

Cars With Foreign Number Plates Cost Councils £1000's

By David Allen

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Having visitors from within the European Union come over to the UK is good thing, but when they come over in their cars, this causes problems as their number plates are not registered with the DVLA, therefore they cannot be traced if they break the law.

One council in Ipswich has had to write off almost £30,000 over the last couple of years because of these foreign registered cars that have been caught parking illegally on double yellow lines and overstaying their time in car parks.

Mandy Chapman, parking manager at Ipswich Borough Council, said, "It is more than frustrating for the council but it is also a worry from a health and safety point of view," she said. "We have no way of telling if these vehicles have an MOT certificate or if they are insured. It is not a good situation to be in.

"The empathy I have is for people who park illegally that have been caught and paid because although they have parked illegally they have paid the penalty. However, there are people driving in foreign vehicles in the UK who are flouting that.

"What people need to be aware of is if we fine vehicles not registered with the DVLA then they can collect penalty charges for six months and then leave the country without paying any of them."

A car owner from abroad needs to register with the DVLA if they stay in the UK for more than six months, however knowing how long these cars have been around is not easy.

A spokesperson for the DVLA said, "Enforcement of penalty charges issued to keepers of foreign registered vehicles is a Europe-wide challenge that needs a Europe-wide solution.

"The European Community has recognised the need for data exchange mechanisms and this is an area that is developing continuously," he said.

This is a national problem, which is costing councils thousands of pounds each year.

Ipswich MP Chris Mole said, "I think there needs to be more awareness among people coming into the UK of the requirements for them to have their vehicles properly registered and identifiable," he said. "Whether we can add some further checks to vehicles at the points of entry to the UK I do not know. But I am sure it would be worth looking at."

Source

<http://www.personallyyours.co.uk/blog/04092008.html>

Personallyours.co.uk who is registered with the DVLA has been in the personalised number plate industry for twenty years. They provide private number plates, rare number plates, attend number plate auctions and buy cherished number plates.

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