59037 Blue Badge Statistics

I request the following information to Blue Badge scheme applications processed by the Council for the last two financial years.

I request the information in a structured, electronic format (e.g., CSV or spreadsheet format) where applicable.

Information Requested:

Application Volumes and Outcomes:

 a. The total number of Blue Badge applications received.

2023/24 – 7,395

2024/25 – 8,726

 b. The total number of applications that were approved.

2023/24 – 6,824

2024/25 - 7,932

 c. The total number of applications that were rejected.

2023/24 - 571

2024/25 - 794

 d. The percentage rejection rate (1c divided by 1a).

This information can be calculated from the data provided above.

Processing Times:

 a. The average number of working days taken from the date of application receipt to the date of a final decision being issued (approval or rejection).

Data is only held in weeks (not working weeks or days) and could only be separated into working days through the manual checking of all applications.

We are unable to provide the information requested as the cost to the Council of locating, retrieving and providing the information far exceeds the statutory maximum of £600.

Please note that the period between an application being submitted and a decision being made is not solely reflective of the Council's processing time and would include delays out with the Council's control, such as those related to applicants providing required information, mobility assessment lead times and application appeals.

 b. The minimum and maximum processing times recorded during the specified period.

Data is only available in weeks and ranges from 1 week to 52+ weeks. It should be noted that the period between applications being submitted and decisions being made may have taken considerably less than a week or more than 52 weeks in some cases. As explained above, application processing delays are often out with the Council's control.

In order to find the exact minimum and maximum periods between applications being submitted and decisions being made, applications would have to be manually reviewed, which would exceed the time/cost limit, as detailed above.

Appeals and Reviews:

a. The total number of internal review or appeal requests received following an initial rejection.

There is no informal or internal review process. Appeals are administered only by external Independent Mobility Assessors, who are medical professionals trained to assess Blue Badge applicants' mobility. The Council does not hold information regarding all appeals reviewed by external Assessors.

b. The total number of initial rejection decisions that were overturned on appeal/review.

The numbers of application decisions overturned following appeals reviewed by Independent Mobility Assessors are as follows:

2023/24 - 8

2024/25 - 7

Breakdown by Eligibility Criteria (Where available):

a. The number of successful applications made under automatic eligibility criteria (e.g., PIP enhanced rate mobility component, high rate DLA mobility component).

2023/24 – 3,150

2024/25 – 3,821

b. The number of successful applications made under the 'Hidden Disabilities' or 'Subject to Further Assessment' criteria.

2023/24 – 3,674

2024/25 – 4,111

c. The number of rejections specifically related to applications made under the 'Hidden Disabilities' or 'Subject to Further Assessment' criteria.

2023/24 - 517

2024/25 - 794