

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009
ANNUAL REPORT ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES FUNCTIONS
1 APRIL 2012 TO 31 MARCH 2013

Background

1. The Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 was passed by Parliament on 26 February 2009, receiving Royal Assent on 1 April 2009, and coming into effect on 1 October 2009.
2. The Scottish Government recognises that it is socially unacceptable to abuse disabled parking spaces, and the Act places a duty on all Local Authorities to promote the proper use of disabled parking places, and aims to make all disabled persons' parking bays enforceable. Under sections 4 and 6 of the Act, Local Authorities are required to either remove all advisory disabled parking spaces or begin the statutory procedure to make the spaces enforceable. **That duty was to be undertaken by 30 September 2010 (1 year after commencement of the Act).**
3. The Act also requires Scottish Ministers to publish and lay before Parliament an annual report within 6 months of the end of the reporting year. This report fulfils this requirement, setting out the 2012-2013 annual report on Local Authorities functions and duties to promote the use of parking places for disabled persons' vehicles.
4. Two previous reports have been prepared for years 2009-2011 and 2011-2012 and are available on Transport Scotland's website:
 - [Annual Report 1 October 2009 \(Enforcement Date\) to 31 March 2011](#)
 - [Annual Report 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012](#)

Schedule Part 2, section 3 (a)

details of the action that each local authority took in fulfilment of its duty under section 1

5. Across Scotland, a range of actions have been undertaken to promote the proper use of parking places for disabled persons' vehicles. Action to raise awareness has been undertaken, including:
 - **Aberdeen City Council** – articles placed in newspapers and residents' association newsletters, and conversations undertaken with Blue Badge holders in their own homes.
 - **West Lothian Council** - investigating an advertising campaign on council vehicles and placing an advert in the "*Bulletin*", which goes out to all households in West Lothian.

6. Local Authorities are also taking action on the reporting and prosecution of misuse of parking places for disabled persons' vehicles, including:
 - **Aberdeenshire Council** – routinely issuing excess charge notices to those using such places improperly in car parks
 - **City of Edinburgh Council** - considering the provision of a 24 hour telephone service for reporting misuse of disabled persons parking places.
7. For more detailed information on the actions in each Local Authority, please see the spreadsheet appended to this report.

Schedule Part 2, section 3 (b)

the total number of parking places designated by the local authorities as being for use only by a disabled persons' vehicle by virtue of the provisions of this Act (except Section 9)

8. Table 1 below sets out the total number of parking places (except temporary places) designated by individual Local Authorities as being for use only by a disabled person's vehicle. **These places refer to performance in reporting year 2012/13** (and so illustrate advisory spaces for 2012/13 only which have been made enforceable).
9. For more detailed information on the designated parking places in each local authority, please see the spreadsheet appended to this report.

Table 1

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PARKING PLACES DESIGNATED 2012/2013
Aberdeen City	680
Aberdeenshire	68
Angus	0
Argyll & Bute	15
City of Edinburgh Council	377
Clackmannanshire	20
Dumfries & Galloway	17
Dundee	0
East Ayrshire	0
East Dunbartonshire	88
East Lothian	0
East Renfrewshire	115
Falkirk	45
Fife	310
Glasgow	6
Highland	25
Inverclyde	35
Midlothian	87
Moray	0
North Ayrshire	0
North Lanarkshire	124
Orkney	12
Perth & Kinross	27
Renfrewshire	0
Scottish Borders	0
Shetland	112
South Ayrshire	54
South Lanarkshire	20
Stirling	16
West Dunbartonshire	58
Western Isles (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)	0
West Lothian	161
TOTAL	2472

Schedule Part 2, section 3 (c)

for each category of information under paragraph 1 that requires the reporting of a number or a date, a table setting out the number reported by each local authority

Schedule Part 2, section 3 (d)

for each category of information under paragraph 1 that requires the reporting of a period, a table setting out the period reported by each local authority

Schedule Part 2, section 3 (e)

for each category of information under paragraph 1 that requires the reporting of reasons, a table setting out the reasons reported by each local authority

10. The spreadsheet appended to this report details the information required under these sections of the Act.

Additional information

11. Part 2 section 4 of the Schedule sets out that Scottish Ministers can also provide any other information about the performance, functions and duties of Local Authorities in relation to disabled persons' parking places that they consider appropriate. To that end:
- It is the responsibility of Local Authorities to fulfil their duties regarding the process of either removing all advisory bays or beginning the statutory procedure to make the spaces enforceable. **Scottish Ministers will look to provide advice to Local Authorities to help them fulfil these duties in 2013/2014.**
 - All 32 Local Authorities submitted returns for this report. A number have commented in particular about the clarity of the questionnaire required for completion, and analysis of these returns has not proved straightforward. **Transport Scotland officials will prepare further detailed advice and work with LAs to ensure that the process is simplified in the future.**

Transport Scotland
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