

**PE1722/F**

Orkney Island Council submission of 9 September 2019

I am writing in connection with your e-mail of 12 August seeking the views of island local authorities with regard to the action called for in the above petition.

I note the petition is 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.

My understanding of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 is that an islands authority would be under a statutory duty to carry out an island communities impact assessment if it proposed to charge for parking in car parks at island ferry ports. While the relevant legislation is not yet in force, my council carries out informal island communities impact assessments where appropriate under the Islands (Scotland) Act. I'm a little confused as to how the Scottish government would carry out an island communities impact assessment where it would not be the public body seeking to impose the car parking charge. My council would consider that this is a devolved matter and consequently, the duty would be on ourselves as the relevant public body to carry out the impact assessment. Such an assessment would require to have regard to all the relevant facts and, while not exhaustive, would include considerations and requirements of its outer isles residents, the type of vehicle which might incur a charge and tourist related issues.