

63274 Ridacards and Lothian Buses Scratch Card Day Tickets

Since 1 April 2026, how many Lothian Buses day ticket scratch cards (or equivalent paper day tickets accepted only by Lothian Buses) have been purchased, funded or distributed by the City of Edinburgh Council?

We have distributed 265 day-ticket scratch cards through the Refugee and Migration Team since 01/04/26.

What has been the total cost to the Council of providing these scratch cards since 1 April 2026?

£1,590.

Which categories of individuals are eligible to receive these scratch cards?

These cards were given to a variety of our citizens, including those with no recourse to public funds, resettled refugees and non-scheme refugees.

How many scratch cards have been issued specifically to individuals seeking asylum or those accommodated under asylum support arrangements?

None.

Which Council department administers this scheme?

No individual department administers this scheme. All departments can access and procure their own bus scratch cards.

If the Council does not fund these scratch cards directly, which organisation or public body does?

Not applicable.

Please provide any policy, guidance, agreement or other recorded information governing the provision of these scratch cards.

Not applicable.

Does the City of Edinburgh Council currently fund, purchase or provide Ridacards for individuals seeking asylum or those accommodated under asylum support arrangements?

If so, how many such Ridacards are currently active?

What is the total annual cost to the Council of providing these Ridacards?

What is the cost per Ridacard?

What is the standard validity period for these Ridacards (for example, one year, five years or another duration)?

How many of these Ridacards currently have an expiry date in 2031?

If the Council does not fund these Ridacards directly, which organisation or public body does?

Please provide any policy, guidance, agreement or other recorded information governing the provision of Ridacards to individuals seeking asylum or those accommodated under asylum support arrangements.

The Council does not hold the above information which you requested. There was a Scottish Government Pilot programme that provided free National Entitlement Cards to asylum seekers; however, this programme has now finished, and the Council were not involved in the implementation of this.