Consultation

Did you take part in the consultation exercise which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

1. The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland was the organisation that represented the views of the 8 Scottish Police Forces at the time of the consultation. ACPOS provided the following comment:

2. The financial impact is as follows:

   • Training/Awareness/Guidance is required. Who will design this? Pay for the work and ensure that a consistent approach across all agencies across Scotland is taken.

   • Acpos would recommend that a multi-disciplinary communications strategy for the public, blue badge users and enforcement officers is created. This should include posters, television/radio marketing of the scheme and even new road signs.

   • Local Authorities would be required to find funds from existing budgets to enforce the new legislation. The legislation will not be effective is agencies are not going to be in a position to take the most appropriate action (enforcement).

   • Acpos would suggest that enquiry officers are considered but the time spent to conduct investigations by the police, police traffic wardens, LA enforcement officers will have an impact on other areas of business. The impact will be felt if staffs are not free to enforce the legislation and other areas of business have to suffer. Staffing costs are a concern.

Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

3. Yes

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

4. Yes

Costs

If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

5. There are likely to be very few additional costs to Police Scotland from the introduction of the bill. The key aspect of enforcement of breaches of the blue badge
legislation are currently undertaken by and the responsibility of local authorities and there have been very few reports submitted to the Crown Office and procurator Fiscal service in relation to breaches of these provisions.

6. If local authorities do not engage a suitable enforcement officer then any breaches of legislation will either be un-enforced or passed to Police Scotland for attention. The decisions taken by local authorities on how they will enforce this legislation may have unintended consequences for Police Scotland.

**Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?**

7. If the current low rate of prosecution reports submitted to COPFS is maintained then the costs are reasonable. However, if there is a change in approach brought about by changes to legislation and greater awareness of enforcement opportunities then these costs will likely escalate.

**If relevant, are you content that your organisation can meet the financial costs associated with the Bill which it will incur? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?**

8. Yes

**Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the estimates and the timescales over which such costs would be expected to arise?**

9. No. There does not appear to have been any form of impact assessment due to the reliance on the current level of enforcement activity. If this changes, which is likely due to the change in legislation making enforcement easier and more clearly defined, then there is a significant risk that the prosecution costs and impact of demand in other organisations will rise.

**Wider Issues**

**Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?**

10. If enforcement and appeals rise then the FM does not reflect the possible picture for the future.

**Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?**

11. No issues.