

Appendix 6 – Disabled Parking Bays – proposed criteria for application

Disabled Parking Bays are designated parking spaces on the public highway, which allow Blue Badge holders to park close to residential properties and key destinations.

Lewisham Council only offer 'formal' disabled parking bays, which carry a Traffic Management Order and are therefore legally enforceable. Advisory bays (bays without sign and post), which do not carry a Traffic Management Order, are no longer offered due to changes in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016. These bays are being phased out with qualifying residents able to apply for a formal bay at any time.

Qualifying residents are entitled to apply for a disabled parking bay to be installed near to their property, subject to meeting both the medical and highway criteria outlined below. Not all applications will be successful, and Lewisham Council will not approve more than one application per formal address for a disabled parking bay.

If a disabled parking bay is approved and installed, the bay may be utilised by all blue badge holders, and are not for the sole use of the resident for which the bay was implemented.

Approved disabled parking bays would be require a Traffic Management Order installed in batches in order to reduce the cost borne by the council and the applicant, so it may take several months for a disabled parking bay to be installed.

Medical Criteria

1. To qualify for a formal disabled parking bay, applicants must be in receipt of either:
 - a) Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Higher Rate Mobility OR;
 - b) Personal Independence Payment (PIP) mobility component with 10 points or more for 'moving around' OR;
 - c) receives the mobility component of PIP and has obtained 10 points specifically for Descriptor E under the "planning and following journeys" activity, on the grounds that they are unable to undertake any journey because it would cause them overwhelming psychological distress
 - d) Attendance Allowance Higher Rate; OR
 - e) Assessment by a council approved assessor certifying that they meet equivalent criteria to the above.
2. Applicants must hold a valid blue badge.
3. The blue-badge holder does not have to be the driver of a vehicle, but any driver (if not the applicant) must live at the same address as the blue badge holder.
4. Parents/carers of children under the age of three, would not be entitled to apply for a formal disabled parking bay for the use of that child unless that child is always accompanied by bulky medical equipment which cannot be carried around without great difficulty and/or need to kept near a vehicle at all times. Applications of this nature will be assessed on a case by case basis depending on the circumstance of the applicant.

Highway Criteria

1. Disabled parking bays are considered on a case by case basis, but they will not be installed in locations where the bay:
 - a) Compromises safety;
 - b) Restricts traffic flow;
 - c) Blocks access;
 - d) Would be situated more than 50 metres from the property front door;
 - e) Would replace existing waiting and loading restrictions;
 - f) Would be positioned on a red route.
2. The closest available parking space to the applicant's front door will be the only location that is considered for the installation of any bay.

Highway conditions will be assessed by an Engineer from Lewisham Council by means of a site visit.

Off-Street Parking

Disabled parking bays will not be authorised if the applicant has access to an adequate off-street parking facility such as a garage or a driveway/hardstanding. Please see notes below. Any adequate off-street parking facility available to a household shall be prioritised to the disabled user, and not to other non-disabled vehicle users from within the same household/building.

Existing Garage

Garages will be deemed adequate off-street parking facilities if:

- The internal dimensions of the garage are a minimum of 5.0 metres deep and 2.7 metres wide;
- The passage from the garage to the property is suitable for disabled access;
- There is a vehicular crossover serving the garage (dropped kerb).

Where internal dimensions are provided, but are obstructed by the storage of household goods or similar, it is the responsibility of the resident to remove the items to provide adequate parking space.

If reasonable alterations can be made within the boundary of the property to improve access to a garage, then this will also be the responsibility of the resident and the DPB application will be refused.

Where there is a garage that meets the above criteria, but there is no vehicular crossover (dropped kerb) serving that garage, applicants will be expected to apply for a vehicular crossover to park their vehicle off-street, and a Disabled Parking Bay application would be refused.

Where there is a garage that meets the above criteria, and the blue badge holder requires a specially adapted vehicle that cannot fit within the space, then the application for a disabled parking bay may still be approved, but will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Curtilage Parking Space (Driveway/Hardstanding)

Curtilage parking spaces will be deemed adequate off-street parking facilities if:

- There is a vehicular crossover (dropped kerb) serving the space;
- The dimensions of the space are a minimum of 4.8 metres deep and 2.7 metres wide (or a minimum of 2 metres wide if the vehicle door on one side can be fully opened);
- The gradient of the space does not exceed 5% (1 in 20)

Where the minimum dimensions for a curtilage parking space can be achieved through reasonable alterations on the applicant's property, then the applicant is expected to make these alterations and an on-street Disabled Parking Bay application will be refused.

If reasonable alterations can be made within the boundary of the property to improve access to the curtilage parking space, then this will also be the responsibility of the resident and the DPB application will be refused.

Where there is a curtilage parking space that meets the above criteria, but there is no vehicular crossover (dropped kerb) serving that space, applicants will be expected to apply for a vehicular crossover to park their vehicle off-street, and a Disabled Parking Bay application would be refused.

Where there is an off-street parking space that meets the above criteria, and the blue badge holder requires a specially adapted vehicle that cannot fit within the space, then the application for a disabled parking bay may still be approved, but will be assessed on a case by case basis.