
Blue Badge Scheme Statistics: 2011/12



Information on Blue Badge Statistics from 2012

This document outlines changes to the Blue Badge statistics, published annually by the Department for Transport, which are likely to result from the introduction of a new system for managing and issuing blue badges.

If you have any queries or would like more information regarding the changes to the Blue Badge statistics please contact parking.data@dft.gsi.gov.uk or 020 7944 3556.

These notes include:

1. Existing data collection methods
2. Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS)
3. Implications of BBIS for data providers
4. Implications of BBIS for data users

1. Existing data collection methods

The Department for Transport currently sends out an annual Blue Badge survey to all local authorities in England. This survey requests information including the number of badges on issue, badges issued during the reporting period (financial year), badge applications, badges reported as lost or stolen, enforcement activities undertaken and the eligibility assessment procedures used by the local authorities. This data is then published on the DfT website in the annual Blue Badge statistics (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/disabled-parking-badges/>).

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.

2. Blue Badge Improvement Service

The Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) is a new 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 and key information on badge holders. Further information on BBIS is available at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/access/blue-badge>. The introduction of BBIS will have implications for data providers and the users of Blue Badge statistics.

3. Implications of BBIS for data providers

Over the next three years, the reporting requirements for local authorities will be significantly reduced as outlined below. Please note that for the reporting periods 2012-13 and 2013-14 the survey will be collected during the summer of 2013 and the summer of 2014 respectively.

Reporting periods 2012-13 and 2013-14

BBIS includes a standard management report that local authorities will be asked to automatically generate and send to the DfT. The report will contain much of the 'in year' data that is currently requested for the Blue Badge statistical publication.

In addition to this, local authorities will still be asked to supply information about the total number of badges on issue to the DfT directly via a reduced statistical return. The BBIS record will only be fully populated in 2015, as Blue Badges remain valid for a three year period. Data on prosecutions for badge misuse will also be requested as this is not captured on BBIS.

The reduced statistical return is available to download here:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/disabled-parking-badges/questionnaire-2013.pdf>

From 2015

BBIS standard management report will generate the vast majority of data that is required for the annual Blue Badge statistical publication. This includes data on both 'in year' badge issue and rolling totals of badges on issue. In the future, the DfT will conduct ad hoc sample surveys in order to collect other Blue Badge information that is currently included in the statistical publication, such as enforcement activities and rejection rates.

Summary timeline of future Blue Badge data collection:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Local Authority Reporting Requirements</i>
2012-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Standard BBIS management report● Significantly reduced annual statistical return to DfT (see link above)
2013-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Standard BBIS management report● Significantly reduced annual statistical return to DfT (see link above)
2014-15 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Standard BBIS management report only● Ad hoc sample surveys

4. Implications of BBIS for data users

BBIS will have an impact on the Blue Badge statistics starting from the 2012-13 publication in summer 2013.

Impact on quality and comparability

In order to ensure that the BBIS standard management report provides timely reliable data for future statistical publications, a sample of reports from local authorities were analysed and compared to past survey data. The report covered periods January - March 2012 only but the analysis showed that the two different data collection methods were consistent and broadly comparable.

Some revisions are likely to occur to the back data as a result of the BBIS database providing more robust data from local authorities. This is because in the past where there has been no data 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. For more details on these imputation methods please see the Background Notes which can be downloaded here:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/series/disabled-parking-badges/documentation.pdf>

Impact on data content and availability

Due to difficulties in the past 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. With the implementation of the BBIS system, it may be possible to produce and publish national aggregates for these areas in future years.

BBIS will capture the following 'in year' badge data:

- Total number of badges issued per annum;
- Number of badges issued to individuals under each of the eligibility criteria;
- Number of badges issued to new (those who have not previously held a badge) and renewal applicants under each of the eligibility criteria;
- Number of badges issued to new and renewal applicants by eligibility assessment method;
- Number of badges issued to organisations per annum;
- Number of cancelled badges by cancellation reason (e.g. stolen / lost / withdrawn for misuse);
- Number of applications that have been made online via the Directgov website.

From 2015, BBIS will provide accurate totals of badges on issue for the above categories. However, BBIS will not capture data on prosecutions or full data on rejection rates. Where this information is required it is intended that this will be collected through ad-hoc sample surveys.

Impact on timeliness of publication

We do not expect BBIS to have a great impact on the timing of the publication of the Blue Badge statistics in 2013. However, due to the reduced burden on data providers, it may be possible to publish earlier in following years.

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