

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27728

delays in Blue Parking Badge processing times.

This is a formal Freedom of Information Request for information in the following parameters:

- *Data detailing the average wait times from the point of applying for a Blue Badge to a decision being made on the application each year, going back to 2021 (or as far back as data is available).*

The Department for Transport's (DfT's) published guidance states that Blue Badge applications should normally be processed within 12 weeks. This is guidance rather than a statutory requirement.

Data is available for the financial years 2023 – 2025 year for the number of Blue Badges issued and the time taken to process applications from the date of application to the date of issue. This information is recorded in bands of weeks rather than as exact processing times for individual applications.

As exact processing times are not held for individual applications, an exact average processing time cannot be calculated from the data held. The information provided below therefore shows the number of badges issued within each processing-time band.

2021 – No data available

2022 – No data available

2023 - Using the processing time bands held by us as an estimate to process an average processing time, the average processing time was approximately **6.7 weeks**.

2024 - Using the processing time bands held by us as an estimate to process an average processing time was approximately **10.8 weeks**

2025 - Using the processing time bands held by us as an estimate to process an average processing time was approximately **10.3 weeks**

- *Please indicate which area the case was from within your remit.*
Suffolk

- *What have the highest and lowest wait times been in your area over the past five years and where were they?*

Suffolk County Council does not hold recorded information on the highest and lowest processing times for individual Blue Badge applications and is therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Whilst we hold data for 2023 to 2025 on the number of applications processed within specified time bands, we do not routinely record, monitor or report the longest and shortest processing times for individual applications.

The attached excel file contains the information held by Suffolk County Council relevant to this request. Where the data is not available, this has been indicated accordingly.

Estimated average processing times have been derived from the processing-time bands held by Suffolk County Council and should not be regarded as exact averages.

	Total number of Badges Issued	Estimated Average Processing time (weeks)
2023	15685	6.7
2024	19997	10.8
2025	19195	10.3