Display bays.
- e. Was an impact assessment completed before they were introduced?
See response to question 5a above.
- f. If there are there any exemption criteria for these charges, and what these exemption criteria are?
No

- g. If you have a document outlining these charges, and how these charges are publicised. Please include the document in your response?

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access it on our website via the following link:

Car Park charges are advertised on the council's corporate web site:
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/carparks>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

6. What guidance are decision makers using when deciding eligibility for Blue Badges? Please include a copy in your response.
We attach the Pro formas which are used at Desk Based Assessment stage and Mobility Assessment Stage. The criteria which is applied to all applications is set by The Department of Transport and has been interpreted locally into the two types of eligibility criteria taken directly from The Department of Transport:

The 'eligible without further assessment' criteria

People who may be issued with a badge without further assessment are those who are more than two years old and fall within one or more of the following descriptions:

- Receives the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA); or
- Receives 8 points or more under the "moving around" activity of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP); or
- Is registered blind (severely sight impaired); or
- Receives a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS); or
- Has been both awarded a lump sum benefit at tariffs 1-8 of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.

(NOTE: Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) awards are not included in the Type 1 eligibility criteria.

Detailed guidance on proof of entitlement

Provided that the applicant can demonstrate that they satisfy one of the criteria listed above, and can satisfy identity and residency checks, the DfT expects badges to be issued with the minimum of formality in these cases.

Consideration is given if multiple badges have been received in the past. Diagnosis, prognosis and treatment interventions are also considered.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

When individuals do not meet this criteria they are then forwarded for further assessment. This assessment is completed by an Occupational Therapist who completes a mobility assessment under the Department of transport criteria.

Date of DBA /...../ 2018

Blue Badges – OT Specialist Desk Based Assessment Pro-forma

WVBB Number	WVBB
Title	Mr/Mrs/Ms/Master
Name	
DOB	
New or renewal?	

	Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A
Medical letters/ reports provided?			
Medication evidences medical condition(s)?			
Permanent condition as defined by criteria?			
Known To Social Care/ OT service?			

If known to Social Care/ OT Service – please provide brief details

	Most Recent Date
OT - Equipment	
OT - Adaptations	
Welfare Rights	
Social Worker	
Telecare/Sensory Team	

Consideration of applicant's description on mobility form				
Normal	Adequate	Poor	Extremely poor	Other

Date of DBA /...../ 2018

Outcome of DBA	Reasons/ Information to be passed to applicant
Approved Mobility Assessment Refused	
OT Name	Susan H Feavoyour
Date	
Electronic signature	<i>Susan H Feavoyour</i>

Does the applicant have a history of falls (past or present)			
No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes past 3 months <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes 6-12 months <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes 12 months + <input type="checkbox"/>

Health & Disability

Medical conditions (include date of onset or diagnosis, secondary problems) :
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Do they have a medical condition affecting breathing?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Is condition likely to improve?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is applicant pre or post surgery?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If so, when and what surgery:

Medication and dosage:

Documentary evidence checked?	Diagnosis <input type="checkbox"/>	Medication <input type="checkbox"/>
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Disability is:	Permanent <input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent <input type="checkbox"/>
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Mobility Section

Mobility assessment:

Distance walked	Time take
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Describe how the applicant walked

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Walking aid used:

Shortness of breath:	On exertion <input type="checkbox"/>	When seated <input type="checkbox"/>
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Reported pain severity 1 -10 (1 none – 10 severe)
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1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Type of pain:	Dull <input type="checkbox"/>	Ache <input type="checkbox"/>	Stabbing <input type="checkbox"/>	Burning <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
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Reported onset:	Walking <input type="checkbox"/>	Standing <input type="checkbox"/>	Sitting <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
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Location of pain:

Duration:	Constant <input type="checkbox"/>	Intermittent <input type="checkbox"/>	Occasional <input type="checkbox"/>
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(To put a cross in the box double click the box a Check box form field option box will be displayed. Double click on the button alongside either "not checked" (no X) "Checked" (will put a X in the box)

Scoring Section

Distance Walked	Score	
Observed to walk a minimum of 80 metres with nil or minimal difficulty.	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk between 30 and 80 metres but demonstrates moderate difficulty walking - for example, very slow pace, poor balance or severe pain.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk with very considerable difficulty, or unable to walk 30 metres or swinging through two elbow crutches (Permanent disability only).	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

Walking speed & Stride <i>(As per DfT Guidelines)</i>			
Observed to walk with a Brisk Pace <i>>90 metres per minute</i>	0		<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk with a Normal, <i>61-90 metres per minute</i>	0		<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk with a Slow pace, <i>40-60 metres per minute</i>	1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk with Very Slow pace <i><40 metres per minute</i>	2		<input type="checkbox"/>

Manner of walking – Gait		
Observed to walk and talk without altered posture, gait, coordination, and no balance problems. Can keep good pace, no rest breaks required.	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk and talk with or without walking equipment, may have balance problems May have slight limp. Can walk and talk, No rest breaks taken.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk and talk with or without walking equipment Reports balance problems and/or altered gait, posture. Difficulty walking and talking, may take rest break.	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to walk and talk, presents as very frail and reports fatigue and/or heavy legs. Reports balance problems and fear of falling and there is evidence of falls May have limited weight bearing through one or both legs. Limited standing tolerance. May have altered gait and or posture (e.g. kyphosis).	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed to be unable or virtually unable to walk and talk. Needs assistance out of chair, altered gait and posture, poor balance. Needs escort when walking outside of the home and may also have limited weight bearing ability on one or both legs. May also use wheelchair indoors and /or outdoors. May report several falls in the past 3 months.	4	<input type="checkbox"/>

Managing Steps & Stairs		
Observed/Reports to ascend / descend internal/external stairs without difficulty.	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed/Reports to ascend / descend internal/external stairs, alternate steps, use of rail/walking equipment, signs of discomfort no stops during or at the top.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed/Reports to ascend / descend internal/external stairs at slow pace, one step at a time, dependent on rail/walking equipment for support, may take rest break during or when completed activity.	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Reports unable or virtually unable to manage stairs / steps at home or community. Rest break required during and following completion. Has had to move into level accommodation or has had stairlift/Through Floor Lift fitted.	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Pain		
No Pain or dull ache reported no rest stop, can walk with assessor. <i>Pain Score 0 to 3</i>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dull ache reported, May take rest stop, unable to keep pace with assessor due to pain. <i>Pain score 4 to 5</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed facial signs of pain, e.g. grimacing, needs standing or seated rest before being able to continue, use of walking aid and or reaching out for support, may need escort. <i>Pain score 6 to 8</i>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed severe pain over short distance, catching breath, difficulty walking and talking. Have excessive distress through pallet change/sweating. Needs standing or seated rest before being able to continue/ or stop the assessment. Observed to be emotional during assessment when reporting pain levels. <i>Pain score 9 to 10</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Breathing		
No observed/reported signs of SOB, or mild SOB, No tight chest reported, able to keep pace and converse with assessor. No rest required.	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed/reported SOB, may not be able to walk and talk, unable to keep pace with assessor, may take rest break.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed a marked increase in SOB, shallow /heavy breathing or reports some chest tightness when walking at own pace, resolves after brief standing or seated rest break and able to continue. Virtually unable to walk and talk.	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observed severe SOB, unable to walk without wheezing, coughing, tight chest, dizziness or feeling faint. Unable to walk and talk when walking at own pace Reaching for support, needing to stop for standing or seated rest break Unable to complete required distance due to severe breathlessness Medication required whilst walking e.g. GTN spray or inhalers	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any additional factors the Assessor considers relevant to the mobility difficulties of the Blue Badge applicant		
<i>Detail below and score as you feel applicable.</i>		
	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

(To put a cross in the box double click the box a Check box form field option box will be displayed. Double click on the button alongside either "not checked" (no X) "Checked" (will put a X in the box)

The Decision/Outcome of the Clinic Assessment:

Outcome of Blue Badge Application:

Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Score (10 and above)		Not Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/>	Score (0 to 9)		
Meets DfT guidelines for Blue Badge due to: <i>permanent and substantial disability and has been observed to be unable or virtually unable to walk without excessive difficulty/discomfort up to a distance of 80m.</i>				Does not meet DfT guidelines for blue badge: <i>does not have sufficient proof of permanent and substantial disability and is able to walk without limitations over a distance of 80m.</i>				
Clinical reasoning/summary of Assessment findings								
<i>(Therapist to provide detailed justification for the final decision)</i>								
<p>DBA needed at renewal? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>								
Assessed by:								
Designation:								
Date:								

(To put a cross in the box double click the box a Check box form field option box will be displayed.
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