

Parking Report 2012 - 2013



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Annual Parking Report - 2012/2013

Under the terms of the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 the parking enforcement authority should produce an annual report detailing its enforcement activities. This is to promote openness and a better understanding of enforcement and why it is carried out. The Traffic Management Act 2004 came into effect on the 31 March 2008.

This report covers the period 11 June 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Within Somerset, Somerset County Council acts as the Enforcement Authority for all on street parking activity. Under individual Agency Agreements with Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council we also act as the Enforcement Authority for off-street car parks within their District.

Background

The County Council became responsible for Civil Parking Enforcement on the 11 June 2012.

These powers to undertake such duties coincided with the signing of a 5 year contract with NSL to provide a number of parking related services to the County Council.

The services provided are;

- Maintenance of and cash collection from pay and display machines
- Administration of the District and County permit schemes
- Provision of parking related IT services
- Parking Enforcement Services across the County
- Administration of parking challenges

Transport Act 2000

Under the Transport 2000 Act the County Council currently undertakes CCTV enforcement in two areas where bus lanes/gates are present.

The two locations are currently the Old Ilminster Road in the Blackbrook Park area and Mountway Road, both within Taunton.

CCTV enforcement is undertaken to deter drivers using the bus lanes/gates as these are present to improve the park and ride service within Taunton.

Drivers who contravene the regulation by driving in the bus lane/gate are liable for a penalty charge notice. The penalty will be sent to the registered keeper who will have 14 days to make payment at the discounted amount of

£30, after 14 days the discount will be removed and the full amount of £60 will be payable.

Recipients of penalties who consider there are mitigating circumstances may make representations to Somerset County Council via our contractor NSL explaining the reasons why they consider the penalty should not be paid.

Traffic Management Act 2004

The Traffic Management Act 2004, replaced the Road Traffic Act 1991 under which Local Authorities had enforced since October 2004.

The County Council through its contractors NSL employs Civil Enforcement Officers (parking)(previously known as parking attendants, commonly called traffic wardens) to enforce all yellow lines and other parking restrictions and parking places throughout the County.

This includes the major towns of each District as shown below.

Mendip	Sedgemoor	South Somerset	Taunton Deane	West Somerset
Wells	Axbridge	Bruton	Taunton	Dulverton
Frome	Bridgwater	Chard	Wellington	Dunster
Glastonbury	Burham on Sea	Crewkerne	Wiveliscombe	Minehead
Street	Cheddar	Ilminster		
Shepton Mallet	Highbridge	Langport		
		Martock		
		Somerton		
		Wincanton		
		Yeovil		

The impact on motorists who park in contravention of the regulations under the Traffic Management Act are:

1. Differential charging of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN). There are two different levels of PCN, for example a vehicle parked on a yellow line restriction will be issued a PCN at the higher rate of £70 (£35 if paid within 14 days) whilst a vehicle parked over time on street or in a car park is not deemed to be as serious a contravention and would therefore be issued with a PCN at the lower rate of £50 (£25 if paid within 14 days).
2. The other effect of the Traffic Management Act 2004 is that a PCN may be served through the post if the driver prevents it being served or drives away.

Statistical Information Relating to Penalty Charge Notices

For the period 11 June 2012 to 31 March 2013 the following Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were served to vehicles in contravention of the relevant restriction.

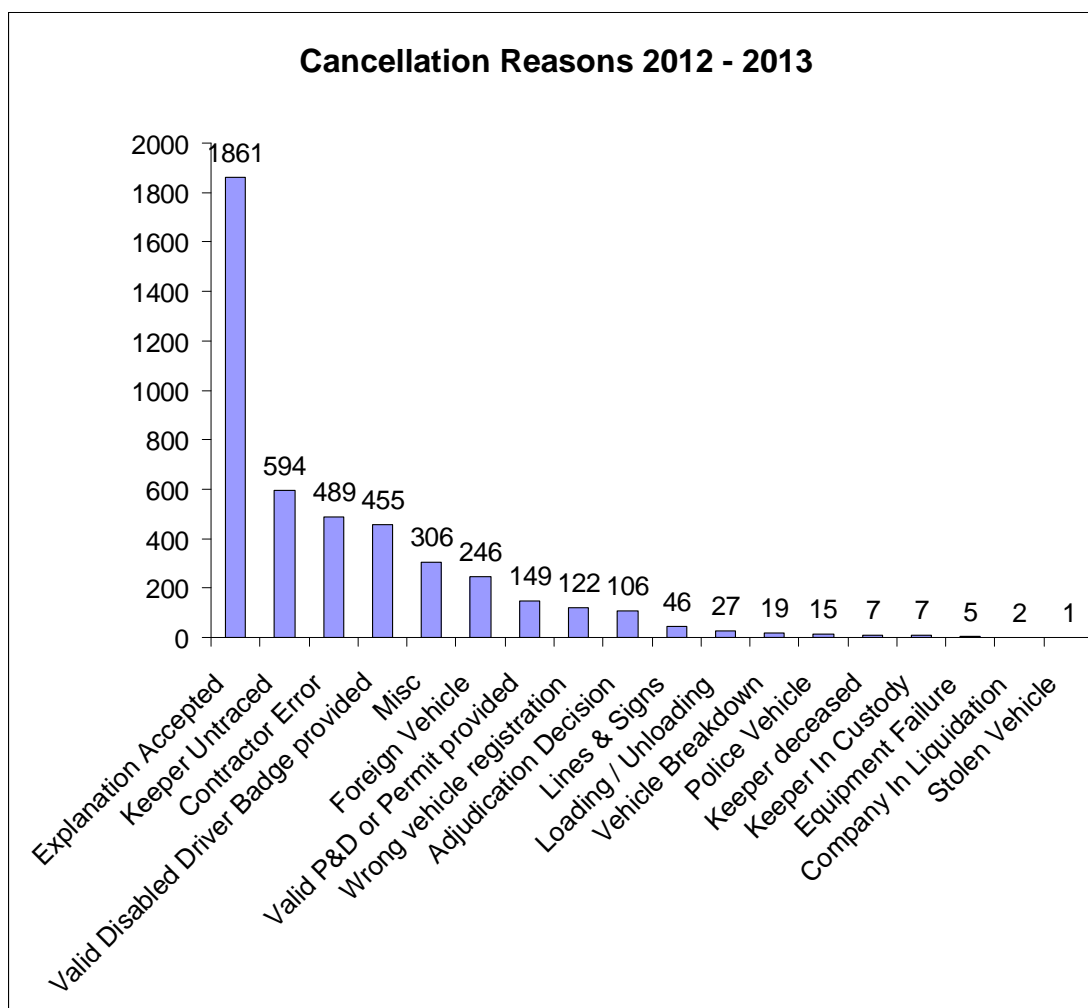
		11/06/2012 to 31/03/2013
1	Higher Level PCNs served	17,041
2	Lower Level PCNs served	19,817
3	Bus Lane/Gate PCNs served	8,041
4	Number of PCNs paid	35,710
5	Payment rate	79%
6	PCNs paid at discount rate	30,343
7	PCNs paid at full charge before Charge Certificate	3,394
8	PCNs paid after service of Charge certificate	1,116
9	PCNs paid after issue of Warrant	857
10	Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	10,695
11	Number of PCNs subject to adjudication at the Traffic penalty tribunal	120
12	Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation	3,205
13	Number of PCNs registered at the Traffic Enforcement Centre	3,832
14	Number of PCNs written off	1,111
15	Number of vehicles immobilised	N/A
16	Number of vehicles removed	N/A

Reasons for Cancellation

Drivers who receive a penalty charge notice who consider there are mitigating circumstances as to why it should be cancelled are encouraged to contact Somerset County Council via our contractor NSL. The contact details are shown on the penalty or via our website.

All challenges and representations will be considered in accordance with our Guidelines for Dealing with Challenges and Representations; this extensive policy document is available on the Council's website;

www.somerset.gov.uk/parking



Council Corporate Reports

For the period covering this report the Council had not agreed its Corporate Reports in respect of Parking Services. These will be agreed during the 2nd year of operation.

Financial Reporting

The income and expenditure of local authorities in connection with their on-street charging and their on-street and off-street (car parks) enforcement activities are Governed by section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

This means that all of our income and expenditure related to parking services and income from PCNs in respect of off-street parking is covered by section 55 of the Act.

Details of the income and expenditure relating to section 55 is detailed below.

	11/06/2012 to 31/03/2013
Total Expenditure £**	
NSL Contract	1,343,850
District meter maintenance and cash collection services	44,571
Traffic Penalty Tribunal	21,845
Council Officer Costs	53,121
Recruitment Advertising	631
Travel	206
Training	1,307
General office cost (stationary etc)	1,713
Subscriptions	585
Set up support costs	45,499
Central services	122,158
Total	1,635,486

Total Income £**	
On street pay and display income	305,332
Off street PCN income	1,447
On street PCN income	852,103
District enforcement services	358,358
Bus gate PCN income	234,994
Permit Income	86,605
Misc	595
Total	1,839,434

** The total income and expenditure represents the consolidated figures for all enforcement activity. Internally off street and on street activity is allocated on a pro rata basis in line with the number of PCNs served off and on street.

The net income from parking contributes to the Council's spending priorities in respect of Highway and Transport initiatives; e.g. provision of park and ride services and general highway measures.

Milestones relating to Parking Services

During the period covered by this report there have been a number of milestones relating to Parking Services that impact on residents and visitors across the County.

New Resident Parking Scheme Process

Consultation and discussions across the County and Districts has been undertaken to devise and introduce a new approach to the introduction of new

parking areas. The new process is expected to be introduced within the coming year.

It is anticipated the new process will result in a regular demand from residents to introduce controlled parking within their area.

Introduction of Cashless Parking

The process has commenced to appoint a service that enables drivers to pay for their parking by way of mobile phone. The procurement process, appointment of a provider and implementation of the service is anticipated to be completed during the coming year.

Appointment of Contractor

The commencement of Civil Parking Enforcement across the County provided an opportunity for the Council to secure the services of a highly knowledgeable and experienced contractor. Following a detailed procurement process the successful contractor was NSL, the largest supplier of enforcement services within the UK.

Partnership Working

The appointment of a contractor working across the County has provided an opportunity for Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council to gain valuable partners in Somerset County Council and NSL.

For further information relating to parking within Somerset County Council

please contact:

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Po Box 167
Sheffield
S98 1JN**

Telephone 0845 337 1000

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/parking>

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