

# **PE2167/A: Stop the pavement parking ban for Scottish roads built before 2019**

## **Scottish Government written submission, 17 June 2025**

**Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask[s] of the petition to be practical or achievable? If not, please explain why.**

No. During the initial development of the policy, the option of allowing local authorities to designate specific roads for pavement parking bans was considered. However, this approach was deemed likely to cause confusion for drivers regarding where parking is permitted. As a result, a blanket ban on pavement parking was introduced, with provisions allowing local authorities to grant exemptions in very specific circumstances.

This decision reflects the serious safety risks posed by pavement parking, which can endanger both pedestrians and motorists. Limiting the ban to roads constructed after 2019 would not address these risks in older areas and would fail to provide consistent protection for all pavement users.

This petition also raises the issue of parking on roads under 6m in width, part of the exemption process that can be considered by local authorities is the ability to exempt an area if the layout of the road is such that the passage of an emergency vehicle would be impeded by the presence of a vehicle parked on the carriageway. This may allow for exemptions on narrower roads, however the decision is ultimately for the relevant local authority.

**What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask[s] of this petition?**

No further action is required regarding this petition. Transport Scotland allocated £2.4 million to local authorities in advance of the ban to support road assessments and identify potential pavement exemptions. Comprehensive guidance was issued to assist with these assessments. Additionally, a Parking Standards Group, comprising of all local authorities, was established to address any concerns or clarify issues related to exemptions and the ban. Officials also provide ongoing support to local authorities to address any queries or concerns they have over exemption or enforcement processes.

**Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?**

The petition also highlighted concerns regarding a lack of transparency in the consultation process. The consultations were promoted by Transport Scotland and local authorities through digital platforms, print media, and physical advertisements in public spaces such as lamp posts and libraries. Additionally, a nationwide publicity campaign ran in November and December 2023, informing the public about the upcoming ban and the risk of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice for pavement parking.

**Road Policy / Asset Management / Roads**