



Department for Transport

Blue Badge Scheme Statistics, England: 2017

About this release

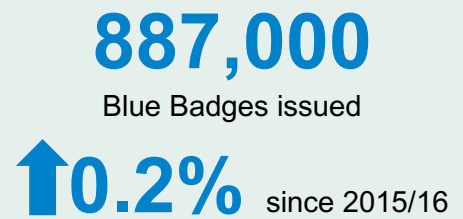
'Blue Badges' are parking badges for disabled people issued by local authorities to individuals and organisations concerned with the care of disabled people. Upon issue, a Blue Badge is valid for a period of three years. Blue Badges held refers to badges on issue as at 31 March.

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 2017 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 increased by 0.2% in the year ending March 2017.

There were 887,000 Blue Badges issued between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, an increase of 2,000 Blue Badges (0.2%) when compared with the previous year.

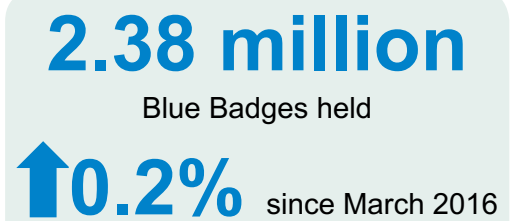


Out of the badges issued without further assessment, 94% were issued to those who met the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disabled Living Allowance or those who scored 8 points or more on the "Moving Around" criteria of the Personal Independence Payment.

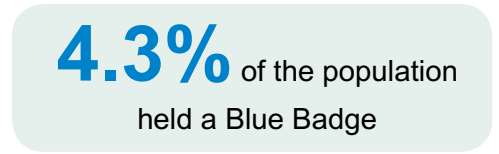
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There were 2.38 million Blue Badges held in England as at 31 March 2017, a 0.2% increase since 2016. This is the first year the number of badges held has increased since reforms to the Blue Badge application process in 2011/12.



As at 31 March 2017, 4.3% of the population held a Blue Badge, similar to the previous year.



Summary

Table 1 summarises the latest number of Blue Badges issued in 2016/17 and the number of badges held as at 31 March 2017 in each region.

Table 1: Summary of Blue Badge figures (2016/17) compared with the previous year (2015/16)

	Thousands, % change since 2015/16			
	Badges issued in 2016/17		Badges held as at 31 March 2017	
England	887	↑ 0.2%	2,382	↑ 0.2%
North East	51	↑ 1.1%	135	↑ 0.5%
North West	133	↓ 0.9%	366	↓ 0.5%
Yorkshire and The Humber	92	↓ 2.7%	244	↓ 0.6%
East Midlands	84	↓ 3.6%	231	↑ 0.3%
West Midlands	92	↓ 4.5%	261	↓ 0.8%
East of England	100	↑ 2.1%	265	↑ 1.7%
London	88	↓ 1.7%	240	↑ 0.2%
South East	143	↑ 9.8%	359	↑ 2.1%
South West	104	↓ 0.5%	281	↓ 1.3%

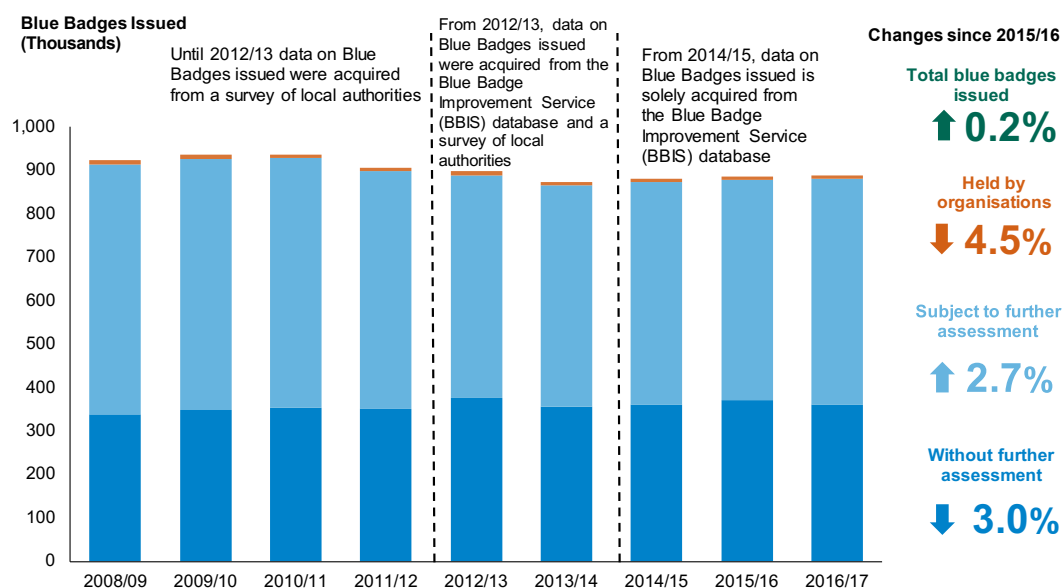
Eligibility for a Blue Badge

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 2016/17

There were 887,000 Blue Badges issued in 2016/17, an increase of 2,000 badges (0.2%) on the previous year. However, the overall trend is flat with the number of Blue Badges issued at a lower level than 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
([DIS0111](#))



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 887,000 Blue Badges issued in 2016/17, 520,000 (59%) were subject to further assessment, 360,000 (41%) were issued without further assessment and 8,000 (1%) to organisations. The proportion of badges issued subject to further assessment has increased but it 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 2016/17 by region, category and local authority can be found in tables [DIS0107](#), [DIS0108](#) and [DIS0111](#) respectively.

England:
1.6%

of Blue Badges issued as a proportion of the population

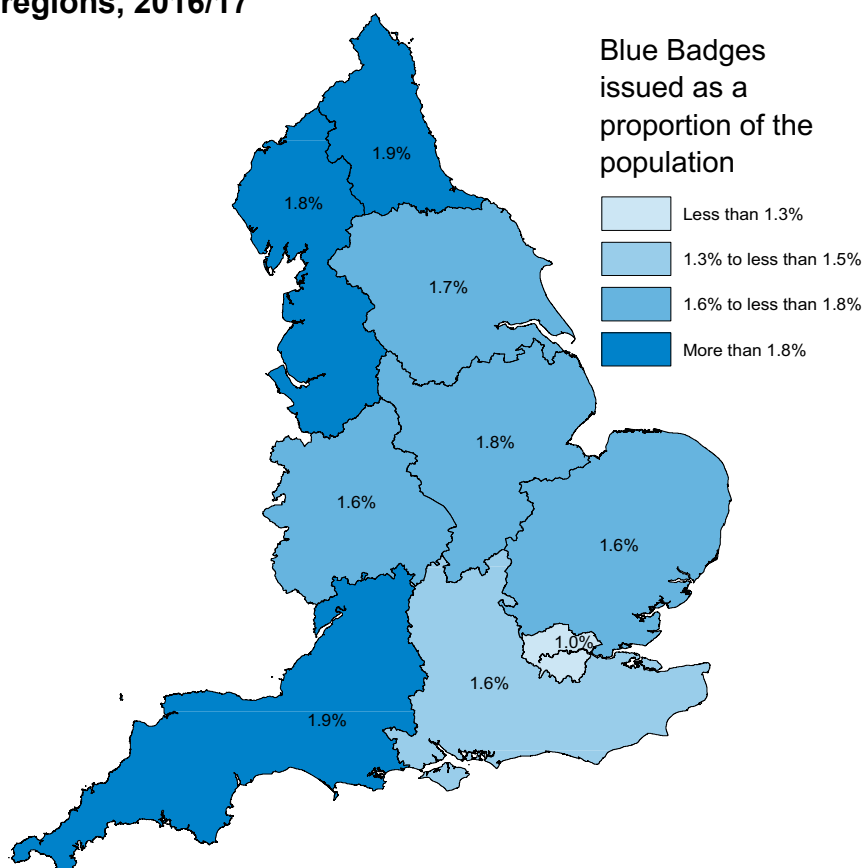
Data Source

Regional level figures used for this map are calculated from the number of badges issued from BBIS data and from the ONS 2016 mid-year population estimates.

Blue Badges issued by region in 2016/17

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 the South West (1.9%) and the North East (1.9%). The region with the lowest proportion was London (1.0%).

Map 1: Blue Badges issued as a proportion of the population: English regions, 2016/17



Lost and stolen Blue Badges 2016/17

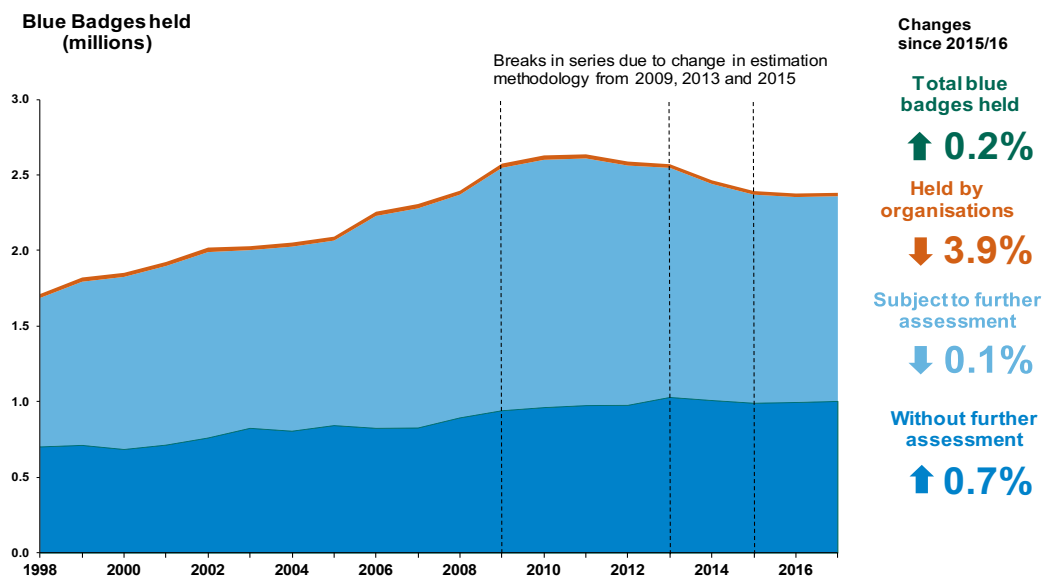
In England, 14,034 badges in 2016/17 were reported to be lost or stolen. Of these, 79% were reported to be lost and 21% were stolen.

79% of the Badges reported lost or stolen were lost

Blue Badges held as at 31 March 2017

There were 2.38 million valid Blue Badges held as at 31 March 2017, an increase of 0.2% (5,000 badges) when compared with the previous year. This increase was mostly due to an increase of 0.7% in badges held without further assessment (see chart 2). This is the first year the number of Blue Badges held has increased since 2010/11 after reforms to the Blue Badge application process took place in 2011/12.

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

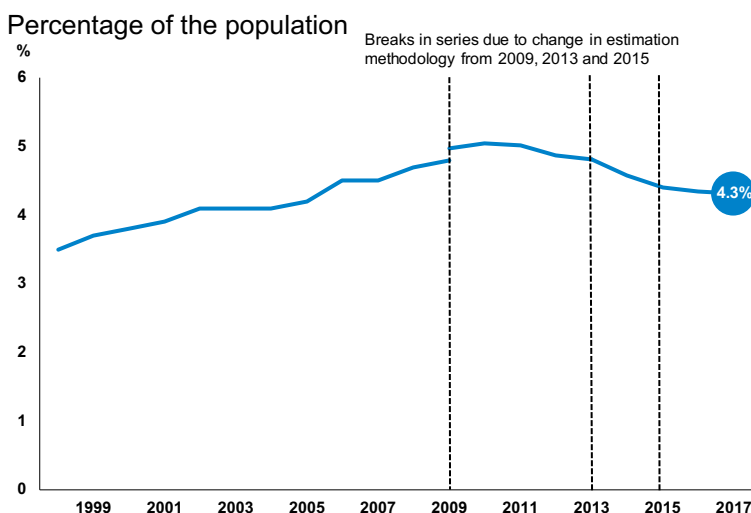


Detailed statistics

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

On 31 March 2017, 4.3% of the population in England held a valid Blue Badge, similar to the previous year. In 2010, the proportion was 5.0% (see chart 3).

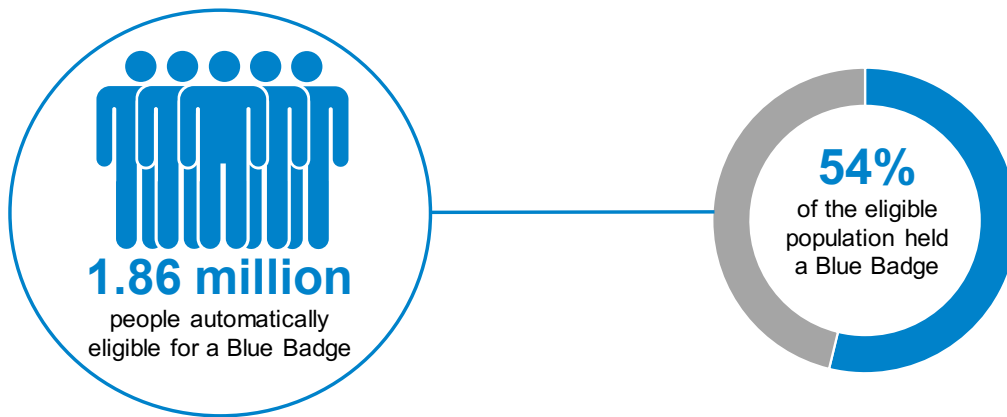
Chart 3: Percentage of population that hold a Blue Badge: England, annually since March 1999 ([DIS0102](#))



Detailed statistics

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

In 2016/17, 1.86 million people (3.4% of the population in England) were entitled to a Blue Badge without further assessment (previously known as automatically entitled). Out of the 1.86 million people who were eligible for a Blue Badge without further assessment, 54% held a Blue Badge.



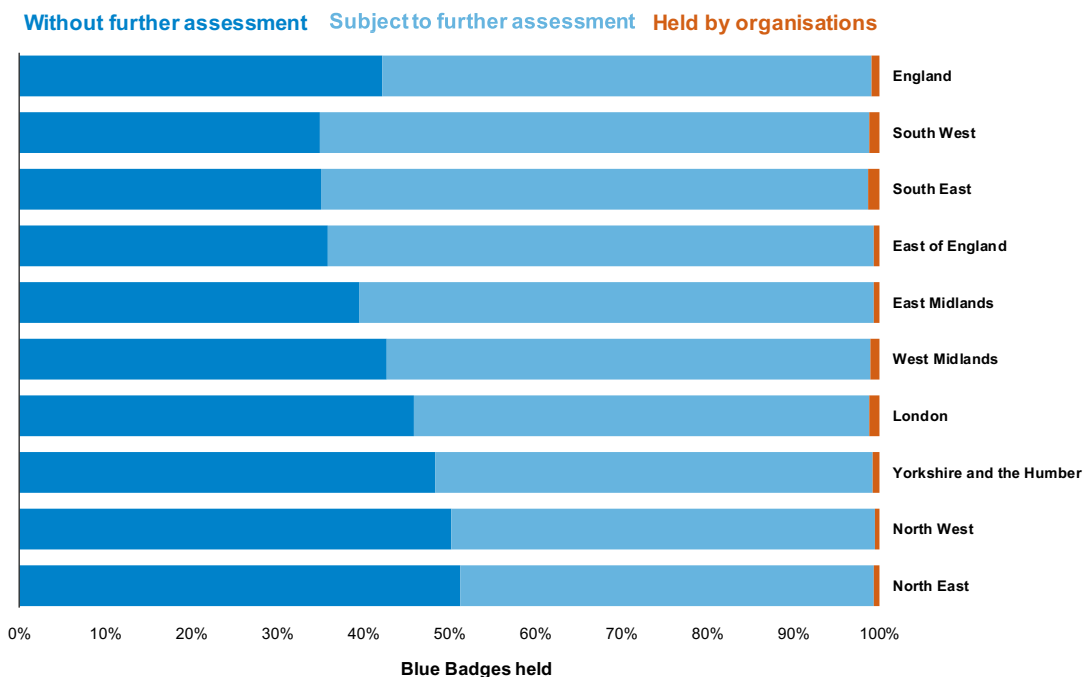
Detailed statistics

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 2017

Of the badges held, 57% were issued subject to further assessment, 42% without further assessment and 1% held by organisations (see chart 2). The region with the highest proportion of badges held without further assessment was the North East (51%), and the lowest was the South West (35%), as shown in chart 4.

Chart 4: Blue Badges held by category: English regions, March 2017 ([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 as at 31 March 2017

Map 2 shows the number of Blue Badges held as a proportion of the population in each local authority in England. The regions with the most Blue Badge holders as a proportion of their population were the South West (5.1%), the North East (5.1%) and the North West (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 (3.0%) and Manchester (3.2%) also had comparatively low proportions of Blue Badge holders. See table 1 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 2017 ([DIS0108](#))

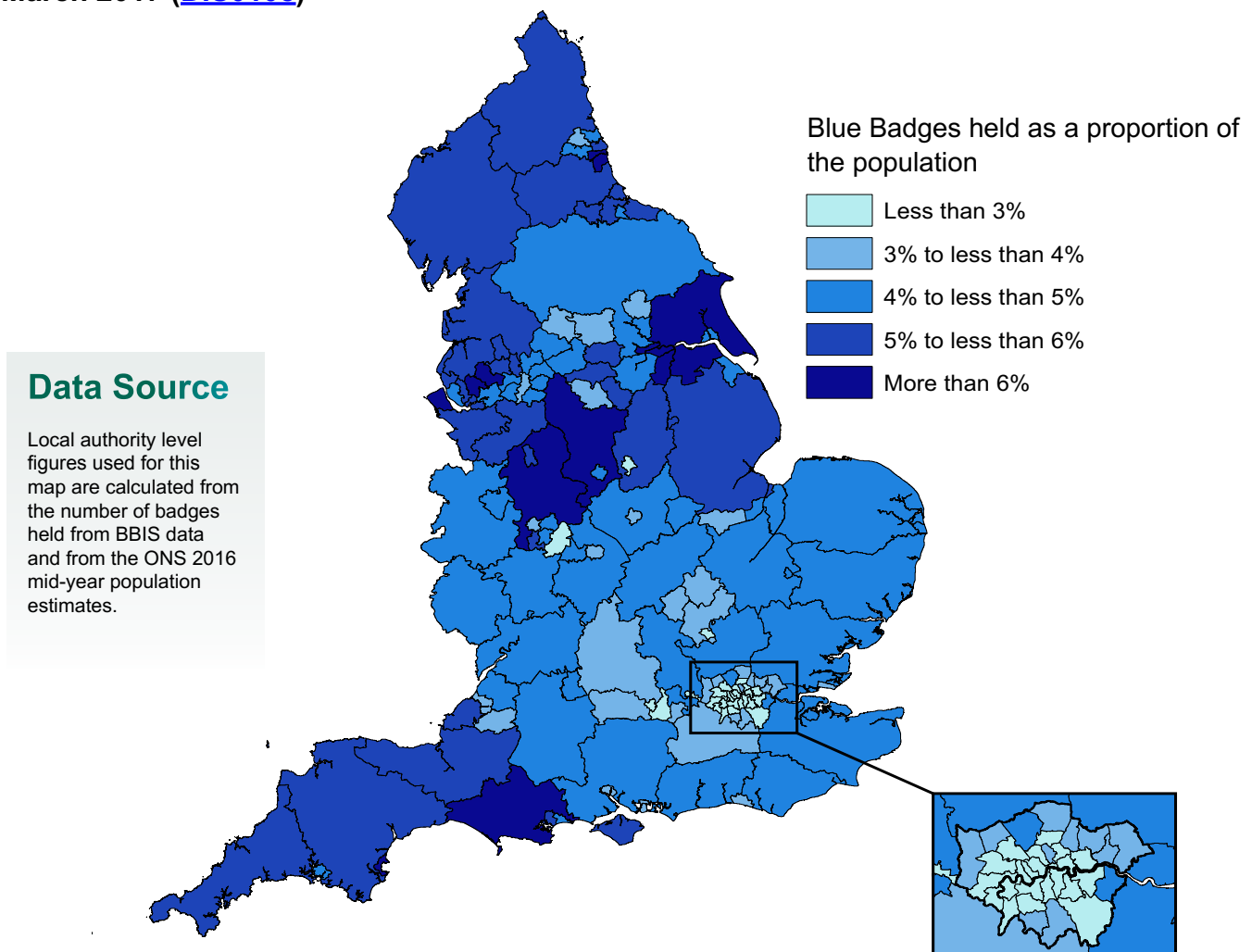


Table 1: Top and bottom 5 local authorities for badges held as a proportion of the population: England, March 2017 ([DIS0108](#))

Local Authority	%	Local Authority	%
St. Helens	7.1	Tower Hamlets	1.8
Dorset	6.7	Lambeth	1.7
Sunderland	6.6	Westminster	1.7
North Lincolnshire	6.5	Kensington and Chelsea	1.5
Staffordshire	6.3	City of London	1.4

Blue Badge prosecutions in 2016/17

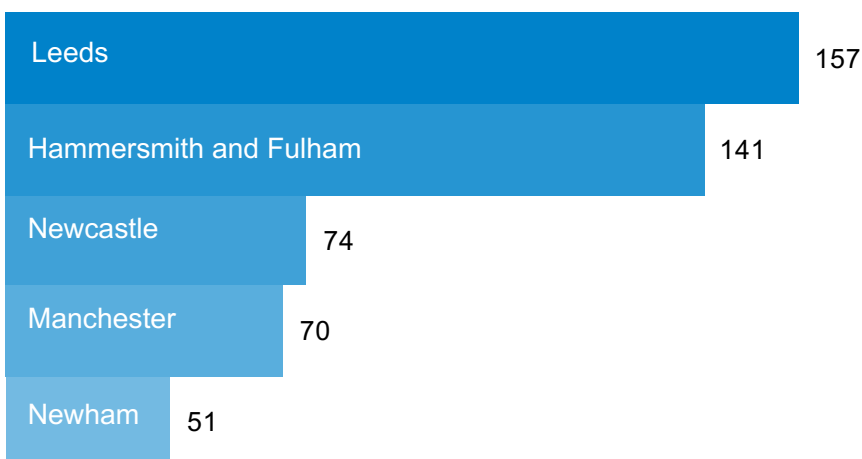
The annual Blue Badge survey, completed by local authorities in England, collates data on whether authorities have a policy for prosecuting misuse of the Blue Badge scheme and the number of prosecutions that occurred between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. Similar to last year, 56% of local authorities (85 authorities) in England stated they have a policy. Of those without a policy, 52% are planning on implementing one in the future.

In England, there was a total of 1,131 individuals prosecuted in 2016/17. These prosecutions occurred in 61% of local authorities with a prosecution policy. The remaining 39% had no prosecutions despite having a policy. There were 565 prosecutions in London (50% of the total number of prosecutions made in England).

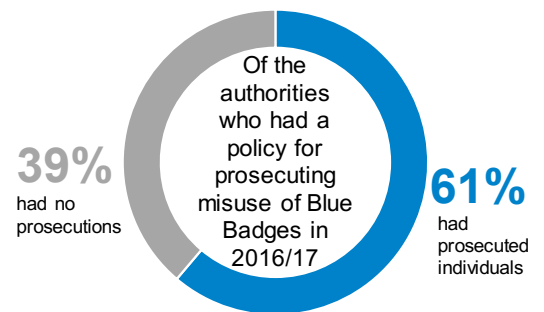
Similar to last year, the majority of prosecutions (98%) in England were targeted at a non-badge holder using another persons badge.

Across England, the largest number of prosecutions were made by Leeds (157) and Hammersmith and Fulham (141). Chart 6 shows the local authorities with the highest number of prosecutions.

Chart 6: Highest number of prosecutions: England, Local Authorities, 2016/17 ([DIS0301](#))



56% of local authorities had a policy to prosecute misuse of the Blue Badge scheme in 2016/17



98% 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 2016/17 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 the changes. Outside DfT, users are likely to include local authorities and organisations representing disabled motorists.

Data source

In 2017, 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 third 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 2018.



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