

Concern over 'false narrative' around Blue Badge misuse whilst thousands unclaimed

A "harmful false narrative" is being created around disabled people and benefit fraud, an Edinburgh councillor has claimed, after the council "boasted" about catching 16 instances of Blue Badge misuse.

City parking chiefs revealed earlier this month a 'citywide crackdown' on Blue Badge fraud had seen 16 tickets issued for 'lost, stolen or misused' permits being displayed.

Seven cars were also impounded as part of the clampdown aimed at 'stopping perpetrators abusing the parking system' and 'improving accessibility for those in genuine need of parking spaces'.

Now a local councillor has said that a bigger issue is the thousands of people in Edinburgh who are eligible for a Blue Badge but haven't claimed one.

Blue Badges entitle those with mobility issues to park free of charge in pay and display and shared use on-street parking bays and on single yellow lines when loading is allowed.

Green councillor Dan Heap said while "condemning misuse of the scheme" the local authority's attention should be turned toward increasing uptake of Blue Badges.



Cllr Dan Heap

Figures he obtained from the council and Department of Work and Pensions

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by Donald Turvill Local Democracy Reporter



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