

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

10th December 2018

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,

RE: PAVEMENT PARKING.

Thank you for contacting me recently about pavement parking; I read your comments with great interest.

I appreciate that vehicles parked on pavements can cause particular problems for people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, as well as those with pushchairs.

While there is an historic ban on pavement parking throughout London, elsewhere, any local authority that has taken up civil enforcement powers may introduce a ban on pavement parking where it sees fit through the use of Traffic Regulation Orders. As part of making this easier to implement, in 2011, Ministers gave all councils authorisation to use a sign indicating where a pavement parking restriction is in place, removing the need to ask Whitehall first for permission to use the sign.

Ministers have written to councils on several occasions, encouraging them to use these available powers to prevent parking on the pavement where it is a problem. The Department for Transport has also published guidance for traffic authorities, highlighting the difficulties that pavement parking causes for pedestrians and detailing ways that it can be prevented.

In addition, the Department for Transport is now undertaking a broader piece of work to gather evidence on the issue of pavement parking, including how it is addressed in current regulation. The Department expects to be able to draw conclusions later this year. Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I recently received from Jesse Norman MP, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, on this matter.

I welcome the fact that the Government also advocates for minimal street clutter. While decisions on the location of street furniture is a matter for local councils, the Department for Transport has issued guidance on the many aspects of street design. You may also be pleased to know that the Government will publish an Inclusive Travel Strategy in the summer. This work is to help ensure people with disabilities have the same access to travel as everyone else.

Finally, here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for enforcing parking restrictions. Whilst the County does not have a full ban on pavement parking, Northamptonshire County Council strongly discourages it due to "the obstructive nature and the danger it presents to pedestrians and wheelchair users". Furthermore, in some areas footway parking bans are in place, indicated with signage.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Department
for Transport

Tom Pursglove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Jesse Norman MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: jesse.norman@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/240964

21 NOV 2018

Dear Tom

Thank you for your letter of 22 October about pavement parking. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

The Government is aware that parking on the pavement can cause serious problems for pedestrians with visual impairments, with guide dogs and particularly for people using wheelchairs, pushchairs or prams.

Department officials and I have met several times in recent months to discuss pavement parking. As you will be aware, the Department for Transport is currently gathering evidence on the effectiveness of current pavement parking laws. As part of this work, the Department is also considering the case for changing the law on pavement parking, and has been listening to the concerns raised by pedestrians, blind people using Guide Dogs and other disability campaigners.

The Department is committed to completing its review by the end of the year.

JESSE NORMAN