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Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000
Fax: 020 7944 9643

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0008045
Your Ref:

07 September 2011

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx,

I refer to your request for information about: 1) which legislation enforcement authorities are granted permission by the government / law to enforce parking charges by way of mobile phone, and 2) how bay markings, for parking bays where charges are paid by mobile phone within a controlled zone, are marked on the road. Your request was received on Monday 22 August 2011 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1) I can confirm there is no specific legislation restricting the means by which local authorities may collect parking charges. Local authorities are free to decide how parking payment should be made.

The only additional requirement is that local authorities, who require payment for parking charges by mobile phone, are required to gain 'sign authorisation' from the Department for Transport for the parking signs displayed, as these are not currently prescribed signs within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD).

Any sign not prescribed in the TSRGD must be authorised as required by Section 64 & 65 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. This legislation is available to view free of charge at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/27/contents> . Printed copies of this legislation document are available from www.tsoshop.co.uk, price £32.00.

2) Information about the manner of payment is conveyed by means of signs rather than road markings. So there are no differences in how bay markings, for parking bays where charges are paid by mobile phone in a controlled zone, are marked on the road (there are also no differences in bay markings for parking charges paid by parking meters or by pay & display).

For your further information and independent of the information set out above, the Department has issued the following operational guidance document to local authorities: -

Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement

Guidance to Local Authorities for the Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to the civil enforcement of parking controls. Printed copies of this Guidance are available from www.tsoshop.co.uk, price £20.50

This document is also available free of charge from the Department's website: -

<http://www2.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165240/244921/287508/468279/parkingenforcepolicy.pdf>

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxt
xxxx Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR
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Your right to complain to [DfT/Agency] and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF