

WBCIR:19766 Blue Badge freedom of information request

It is crucial for us to understand how our community is affected by local and national policy.

Blue Badges are an essential support for people with Parkinson's who travel by car or taxi and so it is important for us to understand how effectively the scheme works for our community.

We therefore ask that you provide responses to the following questions, as required by Freedom of Information Act 2000.

* Indicates required question

1. Firstly, please tell us which issuing authority's data you are providing. *

Wokingham Borough Council

The application process

2. Which of the following types of Blue Badge application do you offer? (please select all that apply) *

Tick all that apply.

- ☒ Paper-based
- ☒ Over the phone
- ☐ Via our own online application form
- ☒ We refer applicants to the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) 'Apply for or renew a Blue Badge' webpage
- ☐ In person

3. Do you provide support with applying for a Blue Badge? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

4. If you do provide support to people applying for a Blue Badge, how do you do this? (please select all that apply) *

Tick all that apply.

- ☒ Via instructions on our website
☒ Via a dedicated Blue Badge telephone helpline
☐ Via a generic helpline
☒ Via email
☒ In person
☐ Other: _____

5. When is support with a Blue Badge application provided? (please select all that apply) *

Tick all that apply.

- ☒ At the beginning of the application process only
☒ At any point during the application process
☒ After rejecting an application
☐ Other: _____

6. Do you provide information about what to expect at an independent mobility assessment? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

7. On average, **how many weeks** does it take to process Blue Badge applications on the basis of walking difficulty? *

12 Weeks

Mobility assessments

8. Are your Blue Badge mobility assessors regulated healthcare professionals? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

9. What qualifications are your Blue Badge mobility assessors **required** to hold? *

Tick all that apply.

- ☒ An occupational therapy degree
☐ A physiotherapy degree
☒ A social work degree
☐ We do not require assessors to hold a specific qualification
☐ Other: _____

10. In addition to any qualification held, what training are your Blue Badge mobility assessors **required** to undertake? *

N/A

11. Are your Blue Badge mobility assessors inhouse or outsourced? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☒ Inhouse
☐ Outsourced

12. Do you allow friends, family or any other advocates to accompany applicants during their independent mobility assessment? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Blue Badge restrictions

13. Do you automatically renew Blue Badges where badge holders have an incurable, progressive, degenerative condition? *

Mark only one oval.

☒ Yes

☐ No

14. Do you recognise and accept Blue Badges issued by other issuing authorities? *

Mark only one oval.

☒ Yes

☐ No

Blue Badge refusals

15. Do you have a process by which refused Blue Badge applicants can challenge a refusal? *

Mark only one oval.

☒ Yes

☐ No

16. Please describe the process for challenging a Blue Badge refusal.

Submit your request within 20 working days of receiving the refusal decision.

A detailed explanation of why you believe the decision was incorrect.

Any new, relevant supporting medical evidence that clearly outlines how your disability affects your mobility.

Note: Evidence from your GP alone may not be sufficient

Do you collect data on Blue Badge applications **received** from people applying on the basis of walking difficulty?

17. Please tell us how frequently you collect this data *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ We collect quarterly data *Skip to question 18*
- ☐ We collect yearly data *Skip to question 59*
- ☒ We do not collect this data *Skip to question 69*

Please tell us the number of Blue Badge applications **received** from people applying on the basis of walking difficulty, for the following quarters:

18. Jan-Mar 2020

19. Apr-June 2020

20. July-Sept 2020

21. Oct-Dec 2020

22. Jan-Mar 2021

23. Apr-June 2021

24. July-Sept 2021

25. Oct-Dec 2021

26. Jan-Mar 2022

27. Apr-June 2022

28. July-Sept 2022

29. Oct-Dec 2022

30. Jan-Mar 2023

31. Jan-Mar 2023

32. Apr-June 2023

33. July-Sept 2023

34. Oct-Dec 2023

35. Jan-Mar 2024

36. Apr-June 2024

37. July-Sept 2024

38. Oct-Dec 2024

Please tell us the number of Blue Badge applications received from people applying on the basis of walking difficulty **that were refused**, for the following quarters:

39. Jan-Mar 2020

40. Apr-June 2020

41. July-Sept 2020

42. Oct-Dec 2020

43. Jan-Mar 2021

44. Apr-June 2021

45. July-Sept 2021

46. Oct-Dec 2021

47. Jan-Mar 2022

48. Apr-June 2022

49. July-Sept 2022

50. Oct-Dec 2022

51. Jan-Mar 2023

52. Apr-June 2023

53. July-Sept 2023

54. Oct-Dec 2023

55. Jan-Mar 2024

56. Apr-June 2024

57. July-Sept 2024

58. Oct-Dec 2024

Skip to question 69

Please tell us the number of Blue Badge applications **received** from people applying on the basis of walking difficulty, for the following years:

59. 2020

60. 2021

61. 2022

62. 2023

63. 2024

Please tell us the number of Blue Badge applications received from people applying on the basis of walking difficulty **that were refused**, for the following years:

64. 2020

65. 2021

66. 2022

67. 2023

68. 2024

Condition specific data

69. Do you collect and collate data on the number of people with **Parkinson's** who apply for a Blue Badge on the basis of walking difficulty?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Advertising the Blue Badge scheme

70. Do you advertise the Blue Badge scheme? *

Mark only one oval.

☒ Yes

☐ No

71. If you do advertise, where do you advertise your Blue Badge scheme? (please select all that apply) *

Tick all that apply.

☐ On the homepage of your website

☒ On your website, but not on the homepage

☐ Via social media

☐ Via direct mailing

☐ Via displays in your offices/other buildings

☐ Other: _____

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire.

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