

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Council reinforces commitment to curbing blue badge misuse**

Bexley has restated its determination to tackle the misuse of blue badge parking permits after a BBC story over Christmas criticised councils that have failed to take action.

The BBC reported comments by the charity Scope and data showing that six out of ten councils did not pursue anyone abusing the blue badge scheme in 2017-18.

“I agree with Scope on the importance of ensuring that blue badges are only used by those who need them,” said Cllr Peter Craske, Bexley’s Cabinet member for Places. “We encourage people to report anyone abusing the system. We won’t hesitate to prosecute them if their behaviour is unfair to others and I am proud that we received an award for our good work from Disabled Motoring UK in November.”

Bexley made five successful prosecutions involving people abusing blue badges in 2017-18, putting it in the top 40 councils nationally. It has successfully prosecuted another 11 cases so far in 2018/19.

Around 10,000 people have blue badges issued to them by Bexley, out of a total 2.4 million across England.

The blue badge allows holders to park free in pay and display bays and for up to three hours on yellow lines, except where there are other restrictions. They can also register for a 100% discount from the London congestion charge.

Blue Badge misuse is a criminal offence, which can lead to a £1,000 fine and confiscation of the badge. Anyone who suspects that a Blue Badge is being used for the benefit of a person who is not the badge holder can report his or her concerns online at [https://mybexley.firmstep.com/service/blue\\_badge\\_misuse](https://mybexley.firmstep.com/service/blue_badge_misuse)

**‘ENDS’**

The Bexley and Bromley Shared Parking Service was been presented with a prestigious Disabled Motoring UK (DMUK) award in recognition of its enforcement processes and the innovative measures it introduced to protect the Blue Badge scheme for genuine users.

The campaign aims to restore public confidence in the scheme. The measures introduced include warning signs on-street and in car parks, daily badge checks, communicating with all badge holders directly to update them on the campaign and remind them of the scheme rules and providing drivers with the means to report misuse and give feedback after an inspection.

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