

## Disabled Persons Parking Badge Return 2012-13: Guidance Notes

The return for 2012-13 is considerably shorter than the previous year, due to the implementation of the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) in January 2012.

Local authorities are required to provide information, via the online form, on the number of valid Blue Badges on issue and the number of prosecutions made for abuse of the scheme in the past year.

Figures on Blue Badges issued during 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 will no longer be collected via this return. Instead, we require you to send us the BBIS standard management report, which is available from your BBIS administrator. For details on how to request this report please refer to the additional guidance on the BBIS badge analysis report (available by emailing [parking.data@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:parking.data@dft.gsi.gov.uk)). This report should be sent to [parking.data@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:parking.data@dft.gsi.gov.uk).

Please note that your local authority's return will not be considered complete until the online survey is completed and the BBIS standard management report has been received.

### **Guidance for completing online Blue Badge Statistics Form STATS104**

Please only enter 0 where the answer to the question is 0; if you are unable to answer any questions, please leave these blank and include a note in the comments section at the end of the form. The more information you are able to give in the comments, the less likely it is that you will be contacted for clarification after you have submitted the form.

#### **1. Total number of badges on issue at 31 March 2013**

This section asks for the total number of badges on issue as at 31 March 2013. This includes badges issued to individuals and organisations in accordance with the eligibility criteria in the regulations that govern the Blue Badge scheme<sup>1</sup>.

Individual eligibility is considered in terms of being either 'eligible without further assessment' (previously known as the 'automatic criteria') or 'eligible subject to further assessment' (previously known as the 'discretionary criteria'). For information on eligibility and assessments please see Chapter 4 of the Department for Transport's (DfT's) 2011 document "The Blue Badge Scheme Local Authority Guidance (England)", which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-badge-scheme-local-authority-guidance-england>.

Questions in this section concern the three year running totals of badges on issue, and will need to be derived from both the BBIS standard management report

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<sup>1</sup> The Blue Badge scheme is governed by the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) Regulations 2000, as amended by the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 ("the Regulations") and the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

(available from your BBIS administrator) and the previous system that you used to record total badges on issue.

**Questions 1a to 1d** of the form ask for the total number people with badges at 31 March 2013, who fall into the 'without further assessment' category. This covers individuals who are more than two years old and fall within one or more of the following descriptions:

- i. receives the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA);
- ii. receives a War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement (WPMS);
- iii. has received a lump sum benefit within tariff levels 1-8 of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces (Compensation) Scheme and has been certified as having a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty walking; or
- iv. is registered blind.

**Questions 1e to 1g** ask for the total number of people with badges at 31 March 2013, who fall into the 'subject to further assessment' category. This covers individuals who fall within one or more of the following descriptions:

- i. is more than **two** years old and drives a vehicle regularly, has a severe disability in both arms and is unable to operate, or has considerable difficulty in operating, all or some types of parking meter;
- ii. is more than **two** years old and has a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking; or
- iii. is under **three** years old and has a condition that requires that they must always be accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around with the child without great difficulty. Or, has a condition that requires that they must always be kept near a motor vehicle so that they can, if necessary, be treated for that condition in the vehicle or taken quickly in the vehicle to a place where treatment can be given.

**Question 1h** asks for the number of organisational badges on issue as at 31 March 2013.

Badges can be issued to organisations for use in a motor vehicle or vehicles when they are being used to carry disabled people who would themselves be eligible for a badge. An 'organisation' is defined as an organisation concerned with the care of disabled persons, to which a disabled person's badge may be issued in accordance with section 21(4) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. Examples of organisations that may be eligible include residential care homes and hospices.

For more information please see Chapter 5 of the DfT's 2011 document "The Blue Badge Scheme Local Authority Guidance (England)", available here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-badge-scheme-local-authority-guidance-england>

## 2. Number of prosecutions for abuse of the scheme 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

This section is about the number of people that were prosecuted for abuse of the Blue Badge scheme. Please note that we are only looking for figures on individuals that were prosecuted in court. Do not include figures of where a PCN was issued, unless the individual was subsequently prosecuted in court.

**Question 2a** asks whether the local authority has a policy of prosecuting people for abuse of the Blue Badge scheme. Although local authorities have powers to prosecute badge holders and third parties for Blue Badge abuse, not all local authorities use these powers.

**Question 2ai** should be completed if you answered NO to Question 2a. It asks whether your local authority is planning on implementing a prosecution policy in the future.

**Question 2b** asks for the total number of people that were prosecuted between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013.

**Question 2c** requires a break down of the figure entered in Question 2b. You will need to specify how many of the prosecutions were targeted at

- i. The registered badge holder; and
- ii. A non-badge holder using another persons badge

**Question 2d** allows you to offer further information on this issue.

## 3. General

This section allows you to enter any comments on the data that you have supplied. For example this could include data quality issues, data unavailability, or changes that may have affected this year's data. The more information you are able to give in the comments, the less likely it is that you will be contacted for clarification after you have submitted the form.

Once you have provided all the information available, please indicate by ticking the check box - this will confirm that you have completed the survey. Your survey return will only be considered complete once this tick box has been ticked.

If you wish to return to the survey to enter more information at a later stage, please leave the box unticked.

### **Blue Badge Statistics Team**

Department for Transport

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