

## **Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on PE2042: Abolish car parking charges for all Forestry and Land Scotland sites, submitted by Undine Achilles-Day on behalf of Taynuilt Community Council**

### **Background**

[Forestry and Land Scotland](#) (FLS) is an agency of the Scottish Government responsible for the management of Scotland's national forests and lands, which cover an area of 630,000 hectares, that is 9% of Scotland's land area. FLS land hosts over 300 visitor destinations, including [six Forest Parks](#), mountains, riversides, lochs, waterfalls, beaches and over 750 miles of waymarked trails.

FLS sets out its approach to visitor management in its [Visitor Strategy 2022-2032](#). This aims to create "Financially sustainable key visitor destinations", in part through "...the provision of additional services such as car parking, cafés, retail, accommodation and experiences."

FLS state in [written evidence to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee](#), dated 23 October 2023, that:

"In 2012, FLS expanded the number of sites where car parking incurred a charge, from 23 to 44 sites. In 2022, Ministers approved a further expansion to include an additional 66 sites over a three-year period (18 in FY 22/23, 13 in FY 23/24, 25 in FY 24/25). Taking the total number of sites where FLS will charge for car parking to 110 by the end of Financial Year 25/26."

Two thirds of FLS car parks will remain free to use after this expansion of sites subject to parking charges.

Tariffs at FLS car parks where charges are levied currently range from £1.00 to £3.00 per hour, or £3.00 to £6.00 for a full day. Annual FLS regional parking passes are available for between £40 and £90. An annual FLS national parking pass is available for £100. Blue Badge holders can park for free at all FLS car parks.

## **Scottish Government Action**

As outlined above, Scottish Ministers approved FLS plans to apply parking charges to an additional 66 of its car parks between 2022-23 and 2024-25.

## **Scottish Parliament Action**

The Scottish Parliament has not previously considered this issue in any detail.

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**Senior Researcher**  
7 November 2023

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