

FLAGship IN BRIEF

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Michael Kemp reporting affairs as he finds them



New parking regs allow spies to trap you for trivia Hit back hard at CCTV parking ticket trickery

IF TRICKED by new CCTV street parking control - hit back. 'Live' in England and Wales from April 1 parking penalties are now doubled to a min £50 / max £120.

If prosecuted unfairly do not pay; opt for adjudication, fight it, complain to your MP for action to change the new parking regulations, and tell the AA. It is planning to shame sly councils.

In London, where pioneering CCTV-policed street parking has been disgracefully abused, the Barrie Segal AppealNow organisation has challenged thousands of dodgy TV picture convictions, like:-

Taxis 'illegally parked' when letting out passengers.

'Double parking' - stopped for a moment half-metre or more out from the kerb.

Driving in a bus lane by clipping it in turning out of a side road.

Not displaying a parking ticket - while obtaining one.

Wardens, now renamed Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs), can legally prosecute on sight, including viewing a CCTV screen, and mail off a penalty to a vehicle's keeper. No longer does a Penalty Notice have to be on the vehicle's windscreen.

Officially now CEOs cannot be given penalty targets but, says AA President Edmund King:-

"We know of parking enforcement operators putting pressure on staff to increase their output. Since many are immigrants, who fear for their jobs, they obey.

"If you have an example of parking control abuse tell us (publicaffairs@theaa.com) and we will ensure the Transport Minister is alerted.

Fines doubled

	London	Elsewhere
Serious	£120 (£60)	£70 (£35)
Lesser	£80 (£40)	£50 (£25)
50% discount if paid in 28-days		

ed. MPs are particularly sensitive to criticism and we are watching the situation closely.

"The AA will not tolerate CEOs hiding round corners dishing out tickets by post rather than high profile deterrence on the street."

ANOTHER change is 'lesser' and 'serious' parking offences with 'low' and 'high' penalties, like:-

'Lesser' - brief overstay at a parking meter.

'Serious' - parking on a double yellow line or alongside a dropped kerb (drive-way) or double parking (0.5-metre from kerb).

Wheel clamping cannot take place for 30mins after a penalty has been incurred and 'should' target only persistent offenders.

Adjudicators at informal appeals now have more teeth to deal with bad councils "who should not use civil enforcement as a revenue generator", adds the AA.

Now Labour Party relies on FSG

THE LABOUR Party has adopted FSG RiskMaster work-related road risk protection. Why? "It's the most thorough and only system that changes driving culture," says H&S lawyer Michael Appleby at Housemans.

A POWDERED 'hot coat' process giving a waterproof, rustproof, dent and chip resistant finish is fast replacing paint for car bodies in America. It is pollution-free.

CAR brakes that prevent a head-on crash are in vogue. But watch behind. "Nearly 1-in-3 road crashes is a rear ender," warns driving guru Professor Peter Russell.

ROAD yellow line restrictions no longer require adjacent 'plate' display. Restrictions may be displayed only at zone entry points.

COMING: PermatexR DIY windscreen repair that "stops damage and minimises blemish" in giving a "permanent professional quality repair".

TO PARK in several London boroughs you now require a mobile phone and credit card to pay electronically. It rakes in more money.

PEOPLE are violently opposed to green tax increases, says (ignored) research. While CO2 pollution concerns 78 per cent, 69pc oppose a fuel duty rise, 86pc oppose more VAT on domestic fuel, 66pc are against Air Passenger Duty, and 57pc would drive just as much if petrol rose to 150p/l (£6.75gal) - but 43pc would not.

FSG 'cuts' Budget tax rises!

IN THREE ways FSG cost cutting systems will effectively off-set or drastically reduce a company's vehicle related '08 Budget tax increases.

RISKMASTER work-related risk management slashes vehicle operating costs so successfully it amortises its own cost and produces a profit. In nine months of the programme WHSmith is running a net gain of £34,500.

MASTERSERVE fixed price servicing

through approved garages significantly minimises conventional vehicle maintenance costs.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES manages client MoTs, penalties, PIID, and other vehicle admin chores illustrating how FSG exists to do it better and cheaper than a company can do for itself.

ECO-DRIVING can cut car fuel bills by 8.5 per cent, saving around £120-year, says the Institute of Advanced Motorists.