

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/549783

Below is an extract from a document, issued on 11th September 2018 by Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, following a review of Disabled Parking Places.

As previously advised, officials have been exploring the issues relating to disabled parking places not being assigned to individuals. This review has now been concluded and I can advise that, whilst disabled persons' parking places have not normally been assigned for the exclusive use of an individual Blue Badge holder, bays can be assigned to an individual dependent on the Traffic Regulation Order promoted by the relevant local authority.

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD) state that "where the bay is reserved for an individual disabled badge holder, an alphanumeric identifier, with or without "ONLY" may be added after "DISABLED"". It is therefore the Scottish Government's view that local authorities can specify disabled bays to individual Blue Badge holders, but we expect this would only occur in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the local authority.

In accordance with The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and/or The Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, the following information is requested --

(a) Was the review decision already known within your Council by the Department responsible for the Application processing and allocation of Disabled Person's Parking Places?

No

(b) In the event an acceptable set of "exceptional circumstances" exists, is the Department currently in a position to make a discretionary decision (1) to a previously provided Disabled Person's Parking Place or (2) to a new Application,

in order to bring about a conversion to or new provision of a "Resident Only" parking space in accordance with the review findings?

There is no Council Policy to define "exceptional circumstances".

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(c) Should the Department not be in a position as detailed in (b) above, what steps are required to bring about a "Residents Only" parking space in accordance with the review findings?

I would envisage guidance being forthcoming from Transport Scotland / SCOTS (Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland) advising what Local Authorities should do so there's consistency throughout Scotland.