

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on PE1944: Enforce engine idling ban, created by Alan Ross

Background

Under Regulation 98 of the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, made under the Road Traffic Acts, it is an offence to keep a vehicle engine running while that vehicle is stationary, except where it is stopped in traffic or undergoing maintenance.

Enforcement of this prohibition in Scotland lies with local authorities that have been “designated” for this purpose by Scottish Ministers under the provisions of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003.

A person authorised by a designated authority, typically a parking attendant or environmental warden, can request someone they consider to be committing an idling offence to turn off their vehicle’s engine. If that person fails to do so, then the authorised person can issue a fixed penalty notice of £20.00.

Statistics on engine idling enforcement action are not routinely published by local authorities. However, [recent media reports](#) based on information released through Freedom of Information requests indicate that fixed penalty notices are rarely, if ever, issued.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government published [guidance to support local authorities](#) on the use of engine idling enforcement powers in April 2003. The Scottish Government also [provides funding to local authorities](#) to raise awareness of the health impacts of engine idling and its prohibition.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not previously considered the issue of engine idling in any detail.

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