Dear Sir/Madam

Local Government and Regeneration Committee: Disabled Persons’ Parking Badges (Scotland) Bill.

The British Parking Association (BPA) welcomes your consultation regarding the Disabled Persons’ Parking Badges (Scotland) Bill. I am pleased to set out below our response made on behalf of the membership of the BPA.

In general we welcome the new proposals in the Bill for better enforcement of blue badges in Scotland. The BPA lobbied for and welcomed the introduction of the new enforcement powers in England in 2013 and we would encourage the Scottish government to introduce common arrangements in Scotland.

The BPA has worked with the Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities in the delivery of the Blue Badge Improvement Service (BBIS) which is delivering fairer and more efficient administration of the Blue Badge Scheme. Improvements to the assessment of eligibility will ensure only those who have genuine need of a Blue Badge have access to designated spaces and facilities. The Scottish Government needs to ensure that Scottish local authorities have appropriate powers to deal with abuse, misuse and fraudulent use of Blue Badges and that landowners have effective powers to deal with abuse of disabled persons’ bays.

As you may know, the British Parking Association (BPA) is the largest professional association in Europe representing organisations in the parking and traffic management sector. These organisations are many and varied and include manufacturers, car park operators, local authorities, health authorities, universities and higher education facilities, airports, railway stations, shopping centres, theme parks, construction companies, learning providers and consultants.

The BPA also manages initiatives for the sector including the Safer Parking Scheme (on behalf of the Associations of Chief Police Officers), the Approved Operator Scheme (for those managing and enforcing parking on private, unregulated land) and the Parking Forum.

For more information regarding us here at the BPA, please click here.
Yours faithfully,

Patrick Troy
Chief Executive