

Disabled Parking Badge Statistics

Statistical Release

17 November 2011

Department for
Transport

Blue Badge Scheme Statistics 2010/11

This publication presents statistics on parking badges for disabled people ("Blue Badges") in England, including numbers of valid badges, applications and medical assessments. Upon issue a Blue Badge is valid for three years.

The data are derived from the department's annual survey of local authorities issuing Blue Badges.



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The key findings from Blue Badge Statistics 2010/11 include:

- The estimated number of valid Blue Badges held on 31 March 2011 was 2.56 million, compared to 2.55 million in 2010, an increase of 0.6 per cent.
- On 31 March 2011 4.9 per cent of the English population held a valid Blue Badge, unchanged from 2010.
- Of valid badges held on 31 March 2011, 36 per cent were issued under the 'without further assessment' criteria, 63 per cent were issued under the 'with further assessment' criteria and 1 per cent were issued to organisations. These proportions have remained broadly similar since 1997.
- The estimated number of Blue Badges issued during the year 2010/11 was 939 thousand.
- The estimated number of new (as opposed to renewal) applications for Blue Badges decreased from 418 thousand to 395 thousand between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

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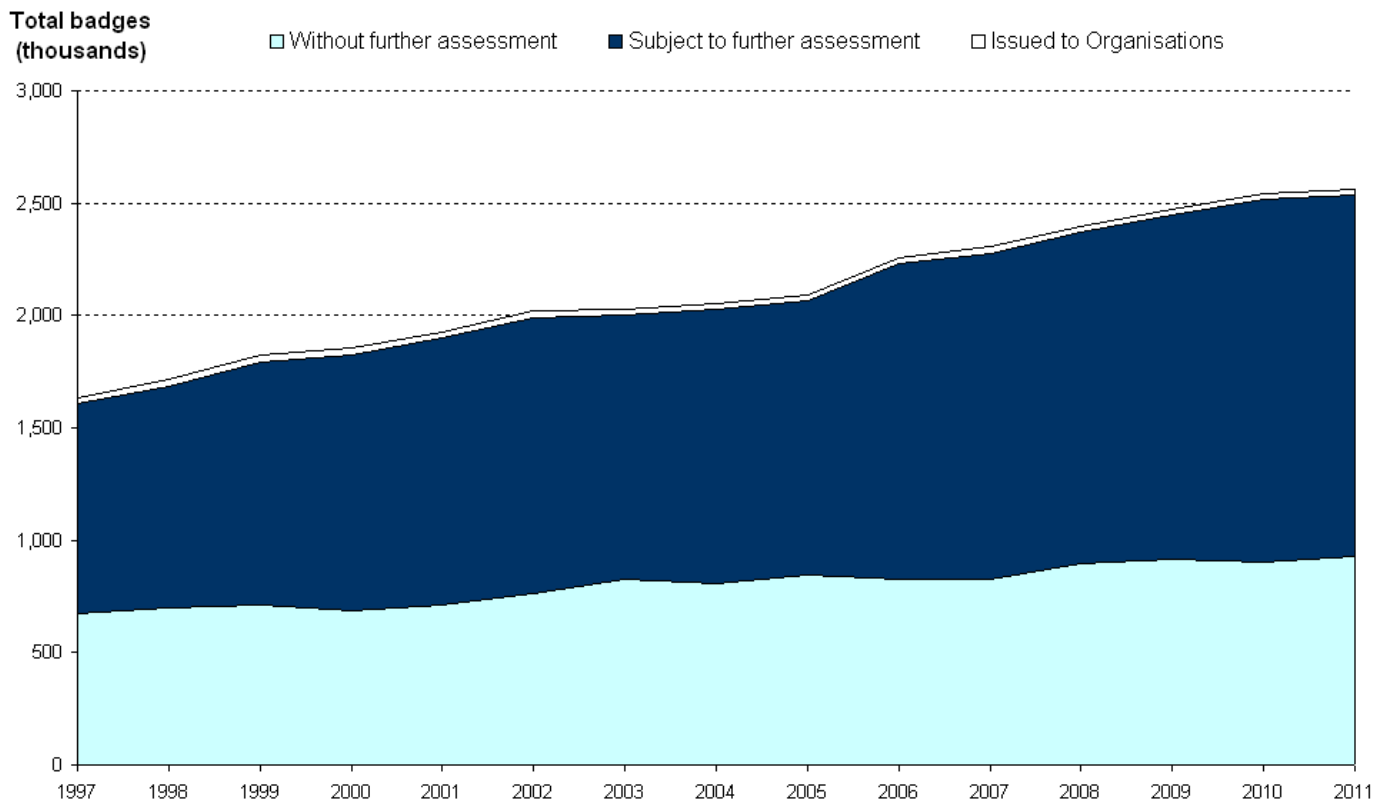
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1. Valid Blue Badges at 31 March 2011

- The estimated number of valid Blue Badges held at 31 March 2011 was 2.56 million, compared to 2.55 million in 2010, an increase of 0.6 per cent.
- Of the 2011 total, 36 per cent were issued without further assessment, 63 per cent were subject to further assessment and 1 per cent were issued to organisations. These proportions have remained broadly similar since 1997.

Valid Blue Badges held: England, annually from 1997 (Table DIS0101)



- On 31 March 2011, 4.9 per cent of the English population held a valid Blue Badge, unchanged from 2010.
- On 31 March 2011, 3 per cent of the English population were automatically entitled to a Blue Badge, similar to previous years. 58 per cent of those automatically entitled to a badge held one in 2011, compared to 57 per cent in 2010.
- On 31 March 2011, the regions with the most Blue Badge holders as a proportion of the entire population were East Midlands, North West, North East, and South West (all around 6 per cent), and the region with the smallest proportion of badge holders was London (3.2 per cent).

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “Valid Blue Badges held overall” can be found on the blue badge web tables¹, table numbers [DIS0101 to DIS0106](#), and [DIS0108 to DIS0110](#).

2. Blue Badges issued during 2010/11

- The estimated number of Blue Badges issued during the year 2010/11 (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011) was 939 thousand.
- Of this total, 358 thousand were issued without further assessment, 571 thousand were issued subject to further assessment, and 9 thousand were issued to organisations.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “Valid Blue Badges issued within the year” can be found on the blue badge web tables¹, table numbers [DIS0107 to DIS0108](#).

3. New applications for Blue Badges

- The estimated number of new (as opposed to renewal) applications for Blue Badges decreased from 418 thousand to 395 thousand between 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- Over the same period, total new applications accepted decreased from 349 thousand to 324 thousand. This meant the overall acceptance rate for new applications decreased from 84 to 82 per cent.

Detailed statistics (tables and charts) on “New and renewed disabled parking badges applications” can be found on the Bus Statistics web tables¹, table numbers [DIS0201, DIS0206 and DIS0207](#).

4. Strengths and weaknesses of the data

Data about Blue Badges are collected from local authorities in England. The survey is not compulsory and in each year some authorities do not provide figures.

Data provided by local authorities can vary in quality between authorities and from year to year. Local authorities use different systems to record these data, and follow different procedures and practices. This means that some authorities are unable to provide responses for all of the questions in the survey.

Where no data are available for an authority, or where some individual items of data are not available, data are estimated to produce aggregate totals at the England or regional level. Data are estimated using figures provided in previous or future years, or based on partial data supplied by an authority in the current year.

Due to difficulties in obtaining and estimating certain items of data, aggregate totals are not currently produced for some of the areas about which local authorities are asked for information. For certain topics in 2010/11 we have been unable to produce the aggregate totals that were possible last year, due to data quality. This may be partially due to changes in the questionnaire design and will be investigated further.

On occasion, imputations for earlier years can be improved using directly-reported data for later years. Minor revisions to back-data can occur as a result, although trends are rarely affected substantively. Around a quarter of the proportion of the estimate of valid Blue Badges was accounted for by imputation rather than direct measurement for 2010/11.

5. Background notes

1. The web tables give further detail and regional breakdowns of the key results presented in this statistical release and statistics on other related topics. They are available here:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics?post_type=table&series=disabled-parking-badges

2. Full guidance on the methods used to compile these statistics can be found in the 'technical information' section here: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/disabled-parking-badges/>

3. 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.

4. Details of Ministers and officials who receive pre-release access to these statistics up to 24 hours before release can be found here: <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/disabled-parking-badges/pre-release.pdf>

5. The next Blue Badge Scheme Statistics will be published in Autumn 2012.