

PE1559/A

Tony Ivanov Email of 13 February 2015

PE01559: Disabled Parking on Private Property

Dear Sigrid,

I wish to make a submission about the above petition.

As someone with a disability and a Blue Badge Parking permit I wholeheartedly agree with the petitioner, George Neilson.

When Jackie Baillie's 'Disabled Persons Parking Places (Scotland) Bill' came into force in 2009 I had hoped that businesses and landowners who provide public parking would do more to ensure that parking for the disabled was not only just provided but also a concerted effort made to stop the abuse by non-disabled drivers. This has not materialised and whenever I come across this abuse I usually try to speak with the people responsible for the parking arrangements only to receive the same reply which is they are only obliged to provide suitable parking for the disabled and not police it.

Initially, some of the supermarkets did make an attempt to police this but it soon faded and whenever I spoke to their head offices I was told that it was too much hassle and an unnecessary cost which they were not prepared to bear.

Many able bodied drivers just ignore the notices for disabled parking as they know only too well that there is nothing anyone will do about it. For the disabled it can often mean they are unable to visit various places, such as places of interest, leisure or even just shopping. Some might argue that large car parks such as found at shopping centres have sufficient normal spaces available to accommodate all motorists and that may be so but many disabled drivers require that extra width parking space for getting in and out of the vehicle or perhaps the long walk from the car is too much to bear.

Large shopping centre car parks are often commercial businesses who charge the retailers for this service therefore they should be providing some form of visible attendant to monitor the parking. I am quite sure that smaller organisations could provide a service where a staff member could once in a while check their parking areas and take action if they were given the authority to do so.

Traffic wardens are only to be found in major cities as most councils have done away with these to reduce costs. I do feel the disabled are being discriminated against and

it is not that we want special privileges, we just wish to be able to do all the things that able bodied people do.

Yours,

Tony Ivanov