



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**PRESS OFFICE**  
No.6 Convent Place  
Gibraltar  
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057

<b>PRESS RELEASE</b>
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**“Government publishes consolidated and new Parking and Waiting Regulations and other measures in further implementation of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan.”**

The Government is able to announce further progress in the implementation of its Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan which is designed to resolve Gibraltar’s historical problems with parking and traffic, as well as improve our public transport facilities.

**NEW PARKING AND WAITING LEGISLATION**

The Government is today publishing a new set of Parking and Waiting Regulations, known as the Traffic (Parking and Waiting) Regulations 2011. These new Regulations consolidate all existing parking and waiting subsidiary legislation, as well as introduce some new parking and waiting laws. All other existing parking and waiting subsidiary legislation is repealed.

The new Regulations cover the following areas:

1. General parking and waiting prohibitions
2. Establishment of Residents Only parking zones and schemes throughout Gibraltar
3. Creation of Pay and Display Parking zones
4. Creates a new regime for the removal of derelict or abandoned vehicles
5. Creates a new regime for the tow away or clamping of vehicles infringing the Regulations
6. Provides for “on the spot” payments by foreign registered vehicles.
7. Among the new prohibitions is the parking of motorcycles in or in between car parking spaces, and the Parking of cars in motorcycle parking spaces.

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## **NEW HIGHWAY ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

The success of the existing estate parking schemes and the Government's proposed new parking schemes, as well as traffic fluidity depend on the proper enforcement of those schemes and parking and waiting laws. To achieve this, the Government has now established the body of Highways Enforcement Officers within Gibraltar Car Parks Limited. 20 officers have now been recruited and trained and will become operational during the next few days. They are led by two senior retiring police officers, Mr. John Barabich and Mr. Bob Peliza. The Highways Enforcement Officers are based within the Gibraltar Car Parks Limited premises at Waterport (next to parcel Post Office).

## **FIXED PENALTY NOTICES**

The administration of the system of fixed penalty notice (commonly known as parking tickets) system passes from GSS to Gibraltar Car Parks Limited. Highways Enforcement officers will be equipped with hand held device technology to issue fixed penalty notices electronically. The payment of fixed penalty notices will in future be effected at the offices of Gibraltar Car Parks Limited rather than at the Magistrates Court.

The level of fixed penalties have been increased (mostly to £50) but now enjoy a 50% discount if paid within 14 days. Parking or waiting in a bus stop or in a manner that curtails access into a bus stop remains at £100, as does parking or waiting in a blue line zone or in a disabled bay without a valid blue badge (but they enjoy the 50% discount for payment within 14 days).

## **CLAMPING AND TOW AWAY GUIDELINES**

Clamping and tow away will not be indiscriminate or automatic for breaches of Regulations. Vehicle clamping and tow away will be restricted to circumstances and situations which will be clearly set out in guidelines by the Government which will be published in advance. This will apply primarily to situations of obstruction of traffic flows, creating danger to other road users, frequent breaches or parking in a "Residents only" or Pay and Display area without the required permit or fee payment.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

Each area of the new parking and waiting regulations will be the subject of both a separate public information campaign, and enforcement warning periods before active enforcement begins. Separate statements will be made in relations to these.

## **NEW PARKING ZONES: improved parking opportunities**

The new Regulations empower the Government to set up Parking Schemes in relation to different zones in Gibraltar. Each zone will have free car parking reserved for its residents only, free motorcycles parking for everyone, free car parking for everyone and some metered pay parking to improve availability of parking for short term visitors to businesses and homes in the zone.

The first such pilot scheme will very shortly come into effect in relation to parts of the North District. The South District will be the next zone to have such a Scheme.

## **REMOVAL OF DERELICT VEHICLES**

The new Regulations establish a new regime for the removal by the Government from the public highway of derelict vehicles, which take up valuable parking spaces. In future vehicles which appear to be derelict or abandoned will be removed BEFORE the process of publishing notices, which will now take place while the vehicle is held in the Government's vehicle compound. There will be a systematic and regular approach to the identification and prompt removal of derelict vehicles.

## **NEW BUS SHELTERS**

As can be seen, the programme to replace and upgrade all Gibraltar's bus shelters is well under way. All bus shelters will have been replaced by 28<sup>th</sup> May (except Devil's Tower Road due to ongoing road works there).

## **NEW BUS ROUTES**

The new bus route network will be announced shortly after the Easter holiday and will come into effect on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Commenting on these developments the Minister for Traffic and Parking, Joe Holliday said: "Together with the continuing programme of building car parks, more of which will be announced soon, these new Regulations, enforcement resources and other initiatives will contribute very significantly to the further improvement in traffic flow and parking in Gibraltar, as well as in the public bus service.

The Government has accepted the challenge of tackling these historical problems in Gibraltar and published its blue print for doing so in the form of the Integrated Traffic, Parking and Transport Plan. All these measures announced today represent implementation of a further significant chunk of that Plan."

**Note to editors: the new Traffic (Parking and Waiting) Regulations 2011 were promulgated in last Thursday's Gazette, and are available on the Government's website.**

**Attached are photographs of the Highways Enforcement Officers and some of their vehicles.**