

PE1962/J: Stop motorhomes parking overnight out with formal campsites, caravan parks and Aires

British Holiday & Home Parks Association written submission, 17 April 2025

I am writing to offer support for the petition you will be considering on Wednesday 23 April. [PE1962: Stop motorhomes parking overnight out with formal campsites, caravan parks and Aires](#)

Holiday parks and campsites play a vital role in Scotland's tourism economy, providing high-quality, regulated accommodation, employment, and significant economic benefits to local businesses. According to the UK Camping and Caravan Alliance Economic Impact Report (February 2024), holiday parks and campsites contribute £991 million in visitor expenditure across Scotland, supporting over 18,354 full-time equivalent jobs.

The British Holiday & Home Parks Association (BH&HPA) represents nearly 3,000 holiday and residential park businesses nationwide, 200 of these are in Scotland. 187 of these are holiday parks or offer both holiday and residential options. Holiday parks and campsites are highly regulated, comply with rigorous health and safety standards and offer high quality visitor facilities while supporting local communities and employment.

Across Scotland, we frequently hear from our members about the detrimental effect that off-park motorhome/campervan overnight parking is having on local businesses, residents and the area and environment. There are multiple examples of bad behaviour across the country and there is clearly a wilful misunderstanding of the intended definition of 'wild camping', which was intended for tent camping only.

We strongly support efforts to ensure that overnight parking policies protect legitimate businesses, promote visitor safety, and sustain local communities.

Our members have long-standing concerns about the negative impact of unregulated motorhome stopovers, including:

- **Inequity:** Licensed parks comply with strict safety and environmental standards and pay business rates, yet must compete unfairly with free or low-cost alternatives.
- **Fire Risk:** Unregulated sites often fail to meet basic safety requirements, such as the six-metre spacing rule essential for preventing the spread of fire between motorhomes. Our members are required by law to meet these spacing regulations to prevent fire spread and fatalities.
- **Waste Disposal:** Many stopovers lack adequate waste facilities, leading to pollution of local environments and undermining sustainability goals.

- **Strain on Communities:** Unregulated overnight stays increase pressure on public infrastructure and often cause congestion and disturbance for residents.
- **Alcohol:** The legal position regarding the consumption of alcohol while sleeping in a motorhome parked on a public highway requires clarification, specifically in relation to being "in charge" of a vehicle, within the parameters of the Road Traffic Act.

Some local authorities in Scotland have demonstrated that it is possible to accommodate motorhome tourism in a manner that supports, rather than undermines, small and medium-sized businesses. However, others appear to have little means of controlling the widespread misbehaviour associated with unregulated overnight parking.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support the petition and give local authorities meaningful power, and measured expectations, to enforce against bad behaviour. A fair and properly regulated approach will protect visitors, residents, businesses, and the environment alike.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. I would be happy to arrange a meeting in advance of Wednesday if that would be helpful.