



## **Driving Instructors Association (DIA) and the British Parking Association (BPA) Charter for Driving Instructors and Car Park Operators**

### **Background**

The Driving Instructors Association (DIA) and the British Parking Association (BPA), have been working together to develop this agreement for some time. The objective of this agreement is that learner drivers need to be able to have access to car parks, in order for them to develop their skills as drivers.

The instructors and operators Charter is aimed at both driving instructors and car park operators, to make sure that the right balance is achieved between being fair to the trainers and students, and ensuring that facilities are managed effectively for the benefit of everyone.

We believe in raising standards in both the drivers' instructors and parking sector and in delivering a more professional service to the public. Providing the environment for learner drivers to develop their skills and confidence in using car parks needs to be seen in the context of delivering a better and fairer service to users. Both driving instructors and car park operators recognise the importance of providing this service for students as it offers a variety of benefits to everyone involved.

### **Benefits of the Charter**

By providing learner drivers with access to car parks, they can develop skills in how to enter, utilise and exit car parks; including negotiating one-way systems. This provides the obvious advantages that by receiving greater training the learner is able to navigate the parking area better leading to reduced damage in the future to their own vehicle, other people's vehicles and property. In related ways, learners can use as an opportunity to learn about how to report damage to their car or to another vehicle.

The Charter will help car park operators to provide a safe environment for learners to gain knowledge about car park use, including the terms and conditions for parking, and operating models such as ANPR or pay and display. This creates an opportunity to inform learner drivers about car park management and the potential penalties for contravening the terms and conditions of use.

Additional benefits for learners include learning about security options available to them and their vehicles; how, when and where to report safety concerns about the car park; how to choose the safest parking; and information about the Safer Parking Scheme's Park Mark award. This knowledge can result in more efficient journeys as people learn the importance of planning their journeys, including where they are going to park.

### **Charter for Driving Instructors and Car Park Operators**

1. Car park operators can permit approved driving instructors (ADIs) to take their learners into car parks to practice parking

- This is conditional and dependent upon the operator's permission.
- 2. The operator must not interfere with any part of the training other than for reasons of safety, or if the ADI is not complying with the rules.
- 3. The operator may request to see a valid ADI badge as proof of validity to use the facility.
- 4. Instructors must ensure they use facilities respectfully and place no unnecessary burden on other car park users and the operator, by avoiding peak times and practicing in the quietest area of the car park.
- 5. Instructors will carry appropriate public liability insurance to use a facility and therefore indemnify the operator against any damage caused by them or their pupil.
- 6. Instructors must be aware that they only have a maximum time of 20 minutes to complete any training. If they exceed this time the operator can ask them to leave.
- 7. Operators and instructors must treat each other with professional courtesy and respect.

## **Recommendations**

Both the DIA and the BPA have a number of recommendations to help minimise issues between car park operators and ADIs.

- ADI's attempt to make use of car parks during off peak hours to minimise disruption to the public and maximise the cooperation of the operator.
- ADI's and the operator agree on an area of the car park that ADIs can safely use as and when appropriate to the particular car park.

## **Next Steps**

1. DIA and BPA to develop a joint awareness campaign to educate parking operators about the benefits of permitting learner drivers practice in their facilities.
2. We will seek to get as many operators to sign up to the scheme as possible
3. The BPA and the DIA shall work together to get the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), to support this initiative.
4. BPA to collect statistics on cars being damaged in car parks due to bad driving and parking with the intention of measuring trends and improvement over time. They will do this via insurance companies to find out any data that supports the amount of damaged caused by poor parking in car parks by members of the public, plus if there is any data for ADIs for this too, but the latter is expected to be very minimal, if at all.

## **Who are the DIA and the BPA and who do we represent**

The Driving Instructors Association (DIA) is the largest professional membership body for driver and rider trainers in the UK. Offering support, advice, professional development and

training, lobbying and representation to trainers working across the vehicle and licence categories.

The DIA work with driver training and wider road safety professionals across the world to develop driving standards. DIA are members of key industry stakeholder groups, including the Department for Transport's Road Safety Delivery Group and the Road Safety Observatory board and as such are closely involved in the development of regulation, policy and strategy in the sector.

In addition to providing advice, professional development and support, the DIA are also a direct driver training provider themselves, offering a range of classroom based, in car and e-learning advanced driver and rider training and assessments pathways to both individual motorists and fleet operators, large and small, in the UK and internationally.

The British Parking Association (BPA), is the largest, most established and trusted professional association representing parking and traffic management in Europe and the recognised authority within the parking profession. The Association represents the best interests of its members and the parking community and provide an extensive range of membership services to support parking professionals & organisations in their day-to-day work.

The BPA's diverse membership community of around 700 organisations includes technology developers & suppliers, equipment manufacturers, learning providers, consultants, structural & refurbishment experts, local authorities and parking on private land operators including retail parks, healthcare facilities, universities, airports and railways stations.

The BPA engenders collaboration between stakeholders, members and government to support growth for our communities, improve compliance amongst those managing and using parking facilities, and encourage fairness and consistency to achieve the vision of excellence in parking for all. The Association is committed to promoting innovation, technology, growth and sustainability, and the very highest of standards with the aim of making parking a recognised profession.