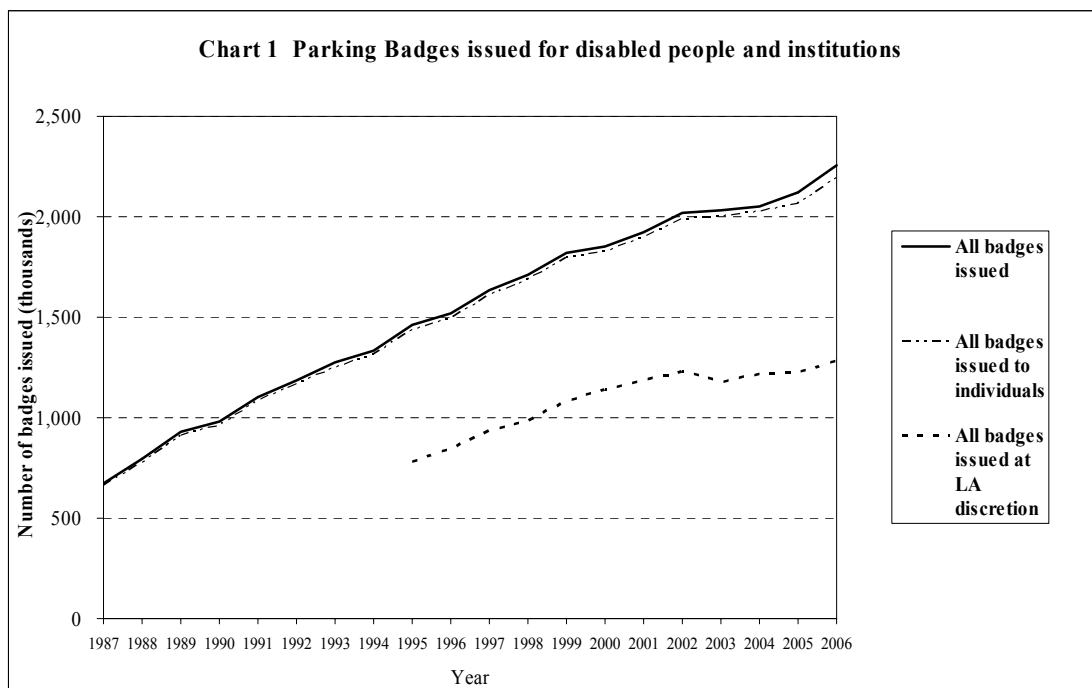


# Parking badges for disabled people

## Key trends

- The number of parking badges for disabled people (Blue Badges) on issue in England rose by 7 per cent over the period 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2006. It now stands at 2.3 million (Chart 1 and Table 1).
- There has been a long upward trend in badges issued, with the number of badges on issue increasing by roughly six per cent a year since 1987.
- The number of badges issued at the local authority's discretion increased by over 10 per cent over the twelve-month period to 31 March 2006. This follows a period of slow annual increases over preceding years.
- The number of badges on issue to institutions such as elderly care homes rose by 9 per cent in 2005/6 following a slight fall in the previous year. The proportion of all badges issued that are allocated to institutions has changed little, remaining at 1.2 per cent.
- The North West has more badges per head of population than any other region. Local Authorities in the North West have currently issued 56 badges per 1,000 people, compared with a national average (in England) of 45 per 1,000 people (Table 2).
- London issues fewer badges per head than any other region, at 33 per 1,000 people. This is due, in part, to demographic patterns. London has the lowest rate of car ownership in England, and has a slightly younger age profile. Only 14 per cent of London residents are of retirement age, compared with a national average of 19 per cent.



**Table 1: Number of badges on issue to disabled people in England and rate per 1,000 of total population: 1987 - 2006**

At 31 March	All Badges		Badges on issue to individuals				Badges on issue to institutions	
	Thousands	Number per 1,000 population	Thousands	Per Cent	of which issued at LA's discretion		Thousands	Per Cent
					Thousands	Per Cent		
1987	673	14	661	98	..	..	12	1.8
1988	792	17	778	98	..	..	14	1.8
1989	929	20	912	98	..	..	17	1.8
1990	979	21	961	98	..	..	18	1.8
1991	1,102	23	1,082	98	..	..	21	1.9
1992	1,187	25	1,164	98	..	..	23	1.9
1993	1,275	26	1,252	98	..	..	24	1.9
1994	1,336	28	1,313	98	..	..	23	1.7
1995	1,463	30	1,438	98	783	54	25	1.7
1996	1,517	31	1,493	98	843	56	24	1.6
1997	1,636	34	1,610	98	938	57	26	1.6
1998	1,713	35	1,687	98	985	57	26	1.5
1999	1,821	37	1,794	98	1,082	59	28	1.5
2000	1,854	38	1,826	99	1,141	62	27	1.5
2001	1,925	39	1,898	99	1,184	62	27	1.4
2002	2,019	41	1,989	99	1,229	61	30	1.5
2003	2,030	41	2,003	99	1,178	58	26	1.3
2004	2,054	41	2,026	99	1,220	59	27	1.3
2005	2,119	42	2,093	99	1,261	59	26	1.2
2006	2,258	45	2,230	99	1,404	62	28	1.2
<i>Percentage change</i>								
2005-2006	7		7		11		9	
1996-2006	49		49		67		16	
1987-2005	235		237		..		134	

## Background

The Department for Transport has produced the results of an annual survey of the number of Blue Badges issued by local authorities to individuals who have disabilities, and to institutions such as care homes. Data for years prior to 1994 were collected by the Department for Health.

The survey covers local authorities in England. Participation in the survey is non-compulsory, so data is carried forward from previous years when local authorities do not submit a return. The badges may remain valid for a three year period so the survey shows a rolling total of those on issue.

There are two main categories for eligibility for a Blue Badge, the *automatic* category and the *discretionary* category. Entitlement is automatically granted for those who

- are claiming the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance
- have a government-issued car, or a grant for their own car
- are eligible for War Pensioner's Mobility Supplement
- are registered blind

- have very severe upper limb disabilities

Local authorities have the power to grant badges to other applicants at their discretion. Assessment criteria vary, but eligibility is usually based upon evidence from a physical examination, or a letter from a GP, or both. Around 60 per cent of badges issued are at the LA's discretion.

Further details, showing badges issued at regional and local authority level are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

**Table 2: Number of vehicle badges on issue by GO Region at 31 March 2006**

Region	All Badges (number)	Population <sup>1</sup> (thousands)	Rate per 1,000 of the area population	Population <sup>1</sup> per cent of retirement age or above	Badges issued to institutions (number)	Badges issued to individuals (number)
All England	2,257,913	50,432	45	19	28,103	2,229,810
of which						
London	251,279	7,518	33	14	4,551	246,728
North East	129,967	2,558	51	19	1,293	128,674
North West	381,131	6,846	56	19	4,364	376,767
Yorkshire & the Humber	215,000	5,064	42	19	2,079	212,921
East Midlands	210,289	4,306	49	19	1,882	208,407
West Midlands	255,920	5,365	48	19	3,125	252,795
East of England	234,515	5,542	42	20	2,281	232,234
South East	325,228	8,164	40	19	4,563	320,665
South West	254,584	5,068	50	22	3,965	250,619

<sup>1</sup> Based on ONS mid year population estimates for 2005

**Table 3: Number of vehicle badges on issue by category and rate of provision per thousand of population for the period ending 31 March 2006**

Area	All badges	Rate per 1000 of the area population	Retired % of the population	Badges issued to institutions	Badges issued to individuals		
					All	Automatic categories	Issued at LA's discretion
<b>Total England</b>	<b>2257913</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28103</b>	<b>2229810</b>	<b>815752</b>	<b>1404456</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>251279</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4551</b>	<b>246728</b>	<b>78317</b>	<b>168132</b>
<b>England excluding London</b>	<b>2006634</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23552</b>	<b>1983082</b>	<b>737435</b>	<b>1236324</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>79782</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1628</b>	<b>78154</b>	<b>28422</b>	<b>49678</b>
Camden	5870	26	11	84	5786	2681	3105
Corp London	e 110	12	13	0	110	41	69
Hackney LB	e 4512	22	10	45	4467	1153	3346
Hammersmith	e 5029	28	11	79	4950	2482	2468
Haringey	e 8087	36	11	145	7942	1554	6369
Islington	e 7435	41	11	114	7321	3075	4246
Kensington and Chelsea	2613	13	13	60	2553	1007	1546
Lambeth	e 4334	16	10	549	3785	992	2793
Lewisham	6898	28	12	151	6747	3624	3123
Newham	e 10275	42	10	68	10207	5231	4908
Southwark	e 8011	31	11	185	7826	865	6961
Tower Hamlets	e 5288	25	10	25	5263	2613	2650
Wandsworth	7053	25	11	123	6930	2199	4732
Westminster	e 4267	17	12	0	4267	905	3362
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>171497</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2923</b>	<b>168574</b>	<b>49895</b>	<b>118454</b>
Barking and Dagenham	15866	39	15	188	15678	2632	13046
Barnet	15866	48	16	188	15678	2632	13046
Bexley	10609	48	19	84	10525	2975	7351
Brent	e 7757	29	14	182	7575	2425	5150
Bromley	e 8199	27	19	70	8129	2596	5533
Croydon	9712	28	15	138	9574	3771	5803
Ealing	e 9413	31	13	282	9131	6643	2488
Enfield	12484	45	16	341	12143	2001	10142
Greenwich	e 9576	42	14	310	9266	2431	6835
Harrow	e 9695	45	16	77	9618	2039	7579
Havering	e 3006	13	20	30	2976	988	1958
Hillingdon	9836	39	16	116	9720	2943	6777
Hounslow	7782	37	13	215	7567	2888	4679
Kingston LB	4644	30	14	174	4470	1067	3403
Merton	6384	33	14	176	6208	1753	4455
Redbridge	e 10773	43	15	28	10745	2408	8337
Richmond	4720	25	14	53	4667	3004	1667
Sutton	8077	45	17	226	7851	3351	4500
Waltham Forest	7098	32	13	45	7053	1348	5705
<b>North East</b>	<b>129967</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1293</b>	<b>128674</b>	<b>57391</b>	<b>70809</b>
Darlington	6226	63	20	10	6216	971	5245
Durham	32251	65	20	180	32071	9803	22268
Gateshead	e 8808	46	20	23	8785	7105	1206
Hartlepool	3826	43	19	61	3765	2374	1391
Middlesbrough	5302	39	17	103	5199	2718	2481
Newcastle	e 10344	37	17	87	10257	7000	3257
North Tyne	9010	47	20	168	8842	3291	5551
Northumberland	15752	51	21	254	15498	5991	9507
Redcar and Cleveland	8249	60	21	86	8163	3692	4471
South Tyneside	6644	44	21	28	6616	4100	2516
Stockton	9628	52	17	76	9552	3962	5590
Sunderland	13927	49	19	217	13710	6384	7326

e Estimated, based upon an earlier return

Area	All badges	Badges issued to individuals					
		Rate per	Retired %	Badges	Issued at		
		1000 of the	of the	issued to	All	Automatic	LA's
Area	All badges	population	population	institutions	All	categories	discretion
<b>North West</b>	<b>381131</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4364</b>	<b>376767</b>	<b>162106</b>	<b>201343</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	e 9873	70	15	75	9798	3875	5923
Blackpool	e 9546	67	22	136	9410	5461	3949
Bolton	13930	52	18	121	13809	6818	6992
Bury	10304	56	18	165	10139	4184	5955
Cheshire	37374	55	20	264	37110	13073	24037
Cumbria	29510	59	22	600	28910	12507	16403
Halton	7408	62	16	266	7142	4630	2512
Knowsley	e 8158	55	18	64	8094	5897	2107
Lancashire	66216	57	20	791	65425	28354	37071
Liverpool	22335	50	17	202	22133	7178	2121
Manchester	16768	38	14	332	16436	6872	9564
Oldham	10167	46	17	76	10091	5530	4561
Rochdale	e 10878	53	17	230	10648	4540	6108
Salford	12560	58	18	62	12498	5592	6906
Sefton	e 14821	53	22	110	14711	6188	8523
St. Helens	e 12822	73	19	135	12687	6635	6052
Stockport	12946	46	20	208	12738	3374	8969
Tameside	9225	43	18	36	9189	4761	4428
Trafford	e 14187	67	19	147	14040	3101	10939
Warrington	8722	45	18	2	8720	4606	4114
Wigan	23662	77	18	268	23394	8421	14973
Wirral	19719	63	21	74	19645	10509	9136
<b>Yorkshire &amp; The Humber</b>	<b>215000</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2079</b>	<b>212921</b>	<b>102734</b>	<b>109718</b>
Barnsley	12911	58	19	41	12870	8395	4475
Bradford	15324	32	16	197	15127	8516	6611
Calderdale	8819	45	18	161	8658	3176	5478
Doncaster	14737	51	19	119	14618	8417	6201
East Riding	e 14562	44	23	161	14401	4818	9583
Hull City	11368	46	17	107	11261	6081	5180
Kirklees	17396	44	17	108	17288	9389	7899
Leeds	11736	16	18	0	11736	7023	4713
North East Lincolnshire	7190	46	20	92	7098	2991	4107
North Lincolnshire	3538	23	20	55	3483	1012	2471
North Yorkshire	34536	59	22	465	34071	11567	22039
Rotherham	13606	54	19	128	13478	7335	6143
Sheffield	19715	38	19	156	19559	10522	9037
Wakefield	22080	69	18	129	21951	10928	11023
York City	7482	40	19	160	7322	2564	4758
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>210289</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>208407</b>	<b>74138</b>	<b>134215</b>
Derby City UA	13391	57	18	110	13281	6730	6551
Derbyshire	47080	63	20	434	46646	9698	36948
Leicester City UA	13299	54	15	191	13108	5000	8108
Leicestershire	28400	46	19	138	28262	9024	19238
Lincolnshire	e 19792	29	23	122	19670	685	18985
Northamptonshire	e 30397	47	17	275	30122	9396	20672
Nottingham	e 11278	40	15	70	11208	3074	8134
Nottinghamshire	44305	58	20	535	43770	30252	13518
Rutland UA	2347	63	21	7	2340	279	2061
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>255920</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>252795</b>	<b>96806</b>	<b>155816</b>
Birmingham	e 43629	44	16	858	42771	16584	26188
Coventry	e 14657	48	17	63	14594	7022	7572
Dudley	17704	58	20	426	17278	4694	12584
Herefordshire	e 3061	17	23	48	3013	1159	1854
Sandwell	17276	60	19	275	17001	7046	9956
Shropshire	13795	48	22	172	13623	6295	7328
Solihull	10991	55	20	29	10962	4123	6839
Staffordshire	46310	57	20	599	45711	16432	29279
Stoke-on-Trent	e 5322	22	19	40	5282	2745	2537
Telford UA	7958	49	16	60	7898	3950	3773
Walsall	e 11700	46	20	150	11550	4323	7227
Warwickshire	26247	49	19	15	26232	7855	18377
Wolverhampton	10086	42	19	127	9959	5065	4894
Worcestershire	27184	49	20	263	26921	9513	17408

e Estimated, based upon an earlier return

Area	Badges issued to individuals						
	All badges	Rate per	Retired %	Badges issued to institutions	Issued at		
		1000 of the area population	of the population		All	Automatic categories	LA's discretion
<b>East</b>	<b>234515</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2281</b>	<b>232234</b>	<b>67118</b>	<b>173321</b>
Beds	16421	41	17	110	16311	4898	11413
Cambridgeshire	22133	38	18	129	22004	6117	15887
Essex	e 58429	44	20	245	58184	14819	43365
Hertordshire	47203	45	18	1204	45999	10829	35170
Luton	1650	9	15	12	1638	1523	7493
Norfolk	36514	44	24	234	36280	13167	23940
Peterborough	e 6546	41	17	86	6460	1170	5290
Southend	7435	47	22	91	7344	2163	5181
Suffolk	31373	45	22	131	31242	9958	21284
Thurrock	6811	46	15	39	6772	2474	4298
<b>South East</b>	<b>325228</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4563</b>	<b>320665</b>	<b>100132</b>	<b>217491</b>
Bracknell	3133	28	13	45	3088	1054	2034
Brighton UA	e 12250	48	17	250	12000	6100	5900
Bucks	15962	33	18	273	15689	2316	13373
East Sussex	32750	66	26	750	32000	20000	12000
Hampshire	e 19446	15	20	214	19232	4015	15219
Isle of Wight	7283	52	26	304	6979	3207	3772
Kent	62893	46	20	247	62646	18659	43987
Medway	10959	44	16	49	10910	3566	7344
Milton Keynes UA	9113	42	13	133	8980	3867	4930
Oxfordshire	27959	45	17	450	27509	6361	21149
Portsmouth UA	e 3169	17	17	41	3128	2000	1128
Reading	3899	27	14	79	3820	1172	2648
Slough	3672	31	13	48	3624	981	2643
Southampton UA	9744	44	16	32	9712	3301	6411
Surrey	39424	37	19	1369	38055	7735	30320
West Berkshire	5150	35	17	132	5018	1457	3561
West Sussex	47249	62	23	26	47223	8779	35777
Windsor and Maidenhead	e 6694	48	18	1	6693	4493	2000
Wokingham	4479	29	15	120	4359	1069	3295
<b>South West</b>	<b>254584</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3965</b>	<b>250619</b>	<b>77010</b>	<b>173611</b>
Bath and NE Somerset	8696	50	20	68	8628	2323	6305
Bournemouth UA	10587	65	22	132	10455	3173	7282
Bristol	22173	56	16	500	21673	8142	13531
Cornwall	32734	63	24	110	32624	10904	21720
Devon	34761	48	24	1045	33716	8508	25208
Dorset	22114	55	27	192	21922	4513	17409
Glos	24955	43	21	254	24701	7227	17476
Isles of Scilly	e 37	18	24	0	37	9	28
North Somerset	10788	55	23	247	10541	3413	7128
Plymouth UA	e 13397	54	19	248	13149	3827	9322
Poole UA	e 7448	54	24	56	7392	1903	5489
Somerset	e 27115	53	23	418	26697	7638	19059
South Gloucestershire	12716	51	18	119	12597	3387	9210
Swindon	e 6049	33	16	16	6033	2066	3967
Torbay UA	e 8694	65	26	256	8438	8407	31
Wiltshire	e 12320	28	20	304	12016	1570	10446

e Estimated, based upon an earlier return