



Department for Transport

Blue Badge Scheme Statistics, England: 2018

About this release

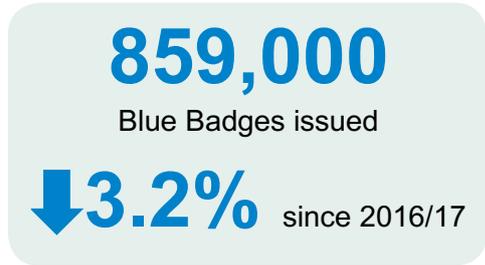
'Blue Badges' are parking badges for disabled people issued by local authorities to individuals and organisations concerned with the care of disabled people. Upon issue, a Blue Badge is valid for a period of three years. Blue Badges held refers to badges on issue as at 31 March.

These statistics are derived from the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) online database and are based on the number of badges held as at 31 March 2018 and issued each year as well as badges reported as lost or stolen. Statistics regarding the number of prosecutions for misuse of the Blue Badge Scheme are derived from the Annual Blue Badge Survey.



The number of valid Blue Badges issued in England decreased by 3.2% in the year ending March 2018.

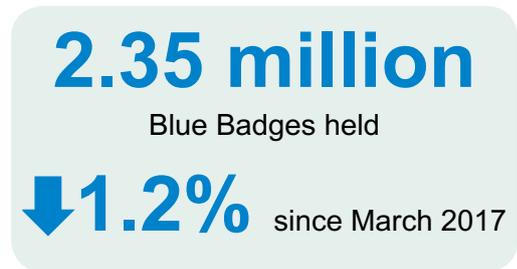
There were 859,000 Blue Badges issued between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, a decrease of 28,000 Blue Badges (3.2%) when compared with the previous year.



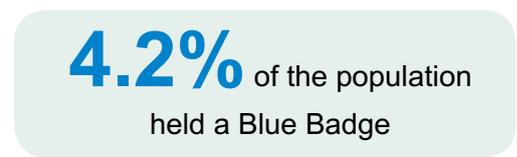
In this publication

Summary	2
Blue Badges issued	
Nationally	2
Regionally	3
Lost/stolen badges	4
Blue Badges held	
Nationally	4
By type	5
Regionally	6
Blue Badge prosecutions	7
Background notes	8

There were 2.35 million Blue Badges held in England as at 31 March 2018, a decrease of 28,000 Blue Badges (1.2%) since 2017.



As at 31 March 2018, 4.2% of the population held a Blue Badge, similar to the previous year.



Summary

Table 1 summarises the latest number of Blue Badges issued in 2017/18 and the number of badges held as at 31 March 2018 in each region.

Table 1: Summary of Blue Badge figures (2017/18) compared with the previous year (2016/17)

	Thousands, % change since 2016/17			
	Badges issued in 2017/18		Badges held as at 31 March 2018	
England	859	↓ -3.2%	2,354	↓ -1.2%
North East	49	↓ -3.8%	134	↓ -0.9%
North West	129	↓ -3.6%	359	↓ -1.9%
Yorkshire and The Humber	89	↓ -2.9%	243	↓ -0.5%
East Midlands	85	↑ 1.4%	232	↑ 0.4%
West Midlands	95	↑ 2.5%	261	↓ -0.1%
East of England	98	↓ -2.3%	262	↓ -0.9%
London	84	↓ -4.7%	236	↓ -1.7%
South East ¹	130	↓ -9.2%	353	↓ -1.7%
South West	101	↓ -2.4%	274	↓ -2.4%

¹ Due to known variation around when local authorities issue blue badges care should be taken when comparing figures across years.

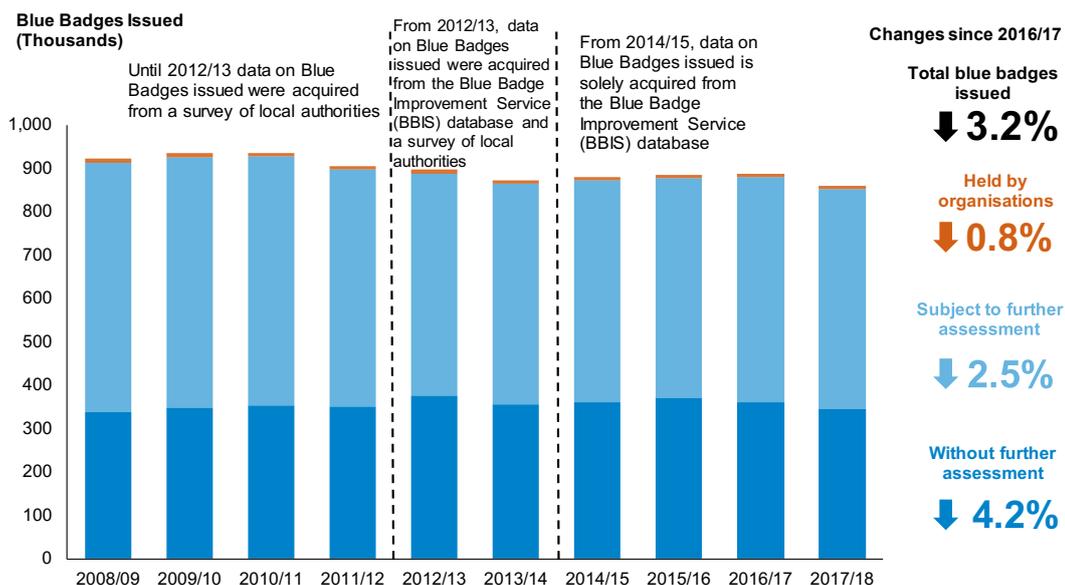
Eligibility for a Blue Badge

There are two main categories for eligibility for a Blue Badge, those that are eligible “**without further assessment**” (previously known as the automatic criteria) and those that are eligible “**subject to further assessment**” (previously known as the discretionary criteria). Badges are also issued to organisations for use in vehicles when used to carry disabled people who would themselves be eligible for a badge. Upon issue, a Blue Badge is valid for a period of three years. For further details, please refer to the [notes and definitions](#).

Blue Badges issued in 2017/18

There were 859,000 Blue Badges issued in 2017/18, a decrease of 28,000 badges (3.2%) on the previous year. The number of Blue Badges issued is at the lowest level since the 2010/11 peak, which was the year before the Blue Badge application process was modified.

Chart 1: Blue Badges issued annually: England, since 2008/09 (DIS011)



Without further assessment

(previously known as the automatic criteria)

Persons meeting one of these criteria are automatically entitled to a Blue Badge:

- ▶ receiving the higher rate of the Disability Living Allowance/ scores 8 points or more under the “Moving Around” criteria of the Personal Independence Payment;
- ▶ receiving a War Pensioner’s Mobility Supplement;
- ▶ being registered blind; or
- ▶ being on the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation scheme.

For further details, please refer to the [notes and definitions](#).

Chart 1 shows that out of the 859,000 Blue Badges issued in 2017/18, 507,000 (59%) were subject to further assessment, 345,000 (40%) were issued without further assessment and 8,000 (1%) to organisations. The proportion of badges issued subject to further assessment is still below the peak of 62% seen in 2008/09.

Out of the badges issued without further assessment, 94% were issued to those who met the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) or those who scored 8 points or more on the “Moving Around” criteria of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The remaining badges were issued to those registered blind (5%) and those on War Pensioner’s Mobility supplement or Armed Forces and Reserved Forces Compensation scheme (1%).

2011/12 Blue Badge application process change

An individual applying because of a ‘permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or considerable difficulty in walking’ (in the badges issued subject to further assessment category) requires confirmation by an independent medical assessor and not the applicant’s GP.

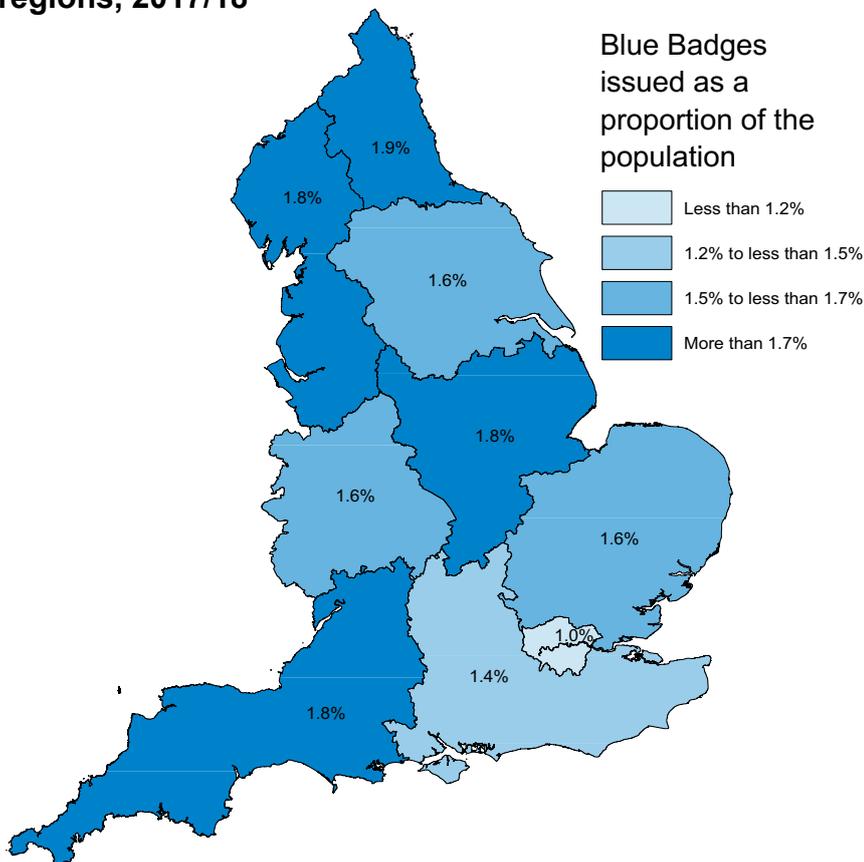
Detailed statistics

on Blue Badges issued in England in 2017/18 by region, category and local authority can be found in tables [DIS0107](#), [DIS0108](#) and [DIS0111](#) respectively.

Blue Badges issued by region in 2017/18

Map 1 shows the number of Blue Badges issued as a proportion of the population in each region in England. The regions with the most Blue Badges issued as a proportion of their population were North East (1.9%) and South West (1.8%). The region with the lowest proportion was London (1.0%).

Map 1: Blue Badges issued as a proportion of the population: English regions, 2017/18



**England:
1.5%**

of Blue Badges issued as a proportion of the population

Data Source

Regional level figures used for this map are calculated from the number of badges issued from BBIS data and from the ONS 2017 mid-year population estimates.

Lost and stolen Blue Badges 2017/18

In England, 15,685 badges in 2017/18 were reported to be lost or stolen. Of these, 73% were reported to be lost and 27% were stolen.

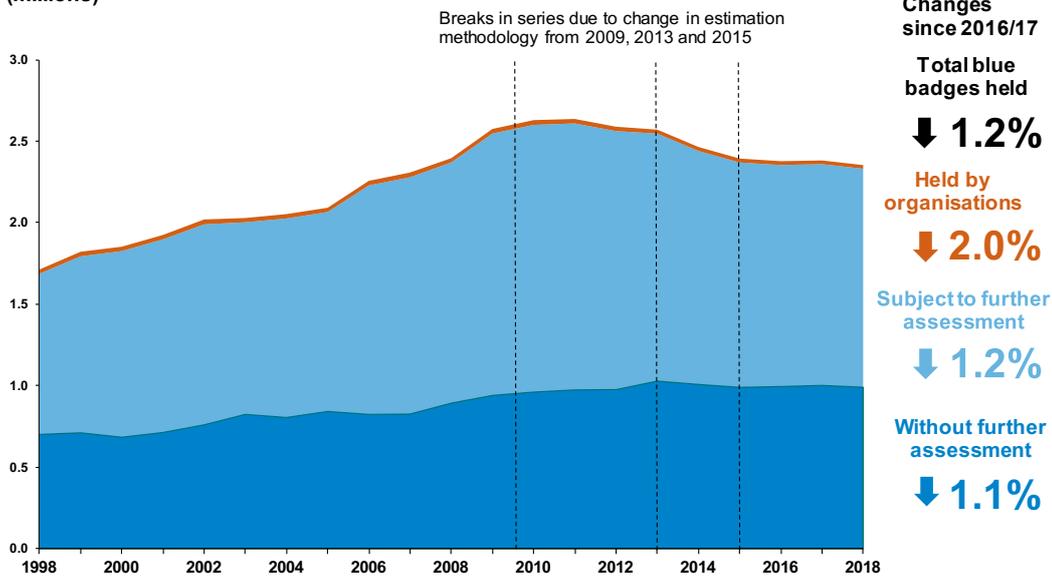
73% of the Badges reported lost or stolen were lost

Blue Badges held as at 31 March 2018

There were 2.35 million valid Blue Badges held as at 31 March 2018, a decrease of 1.2% (28,000 badges) when compared with the previous year. This decrease continues the declining trend in the number of badges held since 2012, with the exception of a small increase in 2017.

Chart 2: Blue Badges held: England, annually since March 1998 ([DIS0101](#))

Blue Badges held (millions)



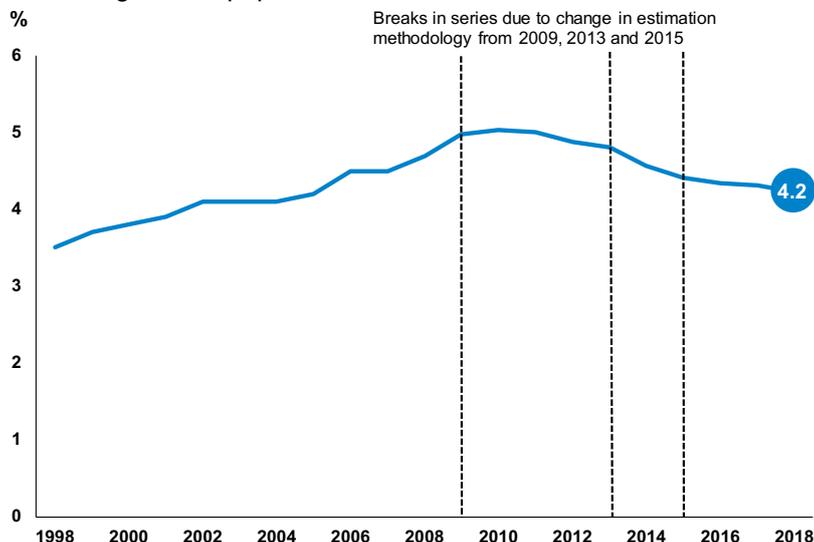
Detailed statistics

on Blue Badges held by category in England can be found in table [DIS0101](#).

On 31 March 2018, 4.2% of the population in England held a valid Blue Badge, similar to the previous year. In 2010, the proportion was 5% (see chart 3).

Chart 3: Percentage of population that hold a Blue Badge: England, annually since March 1998 ([DIS0102](#))

Percentage of the population



Detailed statistics

on Blue Badges held in England as proportion of the population and retired population can be found in table [DIS0102](#).

In 2017/18, 1.94 million people (3.5% of the population in England) were entitled to a Blue Badge without further assessment (previously known as automatically entitled). Out of the 1.94 million people who were eligible for a Blue Badge without further assessment, 51% held a Blue Badge.



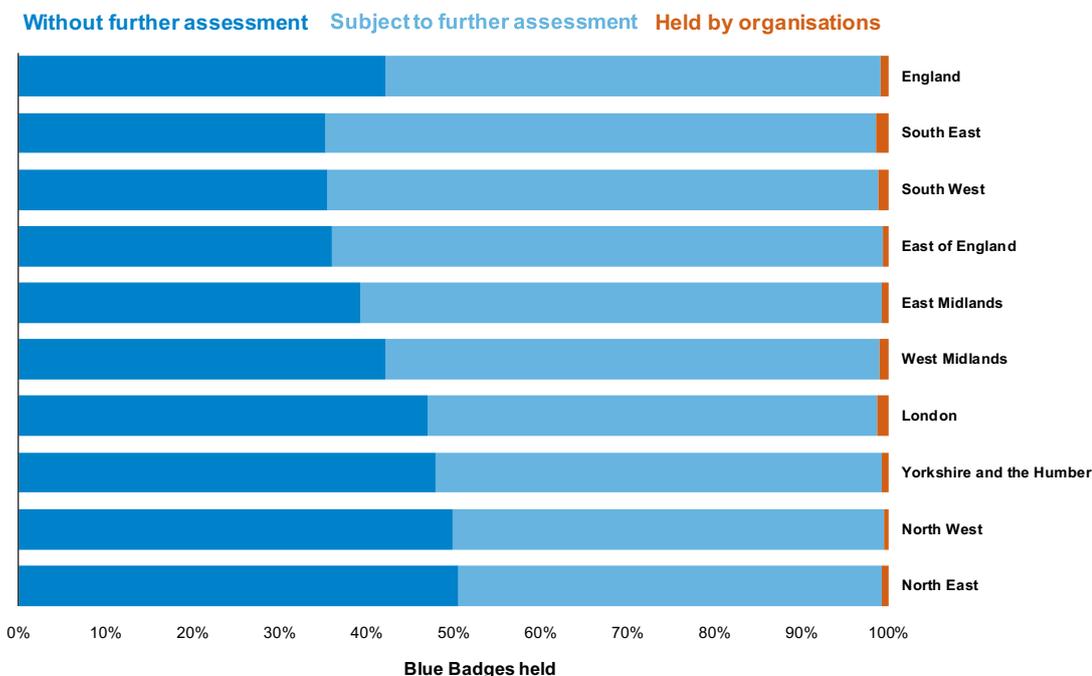
Detailed statistics

on Blue Badges held without further assessment with population measures can be found in [DIS0103](#).

Blue Badges held by type and region as at 31 March 2018

Of the badges held, 57% were subject to further assessment, 42% without further assessment and 1% held by organisations (see chart 4). The region with the highest proportion of badges held without further assessment was the North East (51%), and the lowest was the South East (35%), as shown in chart 4.

Chart 4: Blue Badges held by category: English regions, March 2018 ([DIS0104](#))



Detailed statistics

on Blue Badges held by category and region in England can be found in table [DIS0104](#).

Further Statistics

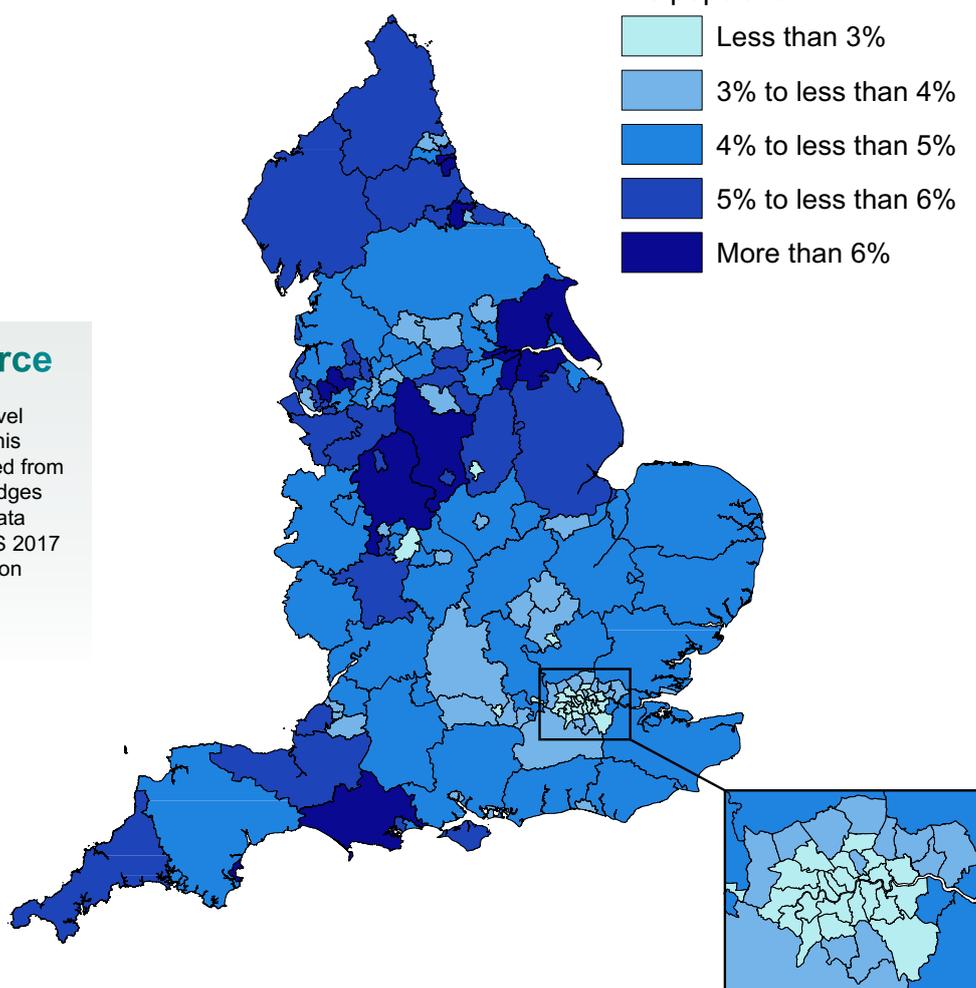
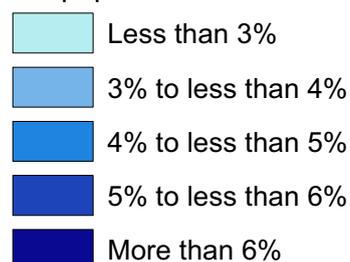
These statistics cover England only. Statistics on disabled parking badges held by individuals living in Scotland can be found [here](#).

Blue Badges held by region and local authority as at 31 March 2018

Map 2 shows the number of Blue Badges held as a proportion of the population in each local authority in England. The region with the most Blue Badge holders as a proportion of their population was North East (5.1%). The region with the lowest proportion was London (2.7%), which also had the lowest regional proportion of retired people. Similarly, metropolitan areas such as Birmingham (2.9%) and Manchester (3.2%) also had comparatively low proportions of Blue Badge holders. See table 2 for the highest and lowest proportions of Blue Badges held by local authority.

Map 2: Blue Badges held as a proportion of the population: England, Local Authorities, March 2018 (DIS0108)

Blue Badges held as a proportion of the population



Data Source

Local authority level figures used for this map are calculated from the number of badges held from BBIS data and from the ONS 2017 mid-year population estimates.

Table 2: Top and bottom 5 local authorities for badges held as a proportion of the population: England, March 2018 (DIS0108)

Local Authority	%	Local Authority	%
St. Helens	6.8	Tower Hamlets	1.8
Dorset	6.6	Westminster	1.8
Sunderland	6.6	City of London	1.7
North Lincolnshire	6.5	Lambeth	1.7
Staffordshire	6.4	Kensington and Chelsea	1.5

Blue Badge prosecutions in 2017/18

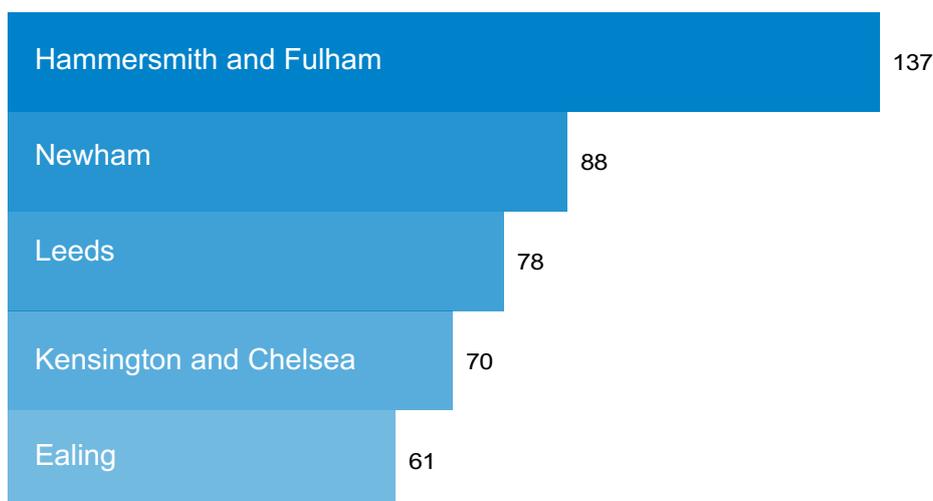
The annual Blue Badge survey, completed by local authorities in England, collates data on whether authorities have a policy for prosecuting misuse of the Blue Badge scheme and the number of prosecutions that occurred between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. 59% of local authorities (89 authorities) in England stated they have a policy, a 5% increase from last year (85 authorities). Of those without a policy, 54% are planning on implementing one in the future.

In England, there was a total of 1,215 individuals prosecuted in 2017/18. These prosecutions occurred in 65% of local authorities with a prosecution policy. The remaining 35% had no prosecutions despite having a policy. There were 760 prosecutions in London (63% of the total number of prosecutions made in England).

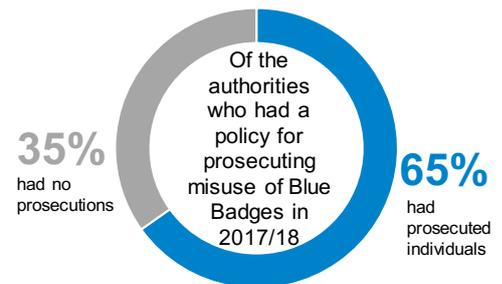
Similar to last year, the majority of prosecutions (99%) in England were targeted at a non-badge holder using another persons badge.

Across England, the largest number of prosecutions were made by Hammersmith and Fulham (137) and Newham (88). Chart 5 shows the local authorities with the highest number of prosecutions.

Chart 5: Highest number of prosecutions: England, Local Authorities, 2017/18 ([DIS0301](#))



59% of local authorities had a policy to prosecute misuse of the Blue Badge scheme in 2017/18



99% of prosecutions were non-badge holders using another persons badge

Related information

Information on prosecutions for abuse of the Blue Badge scheme in each local authority in 2017/18 were collected in the annual Department for Transport Blue Badge prosecution survey. The data on prosecutions for the abuse of the Blue Badge scheme are in [DIS0301](#). The number of lost and stolen badges have been updated and are also available in table [DIS0301](#). The figures in this table fall outside the scope of National Statistics.

Uses and users of these statistics

These statistics are collected to provide information on disabled parking badges in England. The statistics are used to monitor trends in the number of badges held and the number of badges issued in the year. Within the Department for Transport (DfT) they are used as background information in the development of Blue Badge policy and to answer public enquiries. In recent years the data has been used in modelling the impact of reforms to the system, and they are likely to be used in monitoring the impacts of any changes. Outside DfT, users are likely to include local authorities and organisations representing disabled motorists.

Data source

In 2018, data about Blue Badges held and issued were collected directly from the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS). Data covers 100% of local authorities and has done so since 2012/13. BBIS is a service that has been available to all local authorities in England since 1 January 2012. It provides a number of core services, including a central database of all Blue Badges on issue. For further information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/blue-badge-statistics-from-2012-onwards>.

A secondary data source, completed by all local authorities in England, was collected from the annual Blue Badge survey. This survey collates figures on the number of prosecutions for misuse of the Blue Badge Scheme. For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-parking-badges-statistics-guidance>.

Validation of figures

In previous years, data about Blue Badges were collected by surveying local authorities in England. This is the fourth year that BBIS was the sole source for data on badges held. Further data validation is carried out for example comparing related data items (badges issued in one year should be around a third of total badges held) and year-on-year figures for each area.

Background notes

Full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics can be found in the 'notes and guidance' section here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-parking-badges-statistics-guidance>.

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs.

Details of ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-parking-badges-statistics-pre-release-access-list>.

The next Blue Badge Scheme Statistics are due to be published in Winter 2019.



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