

Access to the Blue Badge Parking Scheme

This is a parking concession scheme designed to help people with either severe mobility problems, registered blind or severe disabilities in both upper limbs by allowing them to park close to shops, public buildings and any other places you may wish to visit.

A car displaying a blue badge should not be towed away or wheel clamped if it is displaying a current blue badge. The badge does not apply to parking on private roads.

Where can you park? The scheme allows cars displaying a blue badge occupied by a disabled person, either as a driver or passenger to park. The vehicle can be parked without charge or time limit at street parking meters and at pay and display meters. The vehicle may also be parked without time limit in streets where otherwise waiting is allowed for limited periods only. The restriction is usually a maximum of 3 hours in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There is no time limit in Scotland. The vehicle may also be parked on single or double yellow lines providing the disabled person actually leaves the vehicle and the vehicle is not causing an obstruction.

The scheme applies throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the exception of the city of London.

Do You Qualify? You do if you receive any of the following:

- The higher rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance.
- A War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement.
- You use a motor vehicle supplied by a government health department.
- You are Registered Blind.
- You drive regularly and have a severe disability in both arms preventing you turning a steering wheel by hand.
- You have a permanent disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.
- You have a small child under the age of two who has significant health care needs requiring access to heavy or emergency equipment.

Congestion Charging Exemption Exemption from congestion charging in central London is available for Blue Badge holders for an initial £10 administration fee if you apply to the Congestion Charging office. Vehicles with an exempt disabled class road tax disc are automatically exempt (providing the vehicle is registered at the DVLA in Swansea).

Applying for a Blue Badge Parking Permit Your Local Authority is responsible for issuing Blue Badge Parking Permits. The following link will let you enter details of where you live and then take you to your Local Authority website where you can find out more and / or apply online www.direct.gov.uk

NB If you have any difficulty obtaining a Blue Badge or if it has been refused please contact the Helpline at the Dystonia Society on 0845 458 6322 they may be able to help you.

Important Note

The contents of these Information Sheets are provided only as information and are in no way intended to replace the advice of a qualified medical practitioner or professional government advisor. The Society strongly advises anyone viewing this material to seek qualified advice on all matters relating to their treatment and / or circumstances. Furthermore, rapid advances in medicine and changes to government legislation may cause information contained in the Information Sheets to become outdated.