



# GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

Ministry for Trade, Industry, Employment and Communications  
Suite 771  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BLUE BADGE SCHEME**

The Government will be introducing the “Blue Badge Scheme” for the disabled as from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

The implementation of the new scheme will mean that disability discs issued will be in the format of the EU style “Blue Badge Scheme”. Discs will either be issued to an individual or to an institution that cares for the disabled. They have been printed to comply with EU specifications and are governed by the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) Regulations. These are a new set of regulations that have been specifically drafted by the Government to govern the issue, administration and enforcement of the scheme. The responsibility for the issue and administration of the scheme has now been transferred to the Department of Transport. A medical panel is being constituted to adjudicate on each application. This panel will comprise a doctor, an occupational therapist and government officials. It is anticipated that this panel will meet on a monthly basis to consider all new applications.

In order not to inconvenience current badge holders, the Government will automatically replace their current badge with a new one issued under this new scheme. Each holder of a current badge will be written to individually to inform them accordingly. Current Disability Disc holders will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and return it together with two passport-sized photographs to the Department of Transport. They will then be issued with a new disability badge.

The Minister with responsibility for Transport has met the Chairperson of the Disability Society and the Chairperson of the Society for the Visually Impaired to consult them on the details and the introduction of the new scheme.

“I am delighted that the “Blue Badge Scheme” will be introduced in Gibraltar next week. The Scheme will enable those who are eligible, to use the Scheme both in Gibraltar and across Europe. This is great news for those with Disability Permits”, said the Minister with responsibility for Transport, the Hon Joe Holliday. He added, “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Traffic Commission, which for many years has had the responsibility for the issuing of Disability Discs”.

Further details, as well as the application forms, can be obtained from the Department of Transport, Motor Vehicle Test Centre, Eastern Beach Road, RGP Headquarters at New Mole House, Central Police Station in Irish Town and from the Citizens’ Advice Bureau, 10 Governor’s Lane.

Additionally, and as from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, members of the public can visit the Government of Gibraltar website, [www.gibraltar.gov.gi](http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi) where they can also obtain further details of the scheme as well as downloading the application forms.