

PATROL

The Joint Committee of England and Wales
for the civil enforcement of
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London

01625 44 55 65
info@patrol-uk.info

Newsletter

February 2016



Jamie Macrae

Chair of the PATROL Joint Committee

Welcome to the latest edition of the PATROL Newsletter, as we head into the next exciting phase in the development of our new portal case management system.

Our vision for the future centres around our new appeal platform which we believe is a trailblazer and has generated considerable interest from other areas of the UK justice system. The system is transparent, efficient, flexible and accessible, as well as bringing cost savings to local authorities. Version One received very positive feedback from both appellants and councils, and we believe the improved Version Two will take appeals management to the next level, as we aim to have every member council enrolled in the scheme by the end of 2016.

Appeals and evidence are submitted online, they are open to comments and authorities can manage and follow cases via their dashboard. The appellant experience has been streamlined, there is an improved decision template for adjudicators, as well as simpler reporting. Our case closure times will improve even further, with many cases settled in days rather than weeks. This is a significant achievement and puts to bed the old adage that "the wheels of justice grind slowly."

In other news, PATROL, which represents more than 300 local authorities in England (outside London) and Wales, has introduced a number of recent initiatives, including the Annual Report Toolkit and PARC (the Parking Annual Reports by Councils Awards), all of which help to dispel the deep-rooted public perception that local authorities see parking enforcement as a 'cash cow' – this level of transparency helps councils to explain their objectives and how they reinvest any funds from parking charges and enforcement activity. This newsletter will give you a broad view of PATROL's recent activities, and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

Cllr. Jamie Macrae

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Passing On Savings

During the last twelve months, member councils have seen a reduction of 18% in the cost per Penalty Charge Notice. The original 55 pence charge was reduced to 50 pence in January 2015, and then lowered by a further 5 pence in October last year. This 45p charge will apply to bus lanes, moving traffic (Wales) and road user charging from April 1, 2016.

2013/14	60p
2014/15	55p
2015/16	50p (Apr) / 45p (Oct)
2016/17	45p

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Consultation on Penalty Charge Levels

["Simplifying the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions \(Guidelines on Level of Charges\) \(England\) Order 2007."](#)

The Department for Transport are currently consulting on the level of charges for civil parking enforcement. Local authorities are urged to respond to this using the link above. The deadline for responses is **16th February 2016**.

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House of Commons Event

PATROL launched the new [Civil Enforcement Reporting Toolkit](#) at the Houses of Parliament on 27 October. The Toolkit is a PATROL initiative to improve communications, transparency and efficiency for motorists whilst also helping local authorities to meet the Department for Transport reporting requirements, summarising the key information they should be looking to publish on an annual basis. The event was hosted by David Rutley MP, and Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Transport Select Committee presented the 2013/14 awards.

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Winning Councils

During the Westminster event, the award for the Best Annual Report went to [Durham Council](#), whilst [Bath & North East Somerset Council](#) received an award for the most outstanding concise report.

Commenting on Durham, the independent review group said:

'The report lays out their aims and objectives which are to improve road safety, improve the quality of life and strengthen the economy...the report is well structured with good typography and helpful illustrations. It presents a clear and comprehensive picture of what they are trying to achieve in County Durham.'

And about Bath and North East Somerset:

'This is the first time that this council has prepared a parking report and although it is a short report it provides a detailed explanation of how parking operates in Bath which is a busy tourist town with limited space...the report is attractive to look at, with relevant photographs and an easy to read format which gets the message over well.'

The shortlist for the 2014/15 awards will be announced at the end of March. A series of workshops will be held this year to assist councils in preparing their 2015/16 reports.

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Mersey Gateway



The Mersey Gateway Project will see the completion of a new 2.3km six-lane, free-flow toll bridge over the River Mersey connecting the towns of Runcorn and Widnes, relieving congestion on the ageing Silver Jubilee Bridge. A 9km road link will carry traffic from the new bridge to the northwest motorway network.

Opening next year, the scheme will include the new £600m bridge and the original Silver Jubilee Bridge, both costing £2 for a one-way trip in a car or small van. Residents of Halton Borough will be able to cross for free once they have registered. Similar to the Dartford crossing, smart technology will capture vehicle details.

As with the Dartford River Crossing, the Traffic Penalty Tribunal will be geared up to consider appeals against road user charging, using its online case management portal.

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Durham Road User Charging



The Durham Road User Charge Zone has been introduced with the aim of reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. The daily charge is £2.00 and applies from 10am to 4pm. The Traffic Penalty Tribunal will consider appeals against Penalty Charge Notices issued by Durham County Council for drivers who fail to pay when entering the charging zone at the Durham Peninsula.

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Dartford River Crossing

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal reached a significant milestone recently as the independent tribunal considered the 3000th road user charging cases arising from penalties issued at the Dartford River Crossing.

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Pedestrian Crossing Survey Results

CCTV enforcement at pedestrian crossings has been withdrawn in England following recent legislation. PATROL has undertaken a survey to see what effect this has had on councils. All Civil Parking Enforcement councils were contacted, of which 24 responded. 12 of these councils had experienced problems resulting from this new legislation, typically around decreased safety and drivers abusing the new freedom. Of these 12 councils, 9 have adapted their enforcement activities accordingly, typically by making use of increased CEO foot patrols.

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Portal - timetable and feedback from authorities

Having listened to the feedback on our first digital portal, the second phase will provide authorities with improved dashboard management and reporting, whilst appellants will benefit from a user-friendly system with updates on their appeal throughout the process.

The initial roll-out will focus on pathfinder councils followed by an accelerated roll-out programme to all authorities. We are also planning a series of training events throughout this year.

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Parking Wars



After the successful ITV series Parking Wars, currently enjoying a repeat showing on ITV1, the production company are well down the way with plans for Series Two. There was very positive feedback about Series One that included wide coverage of TPT hearings, helping to raise awareness of adjudication.

The general feedback was that Series One was more balanced in presenting the problems councils face (compared to the previous Parking Mad). It featured Portsmouth Council, who took part in the filming and were able to set out their strategy in relation to parking, and tackling Blue Badge abuse. Century Films are keen to include more councils in the next series so please volunteer your council!

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News in Brief

- Scarborough Borough Council has launched a 'Considerate Parking Initiative', which allows Police Community Support Officers and the council's own Civil Enforcement Officers to place advice notices on cars parked inconsiderately, such as blocking driveways, on grass verges or pavements, or too close to road junctions. If successful, the scheme could be rolled out across North Yorkshire.
- 50 local authorities are now responsible for enforcement of bus lanes. Kirklees Council is the latest to begin enforcement - from February 1, 2016 they will issue warning notices for the first two weeks prior to enforcing.
- YOUR NEWS: We are keen to raise awareness of the positives in civil enforcement, so please take the opportunity to share your latest initiatives, pilots and successes in our newsletter.
Email: info@patrol-uk.info

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Joint Committees

The PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee and Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee are committed to the delivery of an adjudication service which is:

- fair
- accessible
- consistent
- cost-effective
- flexible

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 July 2016,
Church House Conference Centre,
Dean's Yard
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

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Committee Chairs

PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee

Chair: Cllr Jamie Macrae – Cheshire East Council

Vice-Chair: Cllr Stuart Hughes – Devon County Council

Assistant Chair: Cllr Tony Page – Reading Borough Council

Assistant Chair (Wales): Cllr Peter Cooper – Carmarthenshire County Council

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

Chair: Cllr Tony Page – Reading Borough Council

Vice-Chair: Cllr Graham Burgess – Hampshire County Council

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