



Criteria to be observed when dealing with requests for Disabled Person's Parking Bays

It is necessary to ensure that disabled parking bays are only provided where they are considered essential, so as not to bring the scheme into disrepute.

It is intended that a specific bay which is likely to be used by just one individual (although any blue badge holder can use it) should only be provided if the following criteria and guidelines are observed.

1. Disabled applicants

Bays should only be provided for disabled drivers, who must be:

- Holder of a valid Blue Badge
- Be in receipt of Higher Mobility Rate Disability Living Allowance or Vehicle Excise Duty Exemption certificate (VEDEC), proof of which must be provided at time of application (must be current year issue)
- The applicant must reside at the address at which the marking is provided
- Vehicle must be registered at the application address

Exceptions may be made in cases where the disabled person is not the driver but is a passenger who needs regular daily transport; e.g. to school or to hospital. If you believe you may be eligible please include a letter of support from your doctor or health practitioner.

In this instance, consideration will only be given where the driver permanently resides at the same address. The use of Taxi, School Buses or Ambulances does not comply with this condition.

2. Parking difficulties/facilities

It must be shown that there is an on-street parking problem close to the applicant's home. The vehicle must normally be kept on-street at this address (if driveway is present the application will be refused).

Applicants should have no alternative adequate off-street parking facilities (narrow or sloping driveways would be considered unsuitable for persons with severe difficulties or wheelchairs, as would the necessity to use steps from the driveway).

In cases where the disabled person or driver rents a Council garage, this would have to be given up in favour of a disabled parking bay. If an applicant has a garage accessed by a backway (i.e. Town Centre area), it must be proven that this facility is unsuitable.

3. Existing waiting restrictions

Disabled parking bays will not be provided where existing single and double-yellow lines apply.

In cases where waiting restrictions apply, a disabled person who is not the driver may be picked up or set down at the appropriate location. The driver could then move the vehicle to a suitable parking place.

4. Road safety

Whatever the personal situation of the applicant a disabled bay will not be provided in a position hazardous to road safety i.e. near junctions, in turning heads.

5. Use

It should be noted that a disabled parking bay cannot be reserved for a particular person or vehicle and no guarantee can be given that a particular bay will always be available for any particular person. Legally it may be used by any Blue Badge holder. The bays are legal and they will be added to a Traffic Regulation Order.

6. Bay size

The standard bay size will be 6.6m x 2.7m laid in 50mm white lining, where appropriate.

7. Funding

No charge will be made to the applicant for the provision of a disabled person parking bay.

8. Annual review

The need for the disabled parking bay will be reviewed on a 1 to 3 year period. The applicant may be asked to provide evidence that they still meet the criteria set out by the Council.

9. Bay removal

The applicant must undertake to notify the Council immediately if the person ceases to be a resident in the area, or ceases to be eligible for a Blue Badge. If there are changes in the applicant's circumstances or information is brought to the Council's attention whereby the applicant no longer meets the criteria on which approval of the bay was granted, then the bay may be removed.