# UK accelerates move towards nationwide pavement parking bans amid growing support



The ongoing challenge of pavement parking across the UK has spotlighted a pressing need for consistent regulation beyond the patchwork of local bans already in place. While London and Scotland have established prohibitions on parking on pavements to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility, many areas in England remain without such protections, causing significant difficulties for vulnerable road users.

A recent survey reveals that 83% of drivers across the UK support stricter pavement parking rules in England, underscoring widespread public concern. The Department for Transport (DfT) has acknowledged the issues pavement parking creates, particularly for pedestrians who may be forced to step into the road due to obstructed footpaths. According to a spokesperson from the DfT, the government’s priority is to make travel easier and more accessible for everyone, with an ongoing review of potential national solutions to these problems.

Local authorities and advocacy groups have been vocal in pushing for legislative changes. The Local Government Association has called for bans on pavement parking to be extended throughout England, citing the danger it poses primarily to pedestrians with mobility impairments, as well as the wear and tear that damages pavements and leads to costly repairs. The LGA is urging the government to empower councils with the authority needed to enforce such restrictions effectively. They also recommend launching a national awareness campaign to educate drivers on the repercussions of parking on pavements and clarify enforcement responsibilities.

The Scottish Government has taken a firm stance with a nationwide pavement parking ban, already in force in major cities like Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and now Glasgow. This move aims to enhance pavement accessibility and pedestrian safety, serving as a model for other UK nations. The RAC has reinforced this approach, with spokesperson Rod Dennis highlighting the severity of the problem and reiterating the need for consistent regulations nationwide. Similar sentiments have been echoed in England, where various stakeholders, including disability rights groups, have supported proposals to strengthen laws to protect those using pavements, such as parents with prams and individuals with disabilities.

Previous government efforts include proposals from former Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, who suggested giving councils powers to fine drivers causing pavement obstructions, even where some limited pavement parking might be allowed. While this initiative received backing from advocacy groups, some, like the AA, have cautioned about potential unintended consequences, especially in narrow residential streets where pavement parking might be used to prevent road blockages.

Parliamentary scrutiny and recommendations continue to add pressure for action. The Transport Committee has criticised the DfT's perceived inertia on the issue and called for a nationwide ban akin to the existing London measures. The committee also highlighted the need for funding a public awareness campaign to inform drivers and better clarify enforcement duties.

Government publications, such as the recent House of Lords Library briefing on transport policy, recognise the significant impact pavement parking has on people with mobility or visual impairments. They document previous consultations and signal the government’s commitment to reviewing options that could result in appropriate legislative solutions, reflecting a growing consensus that action is required to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility across England.

In summary, the landscape of pavement parking regulation across the UK is evolving, with Scotland leading the charge on comprehensive bans, London maintaining its established restrictions, and England facing mounting calls for national legislation. Stakeholders broadly agree that piecemeal local measures are insufficient and that empowering councils with clear enforcement powers, complemented by public education campaigns, will be crucial steps toward safer, more accessible streets for all.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[4]](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-13833471/UKs-pavement-parking-ban-begins-area-scotland-wales-england.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/10/parking-pavements-councils-local-government-association/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-13833471/UKs-pavement-parking-ban-begins-area-scotland-wales-england.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/10/parking-pavements-councils-local-government-association/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/30/pavement-parking-could-banned-across-england-transport-secretary/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/153/transport-committee/news/103087/pavement-parking-report-published-17-19/), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/kings-speech-2023-transport/), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html), [[4]](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-13833471/UKs-pavement-parking-ban-begins-area-scotland-wales-england.html), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/10/parking-pavements-councils-local-government-association/), [[6]](https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/153/transport-committee/news/103087/pavement-parking-report-published-17-19/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/labour-government-england-london-scotland-conservative-b1245337.html> - A survey indicates that 83% of UK drivers desire stricter regulations on pavement parking in England. While London and Scotland have implemented bans, other regions lack such measures. The Department for Transport acknowledges the challenges posed by pavement parking and is reviewing potential nationwide solutions. The RAC's Rod Dennis highlights the issue's severity, noting that many pedestrians are compelled to walk into the road due to obstructed pavements. Sustrans' Rachel Toms advocates for legislative action to empower councils across England to enforce pavement parking restrictions, emphasizing the impact on vulnerable individuals.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/10/parking-pavements-councils-local-government-association/> - The Local Government Association (LGA) has called for the extension of pavement parking bans across England to enhance street safety. A report highlights that pavement parking endangers pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues, and damages footpaths, leading to costly repairs. The LGA urges the government to grant councils the authority to enforce such bans, aligning with existing restrictions in London and Scotland. The report also recommends a national awareness campaign to educate the public on the consequences of pavement parking and to clarify enforcement responsibilities.
4. <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-13833471/UKs-pavement-parking-ban-begins-area-scotland-wales-england.html> - Scotland has initiated a nationwide ban on pavement parking, with Glasgow set to enforce the measure this month. This move follows similar bans in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The Scottish Government implemented this legislation to make pavements more accessible and safer. In England, the Department for Transport acknowledges the issues caused by pavement parking and is reviewing potential solutions. The RAC reports that a significant majority of drivers support a nationwide ban, highlighting the need for consistent regulations across the UK.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/08/30/pavement-parking-could-banned-across-england-transport-secretary/> - Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has proposed measures to ban pavement parking across England, aiming to protect disabled individuals and parents with prams from being forced onto roads due to obstructed pavements. The Department for Transport is considering various options, including granting councils the authority to fine drivers causing obstructions, even in areas where pavement parking is permitted. The proposal has received support from disability groups, though the AA cautions about potential unintended consequences, especially in areas with narrow streets where pavement parking is necessary to avoid road blockages.
6. <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/153/transport-committee/news/103087/pavement-parking-report-published-17-19/> - The Transport Committee has criticized the Department for Transport for failing to address pavement parking, which adversely affects individuals' mobility and can lead to social isolation. The committee recommends a nationwide ban on pavement parking across England, similar to existing restrictions in London. It also suggests funding a national awareness campaign to highlight the negative consequences of pavement parking and clarifying enforcement responsibilities to the public. The committee emphasizes the need for legislative action to protect vulnerable pedestrians and improve street safety.
7. <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/kings-speech-2023-transport/> - The House of Lords Library provides an overview of transport-related measures announced in the King's Speech 2023, including the issue of pavement parking. The document outlines the government's recognition of the problems caused by pavement parking, particularly for individuals with mobility difficulties or visual impairments. It discusses previous consultations and reports on the matter, highlighting the need for legislative action to address the issue. The document also mentions the government's commitment to reviewing options and delivering appropriate solutions to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.