

Item No. 10



Environment & Transportation
Department
03 JUN 2015
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Our Ref: PD/15/8185

29 May 2015

Mr Stephen Hickey
Administration/Traffic Advisory Group
Dublin City Council
Civic Offices, Wood Quay
Dublin 8

Dear Mr Hickey

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Paschal Donohoe TD, asked me to reply to your recent letter on behalf of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of Dublin City Council requesting that the de-clamping fee for clamped vehicles be index-linked.

The Minister believes that the current fee of €80 remains a strong financial incentive to discourage illegal parking in the Council's area and, overall, appears to be achieving the goal of maximising compliance with paid parking and assisting the free flow of traffic.

As you may also be aware, in future, the National Transport Authority (NTA) will have a role in relation to the level of the de-clamping fee on the public road. Enabling legislation concerning the regulation of clamping activities was passed by the Oireachtas only last month and was signed by the President on 6th May 2015 – the *Vehicle Clamping Act 2015* (No. 13 of 2015). Under this Act, the National Transport Authority (NTA) will be the national independent regulator for clamping activities wherever clamping is used as a means of parking control, whether on the public road or in private car parks.

While the issue of setting the level of the de-clamping fee on the public road remains a matter for determination by the Minister, section 101B of the Road Traffic Act 1961 (which was amended in section 32 of the Vehicle Clamping Act) provides that, in setting the level of this fee in the future, the Minister will consult with the NTA, in addition to consulting with the Minister for Justice and Equality.

However, given that the Vehicle Clamping Act has only just been enacted, the NTA is at the early stages of preparations for taking on its new regulatory role and the Authority needs time to prepare and establish the necessary regulations provided for under the Act. It will therefore be later in the year before they can commence their new functions. However, any future consideration of possible changes in the current fee level will involve consultation with the Authority.

The Minister therefore does not propose to make any adjustment to the current fee applicable to de-clamping on the public road at this time.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Smith

Private Secretary to Minister Donohoe