



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA  
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mike Day  
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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RS/SH

SPC/2014-15/2

31 July 2014

**If you require this or any other information in another format e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me**

Dear Councillor Day

### Blue Badge Scheme

I write further to your letter of 2 July regarding follow up questions on the Blue Badge Scheme.

May I firstly apologise for slightly missing your requested timeline for a reply.

I can confirm the City and County of Swansea has fed back a number of issues on the operational matters relating to the Blue Badge Scheme.

We have not received any further formal guidance to date, but all local authorities had an update on 24 June which began:

“Firstly, thank you for your continued patience in waiting for the rollout of the regulations to extend eligibility for a badge, decision toolkit and **updated guidance**. The delays are the result of further investigations to fully understand the practicalities and implications that local authorities will face in delivering the proposals.”

For completeness I am attaching the full update we received as it sets out more fully some of the planned changes and implications moving forward and in the intervening period whilst we await updated regulations.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD  
ROB STEWART**

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I feel it may also be helpful to contextualise and remind you of the position with regard to the range and mix of applications for Blue Badges in recent years.

Year	No of App	Discretionary Applications	% Discretionary	Overall Issued	Discretionary cases Issued	Refusals	Expiry Date
2010	6,809	3,780	56	6,487	3,458	322	
2011	6,733	3,646	54	6,331	3,244	402	
2012	6,329	3,249	51	5,758	2,678	571	
2013	6,243	2,983	48	5,564	2,304	679	
2014							6,686
2015							5,440
2016							5,240

From the table it can be seen that:-

- There has been a steady decline in the overall number of applications year on year from 2010 onwards.
- Of the applications received in any one year roughly 50% are in respect of discretionary applications although the volume of discretionary applications has fallen as a percentage of overall applications over the past four years.
- The number of Discretionary cases refused has risen over the past four years both as a real number and as a percentage of discretionary applications received.
- Notwithstanding this in 2013/14 **77% of discretionary applications were accepted.**

I trust this additional information is of use to the Committee.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD**  
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Yours sincerely



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