



London Borough of Hounslow

Procedure for assessing applications for a disabled person's parking space on the road outside your home

To apply for a Disabled Persons' Parking Place on the public highway close to your residence, please fill in the attached form. Please read these notes carefully before filling in the form. Traffic Team staff receive the application and check various issues, as follows;

What happens next –Stage 1, medical issues

To begin with, the applicant must be a Blue Badge (Disabled Persons' Parking Badge) holder and have severe mobility difficulties. To apply for a Blue Badge please contact the Customer Support

Team of the Transport Policy Section on 020 8583 3073/3074.

Please note that the law on Disabled Persons Badges for Motor Vehicles states that; 'Inability to walk, or very considerable and permanent difficulty in walking, or blindness, is a pre-requisite of entitlement (to a Blue Badge) and under no circumstances should anyone who does not satisfy one or other of these basic requirements receive a badge.

Also, 'In all cases entitlement depends on the applicant's ability to walk and considerations such as difficulty in carrying parcels are not to be taken into account. The applicant's inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking must be permanent and not just spasmodic and the disability must be of a physical, rather than a psychological, nature.'

Please also note that drivers are required by law to tell the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency

(DVLA) of the start or worsening of a medical condition that may affect their ability to drive safely. The DVLA contact point is the Drivers Medical Group, DVLA Swansea SA99 1TU tel: 0870 600 0301. They will ask for your full name and date of birth, your driver number, and the nature of your medical condition. You will normally be sent a form for describing confidentially your medical condition in more detail. The DVLA may require a medical report from your doctor.

What happens next –Stage 2, vehicle issues

Of course, the disabled applicant for a disabled space outside his/her home does not have to be a driver. The disabled space can be used by someone picking up or dropping off the Blue Badge holder at his or her residence. For this type of application the driver must live at the same address as the applicant. The driver should be routinely/daily taking the disabled person in/out of the residence for it to be sensible to set aside that public highway space for use only by a Blue Badge holder.

A car belonging to the applicant or a live-in driver must be registered and based permanently at the applicant's address. Again, this is to ensure that the bay is in frequent, regular use. If bays were to be provided for Blue Badge holders who do not have regular access to a car, but are occasionally picked up by a relative or friend, the bays would stand empty for very long periods, in particular overnight, when parking demand from residents of the area is likely to be at its highest. Residents might think it unreasonable in an area of high parking demand to be denied the use of a kerbside parking space which is possibly in use for only a very few hours a week.

Please note that a disabled space outside your home can be used by any Blue Badge holder.

In an area with shoppers or commuters you may often find the bay outside your home occupied by other Blue Badge holders. You may wish to consider if you would be worse off for parking with a disabled space outside your home.

What happens next –Stage 3, parking on-street issues

Traffic Team staff will visit the applicants street to check parking levels. There must be severe parking congestion that would mean that the applicant would have to walk longer than they can manage from the car to their address. This must be observed on more than one occasion and at different times of the day.

A Disabled Persons' Parking Place will not be granted if there is evidence of off-street parking available, i.e. driveway, rear access, lock-up etc.

If you have a driveway but find it is often blocked by inconsiderate motorists blocking it illegally - the local Police are the authority for enforcing this law. We in the Council's Traffic Team can possibly lay a white line across the driveway on the road at a cost to you of £75. These lines discourage drivers from parking there. Please contact us on 020 8583 5113 to apply to have a white line across your driveway.

If you would like to apply for a footway crossover (dropped kerb) to drive into your front garden, please contact the Council's Highway Maintenance Team on 020 8583 4910/4978. This is obviously the preferred solution for a Blue Badge holder because the space is exclusive and is close to the property.

Difficulties can occur, however, and may need careful consideration. For example, a garage at the property may be too narrow for the badge holder to be able to gain access to a vehicle parked inside. In such cases, it will be accepted that off-street parking is not possible at the property.

Other criteria that the Traffic Section needs to consider are road safety, road width and other traffic issues. Bays cannot be placed on main traffic routes or near road junctions or areas that are not public highway, (for example, some Council housing roads are not public highway). A plan and details are sent to the Police for their comments.

What happens next –Stage 4, legal issues

If parking is heavy enough to justify a disabled space and the other criteria are met then the Council will legally take forward the disabled space proposal. This involves placing an advert (called a Notice of Intent) in a newspaper called the London Gazette and the Hounslow Chronicle and an on the street. This advert gives the public 21 days to make any comments or objections. To save advertising costs, multiple applications of about 10 are processed at any one time.

If objections are received to the proposed disabled space(s) then it may possibly be delayed or not go ahead. Objections may be received from other residents of the street. As one can appreciate, parking is very important to most residents and disabled space applicants do need to bear in mind that other residents are entitled to have their say on parking on their street.

If there are no objections to the Notice of Intent, then the Notice of the Making of Traffic Management Order is advertised in the London Gazette and the Hounslow Chronicle/Brentford and Chiswick Times as appropriate.

Then contractors are instructed to add the site work to their programme of works. This site work is to lay the disabled space road markings and erect a disabled persons' parking sign and post. The whole process of providing a disabled space is unfortunately time consuming as can be seen and usually takes 3 to 4 months.