

## **Submission from Learning Disability Alliance Scotland**

### **What are your experiences of parking of a footway or on a road next to a dropped kerb or double parking?**

Many of our members find it very difficult when vehicles are badly parked. People who have learning disabilities and also use a wheelchair can find it very hard to get round a car parked on the pavement. They may have to put themselves at risk to go out into the road. Likewise when vehicles are parked in front of dropped pavements it can make it hard to find another safe spot to cross. Many people with autism have fixed ways of doing things and it can cause them considerable distress when their usual patterns for getting around are blocked. We think that this bill will be a good thing.

### **There are a number of exceptions whereby parking on a footpath, next to a dropped kerb or double parking would be permissible. Do you have a view on these exceptions?**

We agree that emergency vehicles should be able to park on pavements and in front of dropped kerbs when there is an emergency. It is good for everyone that problems are sorted quickly.

However not all emergency vehicles are on emergency business – fire staff in fire engines may be installing fire alarms – police may be carrying out routine enquiries. In these situations we think these vehicles should park properly. Disabled people should not be routinely inconvenienced because it is hard to find places to park.

We are not happy about people parking in front of dropped pavements outside their home. It would be alright if it was someone with a disability but the dropped pavements are for the benefit of many disabled people living in the community including neighbours. Parking in front of dropped pavements makes it hard for people who use wheelchairs or have other mobility issues to get about.

We are also concerned about delivery lorries being able to park for up to 20 minutes. Disabled people should have a right to get to their work or the shops without having to wait 20 minutes while someone gets a book from Amazon. There are many areas where a sequence of delivery lorries come one after the other. Each time they will have 20 minutes while disabled people wait for the vehicles to clear. No time limits are placed on vehicles digging up the road. They could be there all day. It may make sense for them to be able to stop to drop off heavy equipment but why should they be allowed to park so drivers don't have to walk far and disabled people are penalised by having to walk much further.

### **What exceptions should be allowed, if any, to allow a vehicle to wait whilst parked on a footpath, next to a dropped kerb or double parked?**

Exemptions allowing parking on a footpath, next to a dropped kerb or double parking should only be allowed in emergencies.

### **The Bill would allow local authorities to designate areas as being exempt from these restrictions. Do you have a view on what the criteria for exemption should be?**

We are not sure what the point of a law is if the local authority can just decide to exempt whole areas from this. It may seem right to grant exemptions to industrial estates and other workplace areas. But don't disabled people have a right to work. Why should the places that they might get jobs be the most inhospitable places for parking.

**Enforcement of the Bill would be the responsibility of the Police (via fixed penalty notices) in areas where parking is criminalised or local authorities (via penalty charge notices) in areas where parking has been decriminalised. Do you have any comments in relation to how the Bill would be enforced?**

No Comment

**Are there any equality issues that arise as a consequence of the proposals in the Bill?**

We are concerned that the bill as proposed would allow many issues of inequality to be unaddressed. Parking on a footpath, next to a dropped kerb or double parking should not be allowed except in emergencies. Otherwise they are making a mockery of the whole idea of reasonable adjustments.