

Submission from Patricia Santer

My response as follows, after reading a Facebook post from a friend:

Mixed feelings: when my daughter lived in a narrow street (McDowall Road, Edinburgh) with unlimited kerbside parking allowed on both sides of the road, if people had NOT parked partly on pavements emergency vehicles, such as fire engines, could not possibly have got through.

On the other hand, trying to get my grandson in his pushchair through their own front gate on the same street, was frequently obstructed by vehicles parked on the pavement, and wheelchairs certainly would not have got through without having to deviate on to the road - not to mention the scourge of wheelie bins blocking pavements too - maybe not initially blocked by householders, but the careless way they were left by our refuse collectors after emptying.

I.e. In my opinion, there is no straightforward single answer: to make it an offence to park partially on pavements under any circumstances would be a mistake: whereas to have each situation to be judged on its own particular features could be a legal minefield and far too subjective in interpretation.

But anything which restricts the access of emergency vehicles is to be deplored, and if, to prevent this, people do park partly on pavements, they should not be penalised. Either that, or you have to say that in such narrow streets (like McDowall Rd) parking is only allowed on one side of the road.