

Local Government and Communities Committee**Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland)
Act 2009****Submission from Dundee City Council*****Q1. Do you think the Act has achieved its aim of preventing disabled person's parking spaces being used by those who are not entitled to?***

A. It is difficult to report unless based on Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued. Unfortunately Dundee City Council do not have any figures to compare this on pre-2009.

Q2. How well is the local authority in your area carrying out its duties required by the Act to convert all advisory on-street disabled persons' parking places into enforceable parking places, unless they are no longer required?

A. Within Dundee City Council, an on street disabled persons parking place is provided to each qualifying person at a convenient area to their address. This is provided that the applicant must meet the required criteria and first apply for an on street disabled persons parking space by bringing their valid blue badge and V5 Registration certificate.

The application is checked and recorded into the Dundee City Council's Customer Registration Management system. Information requests are then passed on to Network Management Team who will visit the applicant, agree a suitable location and temporarily mark out the location for the disabled persons parking place and a sign on the adopted road for our contractor to install permanent road markings.

If the application is successful, the applicant receives an automatically computer generated letter issued by our Customer Services Department advising that their application is successful. A maximum time period up to 6 months is given for the disabled parking place to be permanently marked out. If the applicant is unsuccessful and refused a bay, an automatically generated letter is issued by Customer Services advising them the reason for refusal.

The new bay requests are sent out on location plans in batches to our contractor to be permanently marked with an installed sign on site after which it is checked by Network Management Team to ensure that it complies with the current regulations.

Every 'on street' disabled parking place is identified against the applicant within the Dundee City Council's Disabled Person's Parking Place database, through their name and address. The database can be interrogated to obtain various information including a record history of a particular disabled parking spaces assigned to an applicant. The database is routinely managed with additions of new and removal of existing 'on street' disabled parking places located within Dundee City.

At the end of each financial year, an annual report is prepared (report covering the period 1 April to 31 March) by Dundee City Council for the Scottish Ministers. The

report details the performance of its functions in relation to parking places for disabled persons' vehicles during the reporting period. The report includes the total number of requests received , parking places identified including any reasons for refusal and the number of parking places for which statutory process has commenced.

A single statutory order is prepared covering the number of 'on street' disabled parking places within that Order which is presented at the council committee for approval and enforcement.

There is a working procedure in place within Dundee City Council to undertake duties on the management of 'on street' disabled parking places including a routine updated registers detailing the addition new parking spaces, removal of existing parking spaces and transfer to new applicants. All disabled parking spaces on council grounds are enforced as well as certain spaces on private grounds under housing associations.

There are challenges and difficulties in enforcing disabled parking bays on land belonging private organisations within Dundee who have been approached by Dundee City Council.

There has been little response or commitment by the private organisations to co-operate. It would appear that they are content with their current arrangements and don't require any assistance from Dundee City Council need any outside help.

There are occasions when existing disabled bays become vacant bays throughout the city as a result of applicant moving address, giving up vehicle, no longer have a blue badge or bereavement. The Council is not always informed by the applicant / next of kin and as a result can lie dormant taking unnecessary parking space for a period of time which could otherwise be deployed for normal parking.

Measures are in place if it is brought to our attention a disabled bay has become vacant that a Public Notice is placed next to the disabled bay. The notice will advise that it is the Council's intention to remove the bay unless there is an expression of interest that another blue badge holder would like to be reallocated the bay.

The same required criteria will apply to the new applicant that they must have a blue badge and that their vehicle must be registered to the same address of the blue badge holder otherwise the bay will be removed.

Q3. Any other issues relating to the Act which you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee?

A. Most issues with regard to disabled parking are the all-day parking which Transport Scotland have advised Dundee City Council cannot currently restrict. These are all challenges and problems with the Blue Badge and not problems with the Act.

Roads and Transportation Division
Dundee City Council

