

11 October 2022

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 16646

Thank you for your request for information dated 12 September. You have asked for the following information regarding fraudulent use of Blue Badges in Wales:

- 1. Could you please supply your analysis, including statistics by local authorities, and which local authorities you consider to be following or not following good practice to check up on fraudulent use of Blue Badges in Wales.**

Please disaggregate the numbers for automatic eligibility and discretionary eligibility by local authority, to show comparative performance in this regard.

Please provide statistics from 2019 when the eligibility requirements were widened.

Our response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some of the information you have requested.

We do not hold any information on which local authorities do or do not follow good practice within their application processes in order to reduce the potential for fraud. Neither do we hold information on applications received by local authority broken down under the automatic and discretionary eligibility categories. Local authorities are responsible for administering the Blue Badge Scheme in Wales.

Information on the number of badges awarded by local authority under the automatic and discretionary eligibility categories are appended at Annex A and B. Please note the information on the number of badges awarded during April and May 2020 for the criteria category Child vehicle are listed in Annex B as this is missing from Annex A. Annex C provides the full names of the local authorities and description of the blue badge eligibility criteria - sub-categories which are abbreviated in Annex A and B.

In Wales the eligibility criteria for a blue badge was not widened in 2019. The last amendment in Wales was in 2017 which included eligibility criteria for those with cognitive and temporary impairments. The Department for Transport UK changed their eligibility in England in August 2019.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please contact: Data Protection Officer, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, CARDIFF, CF10 3NQ or e-mail DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales.

The address for the Information Commissioner's Office is: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Phone numbers are 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113. Electronic contact details are at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/>.

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely