

## University of Nottingham UCU

### Q&A re University Traffic Regulations relating to off-campus parking (November 2011)

Since the new parking permit scheme was introduced in September there have been concerns about the implications of references in the new University Traffic Regulations (see in particular 7(ix) and 7(x) of the regulations at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estates/documents/trafficregulations.pdf>).

On behalf of its members UCU (together with Unison and Unite representing other categories of University staff) raise a number of questions about this with management.

The questions we raised, together with responses from management (by email and at a meeting) are detailed below.

- Q1 What precisely is the legal jurisdiction that the University has over its employees' behaviour outside the workplace to justify imposing fines for breach of traffic regulations regarding parking off-campus?
- A1 It is expected that all employees will abide by University policies during their employment. We are not claiming legal jurisdiction over off campus parking, it is about being good neighbours.
- Q2 Is it a legitimate use of private information for the University to identify vehicles owned (and previously registered) by members of staff for this purpose? If a colleague's vehicle has never been registered how will Security staff know that it is owned/driven by a member of staff? How will the University ensure that they do not attempt to impose a penalty on a vehicle not owned by a member of staff?
- A2 We have a data sharing protocol with the Police and we will work with them as partners if we need to identify any member of the University.
- Q3 What evidence will be collected and used **\*for each individual case\*** to justify a fine where there is alleged "unreasonable obstruction or annoyance to local residents or businesses"?
- A3 If a complaint comes in security working with Mel Futer (Off-Campus Liaison Officer) will investigate and follow up.
- Q4 What is the appeal process against such fines?
- A4 An appeal can be made to the Registrar.
- Q5 How many such fines have been imposed to date?
- A5 None (as at 14 October). [A number of warning notes were issued to vehicles, but no fines have been necessary.]

#### Further comment by management:

In relation to the implementation of parking charges, the University traffic regulations were revised to expand the existing restrictions on students for off site parking to all members of the University. The University has no legal jurisdiction over its employees' parking practice off campus. It does, however, expect all users of our campuses to abide by the University policies and regulations which include off site parking contraventions in the interest of maintaining good relations with neighbours and responsible management of the impact of our operations under planning approval obligations.

Timely and appropriate planning approvals facilitate the continuous physical development of the University to respond to expansion and improvement aspirations. Part of the planning process includes the production of travel plans, one aspect being to demonstrate how we conduct our operations within the constraints of local infrastructure, maintaining provision on our campuses for transport requirements without negative impacts externally. The traffic regulations are one way we demonstrate how we seek to minimise the impact of our campus developments on the local community and our neighbours.