



Bristol City Council Clean Air Zone Exemptions Terms and Conditions

Table 1 Version control

Version	Date Published	Notes
V1	16/09/2022	First Issue
V2	10/10/2022	Updated to provide additional clarity on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• proof of address details required for Blue Badge Longer Term exemptions• vehicles eligible for Low Income Worker exemptions.

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2. Introduction

- 2.1 This document sets out Bristol City Council's (the Council) Terms and Conditions relating to Exemptions for use within its Clean Air Zone.
- 2.2 The majority of vehicles will not have to pay a charge to drive in the zone as they will comply with emissions standards that have been set by government. Non-compliant vehicles that are not exempt from the charge will have to pay.
- 2.3 There are some national exemptions from the charge.
- 2.4 Motorists should use the government's Vehicle Checker Service [Drive in a clean air zone - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) to check whether their vehicle is compliant or nationally exempt.
- 2.5 In addition, Bristol City Council has approved some local exemptions.
- 2.6 This document sets out the eligibility criteria, application process and use of Bristol's Clean Air Zone exemptions. It is derived from the [Bristol Clean Air Zone Charging Order 2022](#). The Charging Order shall take precedence in the event of any dispute and in all cases the Council's decision is final.

3. General terms

- 3.1 In applying for any exemption described in this document, the applicant accepts these terms and conditions.
- 3.2 The Council reserves the right to:
 - 3.2.1 update this document from time to time
 - 3.2.2 request additional evidence to verify any exemption application
 - 3.2.3 cancel any exemption where the applicant is no longer believed to be entitled to it
 - 3.2.4 cancel any exemption where wilful misuse has been identified
 - 3.2.5 refuse any application or renewal of any of any exemption if there has been a previously fraudulent application or wilful misuse on the part of the applicant.
- 3.3 If an exemption is cancelled, the registered keeper of the vehicle will be liable for any Clean Air Zone Charges incurred by driving in the zone without a valid exemption. Failure to pay any such charge will result in the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice.
- 3.4 The Council's Privacy Notice relating to the administration of Clean Air Zone exemptions can be found at [Privacy and processing notice for growth and regeneration services \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)
- 3.5 The Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. It may share information provided to it with other bodies responsible for auditing, administering public funds, or where

undertaking a public function, to prevent and detect fraud. For more information visit www.bristol.gov.uk/data-protection-foi/fraud-prevention-and-detection

4. Exemption types

4.1 National exemptions

- 4.1.1 The types of vehicles listed in 4.1.2 are nationally exempt from Bristol's Clean Air Zone.
- 4.1.2 Owners of these vehicles do not have to apply for an exemption. Eligibility is determined by DVLA or other government sources.
- Ultra-low emissions vehicles
 - Disabled passenger vehicles
 - Disabled vehicles
 - Military vehicles
 - Historic vehicles
 - Vehicles retrofitted with technology accredited by the [Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme \(CVRAS\)](#)
 - Some agricultural vehicles
- 4.1.3 Bristol's Clean Air Zone does not apply to motorcycles, which do not incur a charge in the zone.
- 4.1.4 Motorists should use the government's Vehicle Checker Service [Drive in a clean air zone - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) to check whether their vehicle is nationally exempt.
- 4.1.5 Any query or dispute regarding the status of a nationally exempt vehicle must be resolved by the registered keeper in conjunction with DVLA. The Council is unable to resolve any such issues.

4.2 Permanent local exemptions

- 4.2.1 The types of vehicles listed in 4.2.2 are permanently exempt from Bristol's Clean Air Zone charges.
- 4.2.2 Owners of these vehicles need to apply for a local exemption using the [MiPermit CAZ portal](#):
- Emergency service vehicles
 - Specialist vehicles
- 4.2.3 These vehicles will not be exempt from the zone charges unless their local exemption application has been approved.
- 4.2.4 Initial exemptions will be valid for one year. For continuing entitlement, the registered keeper will need to submit a new exemption application.
- 4.2.5 The following exemptions relating to the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) Complex will also be available on an ongoing basis:
- seven-day exemptions for specified visitors
 - appointment day exemptions for frequent outpatients

4.3 Temporary local exemptions

4.3.1 The types of vehicles listed in 4.3.2, 4.3.4 & 4.3.5 are temporarily exempt from Bristol's Clean Air Zone charges.

4.3.2 Owners of these vehicles need to apply for a local exemption using the [MiPermit CAZ portal](#):

- Vehicles used by Blue Badge holders
- Vehicles of residents living inside the zone
- Vehicles of low-income earners who travel into the zone for work purposes
- Recovery vehicles
- Registered community transport vehicles
- Commercial vehicles with existing finance agreements

4.3.3 These vehicles will not be exempt from the zone charges unless their local exemption application has been approved.

4.3.4 Patients attending appointments at the BRI Complex will be able to register for a daily exemption using screens in the BRI Complex.

4.3.5 The Council may provide an exemption to the following groups:

- Applicants for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) whose expressions of interest have met basic eligibility criteria.
- Home to School Transport buses / minibuses / coaches
- Vehicles of families with personal travel budgets (PTBs), whose journey to school is through the zone.

4.3.6 The owner of any vehicle that is exempt under 4.3.5, will be notified by the Council.

4.3.7 All temporary local exemptions will be valid until 31 March 2023.

4.4 Exemption amendments

4.4.1 If your circumstances change you must notify the Council. If you are still eligible for your exemption council officers may amend your exemption or ask you to make a new application as appropriate.

5. Exemptions for patients and selected visitors to the BRI Complex

5.1 The BRI Complex is defined as:

- Bristol Royal Infirmary
- Bristol Heart Institute
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children
- Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre
- St Michael's Hospital
- Bristol Dental Hospital
- Bristol Eye Hospital
- Central Health Clinic

5.2 Patients with appointments at the BRI Complex

- 5.2.1 Patients with appointments at the BRI Complex are exempt from the Bristol Clean Air Zone charge on the day of their appointment. This includes patients attending accident and emergency services.
- 5.2.2 To be eligible for this exemption, patients must register their exemption on the day of their appointment.
- 5.2.3 Patients must use the screens in the main foyers of the buildings listed in 5.1 to enter their vehicle registration number.
- 5.2.4 Patients may register two vehicles registration numbers if they are arriving and leaving their appointment in different vehicles.
- 5.2.5 The exemption is valid until 23:59 on the day of registration. If a patient leaves after midnight they will need to register a second exemption.
- 5.2.6 The touchscreen devices are for the use of patients only.
- 5.2.7 Staff and visitors to the BRI Complex are expressly forbidden from using the devices, other than to assist a patient.
- 5.2.8 If abuse is suspected, vehicle registration numbers may be blocked from future use.

5.3 Visitors to the BRI Complex

- 5.3.1 Regular visitors to long term inpatients at the BRI Complex may be granted an exemption.
- 5.3.2 Ward staff will determine eligibility, based on the clinical need to the inpatient.
- 5.3.3 Each hospital visitor exemption will be valid for 7 days, starting on the date approved by ward staff.

- 5.3.4 Exemptions will be processed by the hospital travel team. To be eligible for an exemption the visitor must supply the ward staff with their vehicle registration number.

5.4 Patients with frequent appointments at the BRI Complex

- 5.4.1 Frequent outpatients who need to visit the hospital on a regular basis may be granted an exemption.
- 5.4.2 Frequent visits means at least three appointments a month over a three-month period.
- 5.4.3 Ward staff will determine eligibility.
- 5.4.4 To be eligible for an exemption, the visitor must supply their vehicle registration number and appointment dates as specified.

6. Exemptions for Blue Badge holders

6.1 Blue Badge Holder Longer Term Exemption

- 6.1.1 Blue Badge holders may apply for an exemption for a vehicle that they use regularly, as a driver or a passenger, providing the vehicle is registered at their address.
- 6.1.2 Blue Badge holders with this exemption will not need to register each individual journey that they make.
- 6.1.3 Blue Badge holders will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:
- An electronic copy of their valid Blue Badge showing their name and expiry date.
 - An electronic copy of the front and first inside page of their vehicle registration certificate (V5C).
 - Proof of address (for example most recent council tax bill, utility bill or bank statement less than three months old, Council or housing association rent book or private tenancy agreement showing landlord, tenant, address, date and signatures) for the Blue Badge holder and register keeper of the vehicle, if different.

6.2 Blue Badge Holder Daily Exemption

- 6.2.1 Blue Badge holders may apply for a digital wallet of 30 daily exemptions for any other vehicles that they use.
- 6.2.2 Blue Badge holders with this exemption will need to register each individual vehicle that they use and the date of their journey in that vehicle.
- 6.2.3 Each daily exemption is valid for one vehicle for one day during the scheme's hours of operation.

- 6.2.4 Blue Badge holders will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:
- An electronic copy of their valid Blue Badge showing their name and expiry date.
- 6.2.5 Blue Badge holders will need to activate each individual exemption using the [MiPermit portal](#), the MiPermit Smartphone App or by calling 0117 90 36385 during normal office hours.
- 6.2.6 Daily exemptions can be activated up to 2 weeks in advance. This can be changed or cancelled at any time prior to the day of travel.
- 6.2.7 Daily exemptions must be activated no later than the day of travel.
- 6.2.8 Daily exemptions cannot be activated after the day of travel.
- 6.2.9 If a Blue Badge holder requires more than 30 daily exemptions they can reapply for a new allocation.
- 6.2.10 A Blue Badge holder can apply for both Blue Badge exemptions.

7. Resident Exemption

7.1 Residents who live within the boundary of Bristol's Clean Air Zone may apply for an exemption.

7.2 Residents can apply for an exemption for a vehicle registered to their address, providing their vehicle is:

- A car with no more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, that is not a taxi or private hire vehicle; OR
- A van weighing less than 3.5 tons that is not registered to a company or a sole trader

7.3 Residents will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:

- An electronic copy of the front and first inside page of their vehicle registration certificate (V5C).
- If the car is a company car, an official letter from the registered keeper naming the resident as the authorised user.
- If the car is a lease or long-term hire car, a copy of the lease hire agreement to show the resident is the authorised user.
- Proof of address for example: most recent council tax bill, utility bill or bank statement less than three months old, Council or housing association rent book or private tenancy agreement showing landlord, tenant, address, date and signatures.

7.4 Residents can apply for more than one exemption if they have more than one qualifying vehicle

8. Low Income Worker Exemption

7.5 Qualifying low income workers can apply for an exemption for one vehicle registered to their address, providing their vehicle is:

- A car with no more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, that is not a taxi or private hire vehicle; OR
- A van weighing less than 3.5 tons

8.1 A low income worker is someone who:

- Lives outside Bristol's Clean Air Zone
- Works more than 18 hours per week at a business premises located within the zone
- Earns less than £26,000 a year before deductions and no more than £13.51 per hour.

8.2 Applicants will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:

- Photograph or scan of the front and first inside page of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C) / vehicle logbook
- Proof of address for example: most recent council tax bill, utility bill or bank statement less than three months old, Council or housing association rent book or private tenancy agreement showing landlord, tenant, address, date and signatures.
- Independent evidence of their place of work, hours of work, their annual salary details and hourly rate

8.3 Independent employment evidence could include:

- Letter from your employer on headed paper
- Your most recent P60
- Three most recent months' pay slips
- Self-assessment tax return

9. Specialist Vehicle Exemptions

9.1 Owners of recovery, emergency or specialist vehicles can apply for an exemption.

9.2 A separate application is required for each vehicle

9.3 These vehicles are defined by their tax class.

9.4 Tax Class 10 Recovery Vehicles - are vehicles with a weight exceeding 3,500kg, which are either constructed or permanently adapted for lifting, towing, and transporting disabled vehicles.

9.5 Tax Class 12 Emergency vehicles are vehicles used by emergency services.

9.6 Tax Classes 4, 8 and 11 Specialist Vehicles:

Tax Class 4 is for special types of vehicles which are goods vehicles or locomotives used for out of the ordinary operations.

Tax Class 8 is for Special Vehicles which are:

- Mobile Cranes
- Mobile Pumps
- Digging Machines
- Works Trunks
- Road Rollers
- Showman's HGVs
- Showman's Haulage Vehicles

Tax Class 11 is for Special Concessionary Vehicles which are:

- Some Agricultural Machines
- Mowing Machines
- Electrically Propelled Vehicles
- Gritters
- Snowploughs
- Steam Vehicles

9.7 Applicants will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:

- Photograph or scan of the front and first inside page of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C) / vehicle logbook
- Evidence of the vehicle tax class if it is not shown on the V5C
- If the vehicle is a lease or long-term hire vehicle, a copy of the lease or hire agreement to show the authorised user

10. Exemptions for registered community transport vehicles

10.1 Operators of community transport vehicles may apply for an exemption.

10.2 The vehicle must be a minibus, bus or a coach.

10.3 The vehicle operator must have a valid section 19 or 22 permit which can be assigned to one vehicle which will then be exempt from Bristol's Clean Air Zone charge.

10.4 Applicants will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:

- Photograph or scan of the front and first inside page of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C) / vehicle logbook
- Evidence of section 19 or 22 permit
- If the vehicle is a lease or long-term hire vehicle, a copy of the lease hire agreement to show the authorised user.

11. Commercial Vehicles with Finance Agreements Exemption

11.1 Owners of commercial vehicles that are subject to a finance agreement may apply for an exemption if:

- They are a business
- The vehicle operates from or is regularly stored at an address within the clean air zone
- The vehicle is subject to a finance or lease agreement which began on or before to 30 November 2021

11.2 Applicants will need to provide evidence of their entitlement:

- A photograph or scan of the front and first inside page of the vehicle registration certificate (V5C)/vehicle logbook
- Evidence to confirm business status. For example, a letterhead showing name, address and companies house registration or VAT number or for sole traders another form of evidence showing business use
- Evidence of the address the business operates from or vehicles are stored if different
- Finance or lease agreement for the vehicle, which must begin on or before 30 November 2021

11.3 This exemption will expire on 31 March 2023 or at the end of the finance agreement, whichever is sooner

12. Exemptions for vehicles that are being replaced under the Financial Assistance Scheme

13.1 The Council is offering a Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to provide financial support to those who need to change their vehicle. Information and the eligibility criteria for the FAS can be found at [Clean Air Zone financial support \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/clean-air-zone-financial-support)

13.2 Anyone wanting to make an application for financial support under the FAS has been invited to submit an Expression of Interest.

13.3 Expressions of Interest are assessed and if an application meets basic eligibility criteria the applicant will receive:

- A letter of eligibility confirming they can now make a full application for financial support OR
- A request for further information about how the vehicle is used in the Clean Air Zone (a telematics assessment).

13.4 Applicants who meet the basic eligibility criteria will be offered an exemption for the vehicle they want to replace which will be valid until their replacement vehicle is received, or 31 July 2023, whichever is sooner, subject to the following conditions:

- An exemption issued for an application which is subsequently rejected (at any stage) will end 30 days after the rejection.
- An exemption issued for an application which does not lead to a replacement vehicle being ordered within 90 days of the date of the Eligibility Letter will end immediately.

13.5 Applicants who do not meet the basic eligibility criteria will not be offered an exemption.

13. Home to School Travel Exemptions

13.1 Home to School Travel vehicles that operate on routes set by the Council's Home to School Travel teams will be exempt providing the vehicle is:

- A bus, minibus or coach according to DVLA records
- Funded by Bristol City Council, Bath and North-east Somerset Council, North Somerset Council or South Gloucestershire Council
- Being used to transport a child or children to or from school or educational setting as part of a Home to School travel service operated by any of these authorities

13.1.1 Vehicles operated under contract to Bristol City Council will be nominated automatically.

13.1.2 Other authorities should contact cazsupport@bristol.gov.uk.

13.1.3 Vehicles operating as a temporary replacement for any nominated vehicle can be granted a temporary exemption providing a request is received no later than 23:59 on the day of travel. Operators must notify the Council using the [dedicated contact form](#), available on the Council's website. Notifications through other channels will not be accepted.

213.2 Parents who receive a home to school travel personal travel budget and use a non-compliant vehicle can apply for an exemption if:

- They have at least one child whose route to school goes through Bristol's Clean Air Zone.
- They received a personal travel budget from Bristol City Council, Bath and North-east Somerset Council, North Somerset Council or South Gloucestershire Council

13.2.1 Families supported by Bristol City Council who qualify for this support will be contacted directly.

13.2.2 Other authorities should contact cazsupport@bristol.gov.uk if they support families who qualify for this exemption.