



# Have your say on blue badge parking in Hackney

have  say

 **Hackney**

# Summary

Following requests from resident blue badge holders, Hackney Council is proposing to introduce personalised disabled bays in Hackney, and amend the current companion badge parking permissions. The aim is to:

- better protect disabled parking for residents who most need it, and
- make parking for other blue badge holders simpler to understand.

## 1. Why are we proposing to make these changes?

### Disabled bays

For a number of years Hackney Council has received complaints from residents who have been assigned a disabled bay, in instances where they have returned home to find their bay occupied by another blue badge holder's vehicle, and are unable to park close to home. Many of those affected have asked for these bays to be personalised, so that residents can have greater confidence that they would remain free when they were not parked in them.

Until recently, Hackney Council was not legally able to personalise disabled bays, as it was not supported by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) which prescribes the design and conditions of the use of traffic signs on or near roads in England, Scotland and Wales. However, following changes to the rules governing road signage, the Council's Parking Services are now in a position where it can implement personalised disabled bays.

### Companion badge

The companion badge was introduced in 2005 to tackle blue badge fraud and theft. As it is vehicle specific, it has no real value in comparison to the blue badge and can be used in place of the blue badge to park in some bays types across Hackney.

However companion badge holders have told us that the current rules around where and how the permit can be used are very complex, and difficult to understand, as illustrated in table 1. As a result we are proposing changes to where companion badges can be used to make it simpler to use.

Bay type	Companion badge for resident parking zone		Elsewhere in Hackney	
	Companion badge valid?	Clock required?	Companion badge valid?	Clock required?
Disabled bays	Yes	Only if sign shows a time limit	Yes	Only if sign shows a time limit

Resident permit holder only bays	Yes – home parking zone only	No	No	No
Permit holder only bays	Yes	No	No	No
On-street pay and display bays	Yes	Yes - no time limit	Yes	Yes - no time limit
Shared use bays (combined pay and display and permit holder bays).	Yes	No	Yes	Yes - no time limit
Single and double yellow lines (where permitted*)	Yes	Yes (up to three hours)	Yes	Yes (up to three hours)
Business bays, doctors bays, red routes, suspended bays	No	No	No	No

*Table 1: Current companion badge rules and regulations*

## 2. What is being proposed?

### Personalisation of disabled bays

Hackney’s parking service is proposing to implement personalised bays for all blue badge holders who meet the current criteria for a disabled bay, please see table 2 for further details. If disabled parking bays are personalised, only the vehicle registered to the personalised disabled parking bay will be able to use it. All other blue badge holders will not be able to use these bays.

### What will this mean for blue badge holders with existing bays?

If there is support for the personalisation of disabled bays all bay holders will be able to apply for their existing disabled bay to be personalised.

- Existing bay holders who had their bay installed on or after the 12 June 2017 will be able to apply for and have their bay personalised without the need for a re-assessment of their mobility.
- Those whose bays were installed before 12 June 2017 under our old qualification criteria will need to undergo and pass a new mobility assessment against our current criteria before their bay is personalised.

- During the consultation, there will be no change to the current process, which means no existing or new disabled bays will be personalised.

## Current disabled bays eligibility criteria

1. The person for whom the bay is being applied for must live at the address and hold a valid blue badge <sup>a, b</sup>.
  2. The car must be registered at the address where the bay is required.
  3. The blue badge holder must be the main driver of the vehicle. <sup>a, b</sup>
  4. The address where the bay is required must not have off-street parking available.
  5. The address where the bay is required must be situated on a public street or an estate managed by Hackney Council.
- (a) We will accept applications received on behalf of dependents under the age of 18, as long as the dependent holds a valid blue badge and the applicant lives at the same address as the dependent and has a vehicle registered at that address.
- (b) We will accept applications if you hold a valid blue badge and require a specifically adapted vehicle. This also includes applications on behalf of a passenger over the age of 18 only. Please be aware the passenger must live at the same address that the adapted vehicle is registered to.

We may in exceptional circumstances choose to apply discretion where an applicant's need or circumstances warrant doing so e.g. you do not have an adapted vehicle but still require a bay as a passenger.

If you do not meet the criteria set out above but believe that your circumstances are exceptional and should be reviewed, please tell us about your disability and how it affects your movement and walking, and any other considerations you believe are relevant to your application on the page provided at the end of your form. Each application will be reviewed and, if deemed appropriate, referred for a mobility assessment.

### *Table 2: Eligibility criteria for personalised disabled bays*

There are approximately 700 disabled bays across Hackney. Blue badge holders who meet our criteria have general use disabled bays installed outside or close to their home.

The following criteria will determine if a disabled bay is personalised, reassigned or removed:

If the person a bay is registered to:	What will happen to their bay?
Holds a blue badge and meets current eligibility criteria.	Bay will be personalised, if requested.
Holds a blue badge but does not meet the current eligibility criteria for a disabled bay, or does not apply for a personalised bay.	Bay will remain as a general-use disabled bay, which all blue badge holders are permitted to use.
No longer holds a valid blue badge.	Bay may be reassigned or removed.
No longer lives at the address.	Bay may be reassigned or removed.

*Table 3: Actions for existing disabled bay owners*

### **If I apply and don't pass the new assessment, could I lose my bay?**

No - we will not remove any disabled bays from existing owners, if the applicant holds a valid blue badge and continues to live at the address. If you don't meet the new criteria, your bay will remain as a general-use disabled bay.

### **What impact will personalisation have on applications for new disabled bays?**

If the proposals are adopted, all new approved disabled parking bay applications will lead to a personalised bay being installed. Residents will need to apply for a companion badge for the vehicle linked to the personalised disabled bay. Please see proposals in tables 4 and 5 regarding new parking permissions for the companion badge.

### **What will happen to general-use disabled bays that aren't registered to a user, like those in town centres?**

Bays that are not registered to a user will remain as general-use bays, which will be available for all blue badge holders to use.

### **Will you be personalising disabled bays on estates?**

Yes – if a blue badge holder meets the criteria, their bay will be personalised.

### **Changes to the companion badge parking permissions**

Parking Services are proposing to change the current companion badge parking permissions, which will give holders the same parking rights as resident permit holders, with the added benefit of being able to park in unassigned disabled bays in their home parking zone. This means that if someone is parked in their personalised disabled bay, the permit holder will have alternative parking options available to them without having to display their blue badge. See table 4 for further details.

Residents will no longer be able to use a companion badge to park across Hackney or on single and double yellow lines in their home parking zone. To park in these places residents must use their blue badge.

Companion badges will still be a free permit and last as long as the blue badge, which is up to three years.

Bay type	Companion badge valid	Clock required?
Permit holder only bays	Yes – home parking zone only	No
Resident permit holder only bays	Yes – home parking zone only	No
Shared use bays (combined pay and display and permit holder bays).	Yes – home parking zone only	No
Disabled bays	Yes – home parking zone only	Only if sign shows a time limit
On-street pay and display bays	No	Not applicable
Business bays, doctors bays, car club bays, suspended bays, red routes	No	Not applicable
Single and double yellow lines (where permitted*)	No	Not applicable

*Table 4: Companion badge – proposed parking permit permissions*

Blue badge holders will still be able to park elsewhere in Hackney using their badge, with no requirement for badge holders to display their clock unless parked in a disabled bay with a time limit or on single and double yellow lines – see table 5 for further details.

Bay type	Blue badge valid?	Clock required?
Shared use bays (combined pay and display and permit holder bays).	Yes	No
On-street pay and display bays	Yes	No
Disabled bays	Yes	Only if sign shows a time limit
Single and double yellow lines (where permitted*)	Yes	Yes (up to three hours)
Permit holder only bays	No	Not applicable
Resident permit holder only bays	No	Not applicable
Business bays, doctors bays, red routes, suspended bays	No	Not applicable

*Table 5: Blue badge parking options across Hackney*

### 3. Have your say

The consultation started on **Monday 13 August**, for 12 weeks and we would like to hear your views about how we can improve blue badge parking.

Please complete the attached questionnaire, fold it and return it to us in the envelope provided by **Monday 5 November**.

For further information, please visit, email or call:



Visit: **[consultation.hackney.gov.uk/parking-services/bluebadge](https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/parking-services/bluebadge)**

Email: **[consultation.parking@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.parking@hackney.gov.uk)**

Call: **020 8356 8877**

#### How we use your feedback

We will not be able to reply to you individually, but we will consider your comments before making a decision about the proposals. Please note that we can only accept one response per person.

To respond to this consultation, you will need to provide your name and postcode. You do not need to give your personal contact details, but doing so will help us to analyse the results of the consultation more thoroughly.

Hackney Council is a Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We hold the information given to us for the specific purpose of processing and managing parking consultations only. Under the GDPR any information you provide may be disclosed to other organisations in order for this local authority to perform its duty to protect public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

You can read more information about this, and also about your Data Protection rights in line with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 by going to **[www.hackney.gov.uk/privacy](https://www.hackney.gov.uk/privacy)**. This includes how to contact the Data Protection Officer, how long your information is held, and how we process your personal information. Printed copies of the Council's Privacy Notices can be provided on request.

### 4. What happens next?

All timeframes are subject to change if the results of the consultation, recommendation and approval at full Cabinet is delayed. Please see table 6 for further details.

Activity	Starts	Ends
<b>Consultation</b>		
12-week consultation.	13 August 2018	5 November 2018
Responses from the consultation will be collated, the results analysed with recommendations, and a report prepared.	November 2018	January 2019
<b>Decision</b>		
Seek approval at the Council's Full Cabinet meeting, who are elected representatives for the people of Hackney.	February 2019	February 2019
<b>Process</b>		
<p>If personalised disabled bays are approved at full Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application process for personalisation of disabled bays will open.</li> <li>• Those whose bays were installed before 12 June 2017 under our old qualification criteria will need to undergo and pass a new mobility assessment against our current criteria before their bay is personalised.</li> <li>• For each application, the traffic management order that allows a disabled bay to be personalised will need to be updated with the new location and advertised.</li> <li>• The personalised disabled bay will be installed at the new location.</li> </ul>	Spring 2019	Winter 2019

*Table 6: What happens next?*