

MEASURES TO STOP BLUE BADGE FRAUD: “UK FIRST” INITIATIVE

EPA AWARD 2015

CATEGORY 3 / PUBLIC SPACE ON-STREET PARKING PROJECTS



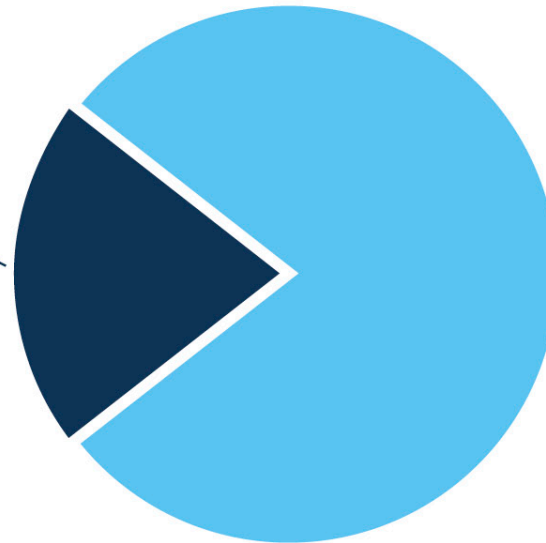
THE BACKGROUND

In a move to combat Blue Badge fraud and misuse, APCOA, in consultation with London Borough of Redbridge (LBor), has developed what is reported to be the first ever Blue Badge window notification slip.

Blue Badge in circulation

An estimated 20% of all Blue Badges in circulation are being misused – at a reported cost of *£46m to the taxpayer

*Source: Blue Badge Fraud Investigation



Blue Badge users with mobility handicaps

THE CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE

Nationwide misuse: 600,000 Blue Badges in circulation are being abused



Precludes the disabled community from parking in designated town / city locations

VISION

Curb the number of misused and tampered Blue Badges within the UK

Provide extra mobility to genuine badge holders across the country

Raise awareness on a nationwide problem, and stand up for the disabled community

SOLUTION

First ever Blue Badge window notification slip to raise awareness



Using new legislation to protect the Blue Badge Scheme, which allows civil enforcement officers (CEOs) to inspect and retain Blue Badges without police presence

THE AIMS



Aims of the “UK First” Initiative:

- Raise awareness
- Discourage users and opportunists from abusing the Blue Badge Scheme
- Reduce misuse of Blue Badges
- Keep parking space free for people with reduced mobility



THE BLUE BADGE WINDOW NOTIFICATION SLIP

- Co-operation of APCOA and the London Borough of Redbridge (LBoR).
- Notification slip works on a similar premise to a parking charge notice (PCN), whereby officers are asked to complete the slip and place on the front window screen of vehicles
- Based on the A-D check list criteria set by the Department for Transport, which is broadly categorised into two groups: abuse of badges, and misuse of genuine badges.
- The design of the notification slip cites both the legislation and potential penalties, and prompts officers to record the incident location and tick one of four boxes if they believe that a badge is being misused or abused. This information is then passed over to the relevant Blue Badge issuing authority.

DB 001501

Under section 117 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Fraud Act 2006, it is a criminal offence to misuse or abuse a Blue Badge. It can lead to a £1,000 penalty fine and, in some cases, imprisonment.

A Blue Badge is for the sole use of its registered user. It must only be displayed if the badge holder is present in the vehicle as a driver or passenger, or if someone is collecting them or dropping them off. A badge will be deemed to be misused or abused if a non-registered user is found to be carrying out other activities that do not specifically relate to the Blue Badge holder.

The Disabled Persons' Parking Badges Act 2013 grants powers to civil enforcement officers (CEOs) to inspect and retain a Blue Badge without the presence of the Police if they have reasonable grounds to suspect:

☐ it is a fake;
☐ it has been cancelled;
☐ it has expired or been obtained by false representation;
☐ it has been misused by a non-registered user.

[Complete / *delete as appropriate]

On ____ / ____ / ____, at _____

I/We have inspected and *retained / *not retained Blue Badge no. _____. I/We believe that it is *invalid / *being misused or abused.

Next Steps:

The Blue Badge Scheme is run nationally by local authorities on behalf of the Department for Transport.

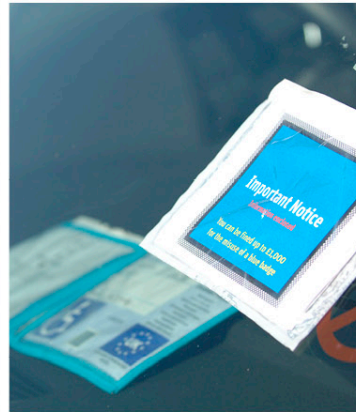
If your badge has been retained, or you wish to make a new application or give-up your Blue Badge voluntarily, please contact your issuing authority.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is responsible for the legislation that sets out the framework for the Blue Badge Scheme.

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
3 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR
T: 0300 330 3000
W: www.gov.uk/dft

APCOA Parking (UK) Ltd. is a provider of parking enforcement services
Registered in England and Wales with Company No. 02572947

THE BLUE BADGE WINDOW NOTIFICATION SLIP

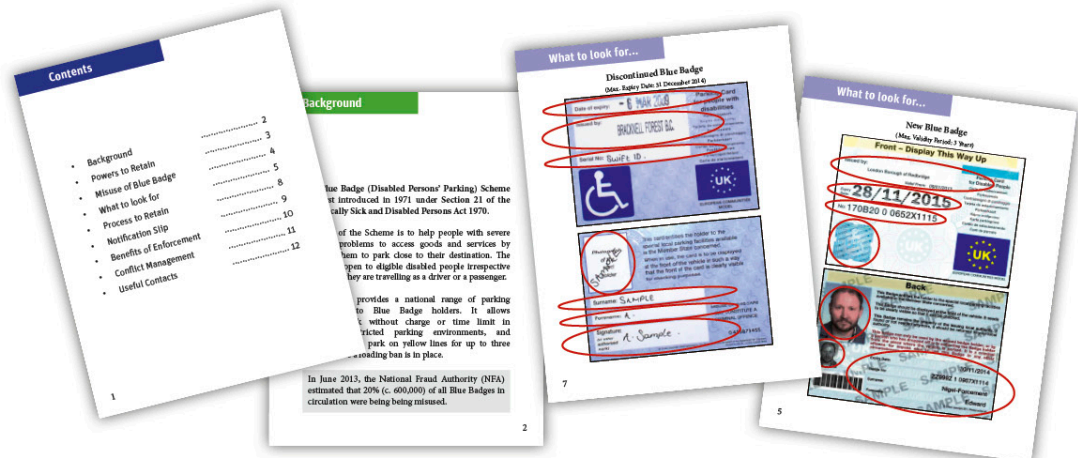


POCKET GUIDE FOR APCOA'S OFFICERS

A Pocket Guide To Blue Badge Enforcement

APCOA Parking working in partnership
with the London Borough of Redbridge

- In-house **Pocket Guide To Blue Badge Enforcement** provides clear guidance for APCOA's CEOs in Redbridge
- Clear and uniform regulations for all the officers
- Defines the process of how and when to retain a Blue Badge for uniformity purposes



THE CHECKLIST

Fraudulent or improper use of a Blue Badge is applicable to on-street parking only, and can be categorised into two main groups and four sub-categories (A-D).

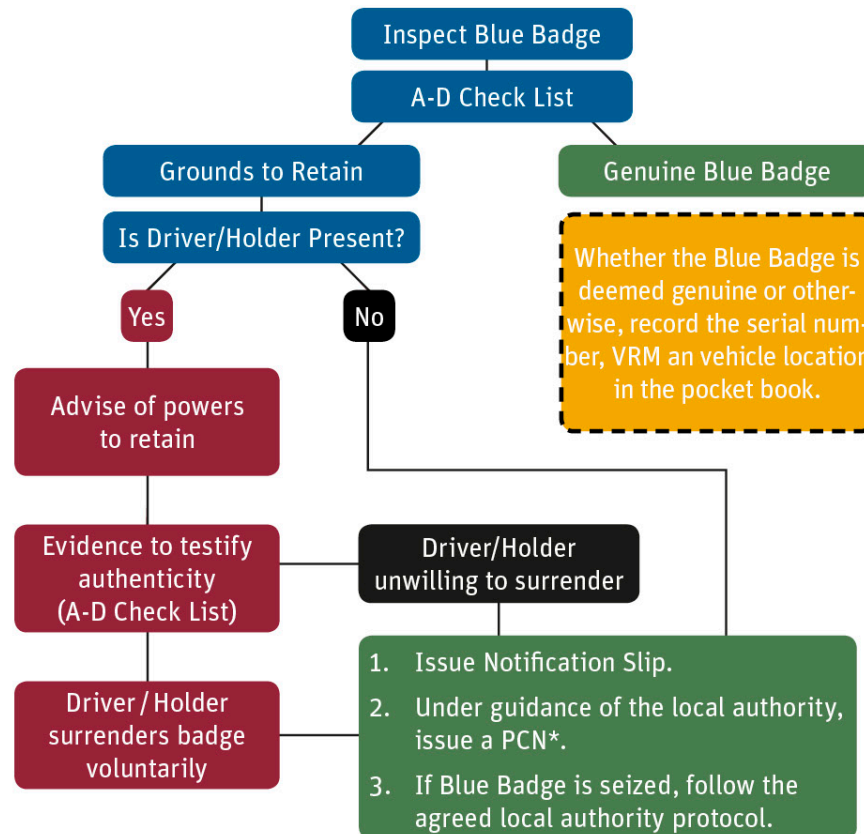
A) The badge is a fake

B) The badge has already been cancelled

C) The badge should have been returned to the issuing authority

D) The badge is being misused or abused

PROCESS TO RETAIN



* In instances where the driver absconds prior to a PCN being issued, complete a VDA (vehicle driven away) form and Witness Statement under 'Regulation 10'.

THE BENEFITS

Benefits

Improved traffic management and better air quality

For many, fraudulent use of the Blue Badge makes driving and parking a car affordable. By taking this advantage away, they are forced to switch to public transport

More space for genuine badge holders

Better curbside management

As people are discouraged from using prime locations as long-stay parking, high streets will have greater turnover of visitors.

Equality

non-registered users are subject to the same fair pay and display (P&D), pay by phone, and permit tariff charges as other law abiding UK citizens.

Extra layer of visibility and re-enforcement to enable APCOA's officersto provide the best possible service

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

APCOA PARKING
HOLDINGS GmbH

P.O.Box 23 04 63
70624 Stuttgart (Airport)
www.apcoa.com