
From: Reid, Simon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 6:33:34 pm
To: Marc Macrae <Marc.Macrae@moray.gov.uk>
Cc: Local Police Commander, North East [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Illegal Parking across Moray [OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Evening Cllr,

Under the legislation used by police to enforce parking restrictions, a parking ticket has to be physically issued onto the vehicle at the time or handed to the driver. No retrospective enforcement / postal parking tickets are permitted.

Government guidance issued previously states that Police CCTV should not be used to enforce parking restrictions and it cannot be used where a period of observation (30 minutes) is required prior to any enforcement.

Taking this all into account even if we could use CCTV to identify illegal parking it would still require personal attendance of a Police Officer to record any period of observation and physically issue the parking ticket. This would be very labour intensive and also take our CCTV operators away from what we really need them for which is identifying / recording / detecting more serious crime, anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people.

I understand that previous scoping exercises undertaken by Moray Council have determined a position not to decriminalise parking in Moray due to costs associated with this. Respecting the position of Moray Council there are benefits to decriminalising parking enforcement which would allow the local authority greater control over enforcement of parking restrictions in its area. Local knowledge can also enable a local authority to tailor parking enforcement to meet specific needs, taking into account wider traffic management issues aligned with other policies such as town regeneration and road safety.

The financial constraints and significant increase in demand currently faced by Police Scotland require us to make hard choices and ensure our focus and resource is aligned and committed to national and divisional priorities in which parking enforcement does not fall.

Police officers routinely patrol and issue tickets by way of enforcement and I can assure the committee will continue to do so when there are no more significant priority issues or incidents that must be dealt with. Our ability to undertake parking enforcement will always be balanced against relentless operational demand and incidents which by virtue of assessment of threat and risk to individuals must always take precedence for our officers. Many calls to police now see significant time spent responding to and protecting vulnerable persons at points of mental health or other crisis. We will also always prioritise calls and activity where officers target violence, sexual crime, damage to property, antisocial behaviour, and criminals who prey upon the vulnerable in our community. This must remain the priority for local officers as we keep people safe across Moray and for which I am grateful the Committee are appreciative of.

I hope this is of some assistance. If you need me to prepare a more formal response through Committee Services or from the Divisional Commander please let me know and copy to

Regards,

Simon

Simon Reid
Chief Inspector – North East Division
Area Commander - Moray
Police Scotland, 31-33 Moray Street, Elgin, IV30 1JH

From: Marc Macrae [mailto:Marc.Macrae@moray.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 October 2023 18:06
To: Reid, Simon [REDACTED]
Subject: Illegal Parking across Moray

Good evening

During a recent meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee (which I chair) one of the agenda items discussed was item 8 – Elgin Parking Review.

During the debate Cllr Sonya Warren (Buckie) sought clarification as to whether Police Scotland could use CCTV footage to penalise illegal parking.

In response I advised that I would contact Police Scotland to pose the question and seek a response for committee.

I would be grateful if you or colleagues would be able to supply a response that I may share back with Cllr Warren and indeed all members of the ED&Is committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Marc

Councillor Marc Macrae (Fochabers Lhanbryde Ward)

Moray Council | High Street | Elgin | IV30 1BX

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