

15 September 2010

Item 6 Annex C



From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

Councillor Sparks
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Transport

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Dear Mr. Sparks,

26 July 2010

Implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004

I am aware of the Local Government Association's involvement with the Department in taking forward these provisions. I have now had the opportunity to discuss this issue with officials and I would find it helpful to receive your views on the matter.

As you know, the remaining provisions to be implemented under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 enable the Secretary of State to make regulations to give local authorities the enforcement powers for a range of road use contraventions relating to moving traffic.

Draft regulations and statutory guidance were developed in 2007/08 aimed at helping authorities to manage their networks actively and effectively. I understand you have received copies of these previously for information and background.

The public expectation is that enforcement of the parking and moving traffic contraventions will be carried out for the right reasons, and in a manner that is fair, proportionate, and focused on the most disruptive and selfish behaviours. We want to ensure that this is the case and that it contributes to keeping traffic moving as well as, more broadly, to an improved public perception in this area.

With the public concerns in mind, both the Government and local authorities need to send out a clear message to them on the purpose of these powers.

Before I make any decision on the implementation of these powers I would like to understand the intentions of local authorities in this matter. I would

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therefore be grateful if you would provide clear evidence of this in the context of:

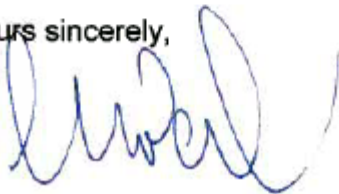
- how local authorities will ensure these enforcement activities are carried out in a way that is fair and proportionate, and targeted on the most selfish and disruptive behaviours;
- how local authorities intend to communicate their enforcement plans and policies to road users - both local road users and visitors;
- what priority local authorities intend to give to the enforcement activities enabled by these proposals;
- when these enforcement powers would be needed in order to support wider local transport plans, targets and policies - and to help authorities meet the requirements of the Network Management Duty introduced by the Traffic Management Act; and
- how local authority elected members intend to ensure their officers take account of public concerns in developing and implementing enforcement policies and what enforcement tools they would use.

I would very much like to see solid evidence which shows a strong consensus around these issues.

The LGA is, of course, well placed to gather the views and perspectives of its members on these issues. It would be most helpful if you were able to gather in such evidence from your members over the next couple of months and forward it on to me. Once I have that evidence, I would find it useful to meet with you and representative member authorities to talk through the issues. I will ask my diary manager to make arrangement for such a meeting at that time.

However, if you would like to meet to discuss the matter with me, please contact my Private Secretary, Joanna Guthrie on 0207 944 8695.

Yours sincerely,



NORMAN BAKER