Who can use a bus lane?

Permitted vehicles can vary, so you should check the signs at the start of a bus lane or bus only road before entering.

In Birmingham, permitted vehicles may include buses/coaches (with a minimum of ten seats), pedal cycles, Hackney carriages (black taxi cabs) and solo motorcycles. Private hire vehicles are not permitted to use any bus lanes in Birmingham.

If in doubt, stay out.

Some bus lanes are only in operation at certain times or days, as indicated on signs ahead of the lane. At other times, all traffic may use the bus lane.

Parking is not allowed in a bus lane during hours of operation, even with a blue (disabled) badge.

Go to www.birmingham.gov.uk/buslanes for:
• Locations of bus lanes and enforcement cameras
• How to pay or appeal a fine
• City centre routes avoiding bus lanes

Birmingham Connected

Bus lane enforcement is part of the Birmingham Connected vision to reinvent the way people and goods move across the city.

Find out more at www.birmingham.gov.uk/connected.

@birminghamconnected #brumbuslanes
Bus lanes in Birmingham

Bus lanes keep our city moving, giving priority to buses so they can avoid traffic congestion. This makes bus travel more attractive, improves reliability and reduces journey times.

We are committed to improving public transport in Birmingham, reducing the number of cars on our roads and making the city’s air cleaner as a result.

Birmingham has about 30 kilometres of bus lanes and bus only roads. You can find details of them all, including their locations, which vehicles are permitted to use them and times of operation at www.birmingham.gov.uk/buslanes.

Bus lane enforcement

All bus lanes in Birmingham can be enforced – which means you will be fined if you use one when not authorised. We enforce bus lanes and bus only roads using cameras which record images of vehicle registration plates. These include fixed cameras and a camera car.

The locations of fixed cameras can be found at www.birmingham.gov.uk/buslanes. Not all cameras will be switched on at any one time.

As you approach a camera site, a sign will warn you of this. If an unauthorised vehicle is caught driving in a bus lane or bus only road, a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle.

The fine for driving in a bus lane or bus only road is £60, reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days of the PCN being issued.

The police can also fine drivers of vehicles using a bus lane or bus only road illegally. If you are fined by the police, the amount may be different to a PCN issued by the council.

What does a bus lane look like?

Bus lanes are easy to identify. The words ‘BUS LANE’ are painted on the road and their boundaries are marked with a solid white line.

Signs ahead of a bus lane show the types of vehicle allowed in the lane and the times of operation. If no times are given, the bus lane is operational 24 hours a day.

Sections of broken white line signify where vehicles may cross the bus lane, such as to turn left.

Bus only roads are marked at the entrance with signs showing the types of vehicle permitted to use them and times of operation, if applicable.

Birmingham also has a number of bus gates, which give buses priority at a junction. The types of vehicle permitted to use them are painted on the ground with the word ‘only’.

There’s a £60 fine for driving in a bus lane