

Item 8 - Question Time

Response to Mr A Baxter

Following representation from an individual who was campaigning for the removal of “No Overnight Parking” signs from laybys, the TECS Committee approved that “No Overnight Parking Signs located in rural laybys be removed and that the removal of these signs be carried out when there were resources in the area to minimise the cost of removal.

This decision was taken in light of the legal position as advised by Transport Scotland who also decided that these signs, which carry no legal standing, should be removed from the trunk road network.

The option to retain these signs was considered. However, the legal advice was that the possibility of legal challenge against any decision of the Council to retain these signs could not be ruled out.

The report to the TECS Committee recognised that to implement formal road traffic orders for laybys across the Highlands would be expensive to implement and difficult to enforce. However, this was an option which could be considered if there were problems with overnight parking at specific locations.

Hitherto, there has been no formal assessment of the impact of removing “No Overnight Parking Signs”. However, a number of specific problems have been identified and these will be addressed using formal Road Traffic Orders which can be enforced by the Police.

We will review the overall situation in the light of a year’s experience and deal with specific problem areas as appropriate.