

From: " "

Sent: 6 March 2026 14:08

To: casework@davidlammy.co.uk

Subject: [MEM/5503] Parking pressures and untaxed vehicles on Ferry Lane estate

The Rt Hon David Lammy

Thank you for your email on behalf of Lorna Reith, Kessock Close.

Please see below our response to the same query which was also submitted by Cllr Sheila Peacock.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate in contacting me directly.

Regards

Chris Vavlekis

Head of Estates & Neighbourhoods

Dear Councillor Sheila Peacock,

Your enquiry about: Parking pressures and untaxed vehicles on Ferry Lane estate

Reference MEM/5503

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the ongoing issues your constituent, has been experiencing with untaxed and obstructive parking on the Ferry Lane estate. I am very sorry to hear how distressing this situation has been for her and for other residents. No resident should feel unable to leave their home or unable to access their own parking facilities because of inconsiderate and repeated misuse of estate parking.

Residents' reports of 47 untaxed vehicles on the estate are extremely concerning, and I understand the growing fear that the area is being used for organised vehicle storage rather than legitimate residential use.

Over recent months, our Estates & Neighbourhood Services team has undertaken a series of inspections issuing a number of abandoned vehicle notices along with referrals to the DVLA for each vehicle identified as untaxed, as only the DVLA has statutory powers to clamp or remove untaxed vehicles.

While the DVLA has taken action in some cases, progress has understandably not been as visible or comprehensive as residents would expect.

At present, enforcement on Haringey estates is carried out by Wing Security Ltd under the legacy Estate Controlled Parking Scheme. This system has become increasingly difficult to enforce due to national legislation, particularly the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which restricts how private operators can obtain vehicle keeper data and issue enforceable notices.

As a result of this legacy scheme only DVLA can take statutory enforcement action against untaxed vehicles. The Council cannot tow vehicles from estate land unless they meet the legal definition of being abandoned, even where a vehicle appears unused, damaged or unroadworthy, it cannot be treated as abandoned unless strict criteria are met. Unfortunately, many untaxed or stored vehicles do not meet the abandonment threshold, meaning the Council is legally prevented from removing them. In addition, the police cannot intervene unless a criminal offence is committed, as obstruction on private housing land is a civil matter.

Abandoned vehicles on housing land are handled under the same legislation that applies to any land in the open

air, including council owned housing estates. Utilising the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

These limitations mean that persistent offenders often continue to misuse estate parking with little consequence, and this has been widely acknowledged in Council reports as a structural issue with the legacy system.

To address these long-standing issues, Haringey Council has formally approved the introduction of a new Estate Parking Management Scheme, which will fundamentally change how estate parking is regulated and enforced. Under the EPMS:

- Parking on estates will be enforced under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, giving the Council the same statutory powers used on public roads.
- Enforcement will be carried out by Council Civil Enforcement Officers, not private contractors.
- Traffic Management Orders will be introduced, enabling the Council to issue enforceable penalty charge notices and take stronger enforcement action.
- The scheme will also support the removal of obstructive or abandoned vehicles.
- A guaranteed permit allocation and provision for dedicated disabled bays will ensure fair access for residents who need them.

These changes are specifically designed to resolve persistent issues such as untaxed vehicles, repeat obstruction, misuse of bays, and the lack of a credible deterrent under the current system.

While we transition to the new EPMS, we are taking steps to support residents at Ferry Lane by targeted inspections and reporting of suspected abandoned vehicles and reporting untaxed vehicles directly to the DVLA and we will review the list of vehicles provided.

I fully recognise the seriousness of the problems being reported, and I want to reassure you that the Council is actively transforming the way estate parking is managed borough wide. Once the EPMS is implemented, the Council will finally have the statutory tools required to take meaningful and effective enforcement action against the types of repeat behaviours affecting residents on the Ferry Lane estate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Chris Vavlekis

Head of Estates & Neighbourhood Services