

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

7th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday 4
May 2022

PE1929: To run an advertising campaign to
raise public awareness of the forthcoming
pavement parking ban

Note by the Clerk

Petitioner Bob Downie

**Petition
summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to run a public awareness campaign to persuade drivers to comply with the pavement parking ban, passed as part of the Transport (Scotland) 2019 Act.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1929>

Introduction

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 28 March 2022.
2. The petition seeks to promote compliance with the pavement parking ban through a public advertising campaign. The petitioner highlights that the relevant provisions contained in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 are not due to be implemented until 2023, thus providing time for an advertising campaign to take effect prior to the enforcement of this provision. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. While not a formal requirement, petitioners have the option to collect signatures on their petition. On this occasion, the petitioner elected to collect this information. 357 signatures have been received.

5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered. A response has been received from the Scottish Government and is included at **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe A

PE1929: To run an advertising campaign to raise public awareness of the forthcoming pavement parking ban

Petitioner

Bob Downie

Date lodged

28 March 2022

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to run a public awareness campaign to persuade drivers to comply with the pavement parking ban, passed as part of the Transport (Scotland) 2019 Act.

Previous action

On the 16th November 2021, I emailed a version of my petition to all my MSPs, Pauline McNeill, Dr Sandesh Gulhane, Paul Sweeney, Annie Wells, Anas Sarwar, Pam Duncan-Glancy and Patrick Harvie. Sandesh Gulhane and the office of Patrick Harvie responded positively to my email and supported my suggestion of a public awareness campaign. Pauline McNeill replied supportive of the footway parking ban but offered no support for an advertising campaign. The other MSP's have not replied to date.

Background information

Despite parking on pavements seriously impacting pedestrians and wheelchair/pushchair users, pavement parking seems to be increasing year-on-year. It has reached the point on some roads that to park on the carriageway is seen as aberrant behaviour. For drivers to change behaviours and to accept the fairness of the new footway parking ban, people must "buy-into" it; they must accept that the needs of pavement users are more important than their immediate desire to park as close as possible to their destination.

Implementation of the parking measures in the Transport (Scotland) 2019 Act has languished pending consultation and it now seems likely that implementation will not start until 2023. We thus have a 2-year window before the parking ban will become law. To assist in compliance, I ask that the Scottish Government asks its officers to run an effective advertising campaign explaining why pavement parking is wrong. This campaign should go public no later than 6 months before the implementation of the bill.

Annexe B

The logo for SPICe, consisting of the letters 'SPICe' in a white, sans-serif font on a dark purple background.

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE1929: To run an advertising campaign to raise public awareness of the forthcoming pavement parking ban, submitted by Bob Downie

Background

Part 6 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 includes provisions that will, when enacted:

1. Prohibit parking on the pavement, subject to a number of exemptions
2. Prohibit double parking, subject to a number of exemptions
3. Prohibit parking in front of a dropped kerb, except where these provide access to a driveway or garage (whether on commercial or residential premises) or for the purposes of saving life or responding to another similar emergency.
4. Allow local authorities to exempt certain streets/part of streets from the prohibition on pavement parking
5. Create a system for the enforcement of prohibitions on pavement parking, double parking and parking in front of dropped kerbs, similar to that for decriminalised parking enforcement – that is parking enforcement by local authority parking attendants rather than police officers or traffic wardens.
6. Allow for vehicles parked in contravention of a prohibition on pavement parking, double parking or parking in front of a dropped

kerb to be moved, removed and eventually disposed of, subject to a number of safeguards.

Scottish Government Action

See below.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Government committed to running a nationwide publicity campaign on pavement parking, double parking and dropped kerb parking prohibitions during the passage of the Transport (Scotland) Bill through the Scottish Parliament. The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's [Stage 1 Report on the Transport \(Scotland\) Bill](#), notes that:

“The Committee welcomes the Scottish Government's intention to undertake a nationwide campaign before any parking changes are implemented. It calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the campaign is as widespread and inclusive as possible and include vulnerable groups and those for which English may not be their first language.”

The [Scottish Government's response to the Report](#) states:

“It is the Scottish Government's intention that the nationwide publicity campaign will be launched in good time before the parking prohibitions come into force, ensuring it is fully inclusive, taking cognisance of particular vulnerable groups, and made available in various formats and languages as necessary.”

Alan Rehfisch
Senior Researcher
31 March 2022

SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication.

Annexe C

Scottish Government submission of 29 March 2022

PE1929/A – To run an advertising campaign to raise public awareness of the forthcoming pavement parking ban

The Scottish Ministers have previously expressed their commitment to running an advertising campaign to highlight the effects of inconsiderate parking (including pavement, dropped kerb and double parking). This commitment has not waived and a campaign is planned for the months preceding the date on which local authorities can begin issuing Penalty Charge Notices for these new offences in 2023.

As such the Scottish Government Marketing department, in conjunction with Road Safety Scotland, is currently undertaking some primary research to inform the planned marketing campaign. It is envisaged that this campaign will run for six months with an intensified two month period of national advertising to take place on the run up to the launch in 2023. The necessary funding has been ear marked for this in order to raise awareness, not only of the prohibitions themselves, but the effects that inconsiderate parking has on a number of sectors of the population.