



Craig Whittaker MP

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Street Clutter and Pavement Parking: Guide Dogs Campaign

Thank you for contacting me about street clutter and pavement parking.

I can appreciate and imagine just how many difficulties street clutter and vehicles parked on pavements can cause for people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, as well as those with pushchairs.

I am glad to say that the Government is a strong advocate for minimising street clutter. While decisions on the location of street furniture is a matter for local councils, the Department for Transport has issued guidance on the many aspects of street design. You may also be pleased to know that the Government will publish an Inclusive Travel Strategy in the summer. This work is to help ensure people with disabilities have the same access to travel as everyone else.

While there is an historic ban on pavement parking throughout London, elsewhere any local authority that has taken up civil enforcement powers may introduce a ban on pavement parking where it sees fit through the use of Traffic Regulation Orders. As part of making this easier to implement, in 2011 Ministers gave all councils authorisation to use a sign indicating where a pavement parking restriction is in place, removing the need to ask Whitehall first for permission to use the sign.

Ministers have written to councils on several occasions, encouraging them to use these available powers to prevent parking on the pavement where it is a problem. The Department of Transport has also published guidance for traffic authorities, highlighting the difficulties that pavement parking causes for pedestrians and detailing ways that it can be prevented.

In addition, the Department of Transport is now undertaking a broader piece of work to gather evidence on the issue of pavement parking including how it is addressed in current regulation. The Department expects to be able to draw conclusions later this year.

In view of the powers Councils have in this matter, this might be something to raise with local Councillors, if you have not already done so, in addition to contacting me.

Thank you for inviting me to the event in the Upper Waiting Hall. For a Government Whip, attendance at events is dependent on the timings and amount of Government and Parliamentary business.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP