



BRITISH PARKING ASSOCIATION

## Press release

### **BPA welcomes launch of first POPLA Annual Report**

The British Parking Association (BPA) today welcomes the launch of the first Annual Report from POPLA, the independent appeals service for the private parking sector.

The BPA established the Parking on Private Land Appeals service in October 2012 alongside the Protection of Freedoms Act. Now for the first time, motorists in England and Wales have access to a free alternative dispute resolution service.

Operated by London Councils - a public body - POPLA is judicially independent when it comes to deciding the outcome of an appeal if a motorist wishes to contest an unfair Parking Charge Notice issued on private land.

In recent years, there has been a substantial rise in standards across the private parking sector and we believe that everyone should have the right of appeal against parking enforcement. The BPA are pressing for POPLA to be adopted in Scotland and Northern Ireland and at places such as railway stations and airports, where it is currently not available to motorists.

The BPA has long called for regulation of the private parking sector and planned to develop an independent appeals service even before both Government and organisations representing motorists endorsed the parking profession's decision to set up POPLA.

We are now consulting on the governance of POPLA and it is crucial that the independence of the service is both maintained and demonstrated to the motorist. We believe that public confidence in POPLA's free service to motorists is high and will continue to rise.

We welcome the first Report from the Lead Adjudicator about POPLA and we will study its findings and improve our auditing and best practice advice to members accordingly.

**Ends**

## Notes to Editor

The British Parking Association (BPA), founded in 1970, is the largest independent professional association in Europe, representing 710 member organisations in the parking and traffic management industry. Members range from technology manufacturers and car park operators to local authorities and theme parks.

The BPA is dedicated to promoting and representing knowledge and standards in every type of parking facility, both on-street and off-street, and to bringing together the interests of Government, local authorities and commercial organisations, providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas concerning parking.

## POPLA

Parking on Private Land Appeals (POPLA) is funded by BPA members. Neither the BPA nor its members have any influence over its decisions. POPLA's adjudicators are not affiliated with the BPA in any way, and all adjudicators have appropriate legal qualifications. POPLA's decisions are binding on members of the BPA's Approved Operator Scheme, but not on motorists

For more information visit <http://www.popla.org.uk/>

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