
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No. 2285

**The Road User Charging (Charges and
Penalty Charges) (London) Regulations 2001**

PART IV

IMMOBILISATION AND REMOVAL OF VEHICLES

Power to immobilise vehicles

10.—(1) As mentioned in paragraph (2), a charging scheme may make provision for any case in which an authorised person has reason to believe that, in respect of a vehicle which is stationary on a road in a charging area—

- (a) the vehicle is being used or kept on that road in contravention of the scheme; or
- (b) there are such number of penalty charges outstanding with respect to the vehicle as may be specified in that behalf in the scheme,

and that such other circumstances apply as may be specified in the scheme.

(2) The scheme may provide that an authorised person or a person acting under his direction may—

- (a) fit an immobilisation device to the vehicle while it remains in the place where it is found; or
- (b) move it, or require it to be moved, to another place on that road or another road and fit an immobilisation device to the vehicle in that other place.

(3) Where an immobilisation device is fitted to a vehicle in accordance with this regulation, the person fitting the device shall also fix to the vehicle an immobilisation notice—

- (a) indicating that the device has been fixed to the vehicle and warning that no attempt should be made to drive it or otherwise put it in motion until it has been released from the device;
- (b) stating that the vehicle may only be released from the device by or under the direction of an authorised person;
- (c) stating that the notice must not be removed or interfered with except by or on the authority of an authorised person; and
- (d) specifying the steps to be taken to secure its release including the penalty charges payable under the charging scheme and the person to whom and the means by which those charges may be paid.

Release of immobilised vehicles

11.—(1) Where a charging scheme makes provision for the immobilisation of vehicles the scheme shall provide that, where an immobilisation device is fitted to a vehicle in accordance with the scheme, the person fitting the device shall also fix to the vehicle an immobilisation notice indicating that the vehicle shall be released—

- (a) if all outstanding penalty charges, or such outstanding penalty charges as the relevant charging scheme may prescribe for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, are paid to the charging authority;
 - (b) if any penalty charge imposed by the relevant charging scheme for the release of the vehicle from the immobilisation device is paid; and
 - (c) where at the time the device is fitted the vehicle is being kept on a road in the charging area in circumstances where a charge is payable, if that charge is also paid to the charging authority.
- (2) For the purposes of these Regulations a penalty charge is “outstanding” if—
- (a) it is a penalty charge imposed by a charging scheme in respect of the use or keeping of the vehicle in question in the charging area to which the scheme relates; and
 - (b) it has not been paid and is not subject to an outstanding appeal.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(b) a penalty charge is “subject to an outstanding appeal” if—
- (a) representations have been made to the charging authority under regulations made by the Lord Chancellor under paragraphs 12(3) and 28 of Schedule 23 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and the authority has not notified its decision with respect to the representations; or
 - (b) an appeal has been made to an adjudicator under those Regulations and the appeal has not been determined.

Power to remove vehicles

12.—(1) As mentioned in paragraph (2), a charging scheme may make provision for any case where an authorised person has reason to believe that in respect of a motor vehicle which is stationary on a road in a charging area—

- (a) the vehicle is being used or kept on that road in contravention of the scheme;
- (b) there are such number of penalty charges outstanding with respect to the vehicle as may be specified in that behalf in the scheme; or
- (c) an immobilisation device has been fixed to the vehicle in accordance with regulation 10 and the outstanding penalty charges have not been paid in accordance with regulation 11,

and that such other circumstances apply as may be specified in the scheme.

(2) A charging scheme may provide that, in such a case, the authorised person or a person acting under his direction, may remove the vehicle and deliver it to the charging authority or to a person authorised by that authority to keep vehicles so removed.

(3) A vehicle removed by virtue of paragraph (2) may be driven, towed or removed by an authorised person, or a person acting under his direction, by such means as are reasonable in the circumstances and any necessary steps may be taken in relation to the vehicle in order to facilitate its removal.

(4) The contents of a vehicle removed by virtue of this regulation may be removed by an authorised person, or a person acting under his direction, from the vehicle where—

- (a) it is reasonable to do so to facilitate removal of the vehicle;
- (b) there is good reason for storing them at a different place from the vehicle; or
- (c) their condition requires them to be disposed of without delay.

Disposal of removed vehicles and contents

13.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, the custodian of a vehicle delivered to him as mentioned in regulation 12(2) may dispose of the vehicle or its contents by selling them or dealing with them as scrap, as he thinks fit.

(2) Where the owner of a vehicle has disclaimed all rights of ownership of a vehicle or its contents, they may be disposed of pursuant to this regulation at any time.

(3) In a case not falling within paragraph (2), a vehicle or its contents shall not be disposed of pursuant to this regulation before the end of the period of five weeks beginning with the date on which the vehicle was removed as mentioned in regulation 12(2) and until the custodian has, for the purpose of ascertaining the owner of the vehicle, taken such of the steps specified in paragraph (4) as are applicable to the vehicle and either—

- (a) he has failed to ascertain the name and address of the owner, or
- (b) the owner has failed to comply with a notice complying with paragraph (5) served on him by post or such other means as agreed by the parties.

(4) The steps referred to in paragraph (3) are—

- (a) if the vehicle carries a United Kingdom registration mark, the custodian shall ascertain from the records kept by the Secretary of State under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 the name and address of the person by whom the vehicle is kept;
- (b) if the vehicle does not carry such a registration mark, the custodian shall make such inquiries as appear to him to be practicable to ascertain the identity of the owner of the vehicle.

(5) A notice under paragraph (3)(b) shall be a notice addressed to the owner which—

- (a) states—
 - (i) the outstanding penalty charges payable in respect of the vehicle;
 - (ii) the registration mark and make of the vehicle;
 - (iii) the place where the vehicle was found before it was removed;
 - (iv) the place to which the vehicle has been removed;
 - (v) the steps to be taken to obtain possession of the vehicle in accordance with regulation 15;
 - (vi) that unless the vehicle is removed by the owner on or before the date specified under sub-paragraph (b), the custodian intends to dispose of it; and
- (b) requires the owner to remove the vehicle from the custody of the custodian within 21 days of the date on which the notice was served.

(6) The custodian shall be entitled to treat the registered keeper of the vehicle as the person entitled to its contents unless and to the extent that some other person satisfies him of their claim to all or part of them.

(7) Where there is more than one claim to the vehicle or its contents, the custodian shall determine which person is entitled to the vehicle or its contents on the basis of the evidence provided to him.

Recovery of penalty charges in relation to removed vehicles

14.—(1) Where a vehicle has been removed and delivered into the custody of a custodian in accordance with regulation 12(2), the charging authority or the custodian may (whether or not any claim is made under regulation 15 or 16) recover from the person who was the owner of the vehicle when the vehicle was removed the charges prescribed by the scheme for—

- (a) its removal and storage; and

(b) if the vehicle has been disposed of, its disposal.

(2) Where, by virtue of paragraph (1)(a), any sum is recoverable in respect of a vehicle by a custodian, the authority or the custodian shall be entitled to retain custody of it until that sum is paid.

Taking possession of a vehicle

15.—(1) A person (“the claimant”) may take possession of a vehicle (with its contents) which has been removed and delivered to a custodian and has not been disposed of under regulation 13, if the conditions specified in paragraph (2) are satisfied.

(2) The conditions are that—

- (a) the claimant satisfies the custodian that he is the owner of the vehicle or that he is authorised by the owner to take possession of the vehicle;
- (b) all outstanding penalty charges in respect of the vehicle are paid to the charging authority; and
- (c) any penalty charges imposed by the charging scheme in respect of the removal, storage or release from storage of the vehicle are paid.

(3) On giving the claimant possession of a vehicle pursuant to this regulation, the charging authority or custodian shall give the claimant a statement of the right of the owner (or the person in charge of the vehicle at the time it was immobilised or, where it was not immobilised, it was removed) to appeal pursuant to regulations made by the Lord Chancellor under paragraphs 12(3) and 28 of Schedule 23 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999, of the steps to be taken in order to appeal and of the address to which representations made as mentioned in those Regulations should be sent.

Claim by the owner of a vehicle after its disposal

16.—(1) If, after a vehicle has been disposed of by a custodian pursuant to regulation 13, a person claims to have been the owner of the vehicle at the time when it was disposed of and the conditions specified in paragraph (2) are fulfilled, there shall be payable to him by the custodian a sum calculated in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) The conditions are that—

- (a) the person claiming satisfies the custodian that he was the owner of the vehicle at the time it was disposed of; and
- (b) the claim is made before the end of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the vehicle was disposed of.

(3) The sum payable under paragraph (1) shall be calculated by deducting from the proceeds of sale the sums that would have been payable under regulation 15(2) had the vehicle been claimed by the owner immediately before its disposal together with such penalty charge as may be imposed by the charging scheme in respect of the disposal of a vehicle.