RAC Parking Report Automation—Queries for Ivo, round 1

mz

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Dear Ivo

Here is a first round of queries and notes after checking all the available reports and going through the data prep for the England reports. More questions will of course arise, but your responses to these asap would be appreciated, even if not all at the same time. The questions are numbered. Ones in bold are more important.

Existing reports

At the end of this document (Appendix 1) there is a table with all the reports I could find, with links to the html (press release), the pdf reports, and the additional tables (for England). At least one of these was not immediately available on the RAC website, but I found it hidden and I am not sure if I am missing any others that I couldn't find.

1. Is the last Scotland report really for 2015/16?
2. Is the England 2016/2017 pdf report really missing?

Data–England

I am assuming the England data will continue to be released in the form of Excel files following the same basic pattern as those on this link.

At the end of this document (Appendix 2) are two tables with information on all the relevant columns and cells that will need to be extracted to compile the England reports. Because the excel tables are inconsistent from one year to another (columns change, number of rows in headers change, number of sheets change... see the tables to get an idea of this) there really is no easy way to automate finding relevant cells.

Of course we can set the defaults to what they were last year, since at least the last 3 years have been pretty consistent. I can also add some error handling that checks if some totals match, or make sense, and if they don't, issue a warning telling you to check the Excel files manually, but in the end you have to be prepared to manually update these cell ranges.

3. Does this make sense and is it acceptable?

Additional data sources:

4. in the 17/18 England report there is a footnote listing the penalty tariffs for London and the rest of the UK. I can either remove it or I can add this as manual entry?

Comparing the reports with the Excel files there are some inconsistencies for the aggregate off street parking. There seem to be two sources of this: one is that Leibling does not include national parks in his totals, but reports them separately. The second one is that he doesn't include the Nottingham workplace levy, also reporting it separately. The data files however only have the park data, but not the data for the Nottingham levy. (Which means I am only guessing that these are the only two sources of the discrepancy, there might be something else as well.)

5. Do you want to continue separating out the national parks?

6. Do you want to continue separating out the Nottingham levy?

7. If yes, where can I get the data for the Nottingham levy: I would need both expenditures and incomes?

Backwards compatibility

The code that I produce is based on the most recent 2017/18 report for England. If you run it on earlier data, it will work fine, and produce a report of the 17/18 type. However this might be different than the existing earlier reports. For example:

- From 2014/2015 onwards England stops reporting data on *capital charges*.
- Until that point Leibling's reports give both `Surplus before capital charges` and `Net surplus after capital charges`. Afterwards they only report the former, even when reporting data for previous years.

I will do the same. That means if you use my code to produce reports on 2013/14 or earlier, they will have less information than the actual reports did.

8. Is that OK?

Appendix 1—links to all reports online

country	year	htmls	pdfs	tab	window
England	2010/11	link		link	
	2011/12	link	link	link	2(4)
	2012/13	link	link	link	3(5)
	2013/14	link	link	<-	4
	2014/15	link*	link	link	4
	2015/16	link	link	link	4
	2016/17	link		link	4
	2017/18	link	link	link	4
Scotland	2010/11				
	2011/12	link	link		1
	2012/13				
	2013/14	link	link		3
	2014/15	link	link		4
	2015/16	link	link		4
	2016/17				
	2017/18				
Wales	2010/11				
	2011/12				
	2012/13	link	link		5
	2013/14				
	2014/15				
	2015/16	link	link		4
	2016/17	link	link		4
	2017/18	link	link		4

∗ link missing from RAC press releases page

Columns headings:

- *country*
- *year*–period covered in report
- *html*–link to press release on RAC website
- *pdf*–link to pdf report if exists
- *tab*–link to additional tables if exist (only England)
- *window*–number of previous years' data included in report, number in brackets is for aggregates, not at LA level

Appendix 2

data overview

England–Outturn

year	link	rows	las	first	e.sh	e.on	e.off	i.sh	i.on	i.off	pen.sh	pen.on	pen.1	tot.1
2008/09	xls	405	388	0	3	CU	DB	3	CX	DE	NA	–	G64	J45
2009/10	xls	370	353	0	3	BH	BL	4	BH	BL	NA	–	G64	J45
2010/11	xls	371	353	0	3	BH	BL	4	BH	BL	NA	–	G64	J45
2011/12	xls	371	353	0	3	BH	BL	4	BH	BL	NA	–	G64	J45
2012/13	xls	371	353	12	3	BH	BL	4	BH	BL	NA	–	G65	J46
2013/14	xls	371	353	12	3	BH	BL	4	BH	BL	NA	–	G65	J46
2014/15	xls	371	353	12	3	BE	BI	4	BE	BI	NA	–	I68	L49
2015/16	xlsx	444	353	8	3	CU	DB	3	CX	DE	3	FX	H67	K48
2016/17	xlsx	446	353	8	3	CU	DB	3	CX	DE	3	FX	H67	K48
2017/18	xlsx	445	353	8	3	CU	DB	3	CX	DE	3	FX	H67	K48

- *year*–period covered in report
- *link*–link to data file
- *rows*–number of rows (not all are local authorities though!)
- *las*–number of local authorities (i.e. not ones with class "O"
- *first*–first row of data on sheets 3,4 and 5
- *e.sh*–which sheet are expenditures on
- *e.on*–which column on street expenditures
- *e.off*–which column are off street expenditures
- *e.cc*–which column are congestion charge expenditures on (row = Greater London Authority)
- *i.sh*–which sheet are incomes on
- *i.on*–which column on street incomes
- *i.off*–which column are off street incomes
- *i.cc*–which column are congestion charge incomes on (row = Greater London Authority)
- *pen.sh*–which sheet are penalty charge incomes for LAs on
- *pen.on*–which column are penalty charge incomes for LAs
- *pen.1*–which cell is the totaL Penalty charge notice income for on street parking data on in sheet 2
- *tot.1*–which cell is the Net current expenditures for Total transport and Highways services on in sheet 2

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England–Budget

year	link	rows	first	las	budg.tot	budg.la
2008/09		0	0	0	-	-
2009/10		0	0	0	-	-
2010/11	xls	444	10	353	E27	U
2011/12	xls	444	10	353	E28	V
2012/13	xls	444	10	353	E28	V
2013/14	xls	444	10	353	E28	V
2014/15	xls	444	9	353	F34	U
2015/16	xls	444	9	353	F34	U
2016/17	xlsx	443	8	353	E35	U
2017/18	xlsx	446	8	353	E35	V
2018/19	xlsx	443	8	353	E35	V

- *year*–period covered in report
- *link*–link to data file
- *rows*–number of local authorities
- *budg.tot*–wich cell on sheet 2 is the total budgeted surplus in
- *budg.la*–which column on sheet 3 are the LA parking budgeted surpluses on