

Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1722](#)

Main Petitioner: Dr Shiona Ruhemann on behalf of Iona and Mull Community Councils and others

Subject: Parking charges at island lifeline ferry ports

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to island-proof transport infrastructure to ensure that public bodies do not charge for parking in car parks at island ferry ports, which are essential lifeline services, and any proposed island parking charges are subject to rigorous impact assessment.

Background

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 grants local authorities the power to provide off-street car parks and to charge for their use. As landowners, harbour authorities can levy charges in car parks on their property. Some harbour authorities may also be authorised to levy charges under powers granted through their founding legislation.

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 has not yet been fully enacted. The current status of the Act is set out below:

- Section 31 of the Act brought Section 1, 2, 30, 31 and 32 into force on the day after the Act received Royal Assent, i.e. 7 July 2018.
- The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 (Commencement) Regulations 2018 brought Sections 3 to 6, 15 to 21 and 27 to 29 of the Act into force on 4 October 2018
- All other sections of the Act, including those dealing with Island Community Impact Assessments and the duty to have regard to island communities, are yet to be brought into force.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government has not taken any specific action on the issue of car parking charges at island ferry ports.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered the issue of car parking charges at island ferry ports.

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June 2019

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Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP