

Blue Badge applications - frequently asked questions

1. How many Blue Badges are currently active in Leicestershire?

As of July 2026, the latest count shows 41,501 live badges

2. How many Blue Badge applications are approved each year?

Recent approved application totals were:

- 2022: 13,891
- 2023: 14,573
- 2024: 16,061
- 2025: 16,540

3. How many Blue Badge applications are refused each year?

Recent declined application totals were:

- 2022: 361
- 2023: 615
- 2024: 981
- 2025: 1,270

4. What are the most common reasons for refusing an application?

The most frequently recorded refusal reason is that the applicant did not meet the eligibility criteria. Other reasons include:

- Not resident in the local authority area
- Not meeting hidden disability criteria
- Duplicate applications
- Withdrawn applications
- Failure to provide evidence
- No further action from the customer
- Fraudulent applications

5. How many Blue Badges are issued under hidden disability criteria?

The number of badges issued under hidden disability criteria were:

- 2024/25: 885
- 2025/26: 828

6. Does the council record specific medical conditions such as ADHD or anxiety?

No. The council records eligibility categories (for example, Walking, Hidden Disability, PIP/DLA) rather than specific medical conditions.

7. How are applicants with hidden or non-visible disabilities assessed?

Applications are assessed based on the severity, impact, and duration of the condition. Assessors consider supporting evidence and the impact of the disability on undertaking journeys. Specific conditions do not have separate assessment rules.

8. What is 'Overwhelming Psychological Distress' (OPD)?

Assessors do not use a single scoring test for OPD. Instead, they assess evidence relating to the impact of a person's condition during journeys and make a judgement based on application information and supporting documentation.

9. Do medical recommendations automatically qualify someone for a Blue Badge?

No. Medical evidence supports an application, but eligibility is determined by whether the applicant meets the statutory criteria. The local authority makes the final decision based on all available evidence.

10. How many appeals are received and overturned?

Examples from recent years include:

Year	Appeals Received	Appeals Overturned
2023	100	15
2024	289	39
2025	157	60
2026 (to 15 May)	68	17

11. How many reports of Blue Badge misuse are received?

Reported misuse cases were:

- 2023: 80
- 2024: 92
- 2025: 46

12. What enforcement action is taken for Blue Badge misuse?

The council works with district and borough councils through Civil Parking Enforcement. Actions may include issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), investigations and warnings. The council also participates in National Fraud Initiative work to help detect misuse. 66

13. How many Blue Badge-related PCNs are issued?

Recent PCN totals were:

- 2023: 3,384

- 2024: 3,492
- 2025: 3,082

These relate to vehicles parked in disabled bays without clearly displaying a valid Blue Badge. 6

14. Does the council seize Blue Badges due to misuse?

Available records show:

- 2024: 1 badge confiscated
- 2025: 0 badges confiscated

15. Does the council record vehicle or driver information linked to Blue Badges?

No. Blue Badges are issued to eligible individuals rather than vehicles. The council does not record vehicle makes, models, ownership types, nominated drivers or relationships to applicants.

16. Can a Blue Badge be used in any vehicle?

Yes. A Blue Badge may be used in any vehicle in which the badge holder is travelling or is being picked up or dropped off.