



**ESTATES AND PROPERTY SERVICES**

Robert Gordon University  
Central Services Building  
Garthdee Campus  
Garthdee Road  
Aberdeen  
AB10 7FY  
United Kingdom  
Tel: 01224 263300  
Fax: 01224 263456  
[www.rgu.ac.uk](http://www.rgu.ac.uk)

Mr Doug Ritchie  
Team Leader  
Traffic Management Team  
Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure  
74-76 Spring Garden  
Aberdeen

11 January 2012

Dear Mr Ritchie

**EPI/12/017 – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ON STREET PARKING CHARGES**

I refer to the above and would thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to on street parking charges at Foresterhill and Garthdee.

I have discussed the matter with colleagues at RGU and would wish to raise concerns as to the proposals for Garthdee and would offer the following comments for consideration as part of the Council's discussions on the matter.

RGU are concerned that there was no prior consultation, notification, or engagement with the University relating to the proposal prior to the issue of the consultation document.

As you will be aware, RGU has been working closely with Aberdeen City Council for a number of years in relation to development of the Garthdee Campus and issues associated with sustainable travel initiatives, including development and implementation of the Green Travel Plan, financial contribution to the existing Controlled Parking Zone operation and a commitment to increased contributions to an expanded CPZ on completion of the Masterplan construction project at Garthdee.

Whilst we fully support the shift from car use to public transport – witnessed by our regular involvement with First Aberdeen, Nestrans and the local authority, we are concerned as to the limiting factors in achieving and maintaining regular, timeous transport services due to the limitations of the road network between the City Centre and Garthdee – specifically the lack/limited operation of dedicated bus lanes. There is specific evidence of issues with regard to peak capacity on the route, compounded by delays incurred due to traffic issues.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Deputy Director  
Estates and Property Services  
**Tina Pringle**

Director  
Estates and Property Services  
**Bill Somerville**

The proposed increase in parking charges (300%) is considered excessive, even with due consideration to the equivalent increase in public transport costs. This will have a major impact to the student population (which form the majority of users of the CPZ at Garthdee) who have a low/restricted income.

It is considered that the increased charges will drive car users to park outwith the CPZ causing additional congestion in those areas.

Any increase in charges within the CPZ will have an impact on the level of car parking charges levied by RGU to park at the Garthdee Campus (as charges were set with due consideration to those within the CPZ) which, in turn, will drive car users away from parking within the campus/CPZ with a potential for further congestion/parking issues on the perimeter of the existing CPZ.

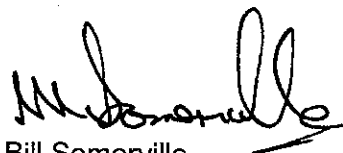
The above will have a direct impact on student/staff recruitment which could, in turn, have a direct impact on the development of the University.

Considering the limited consultation time available and the lack of direct contact with the University in relation to the Garthdee aspects of the proposal, we would seek to postpone any proposals to increase charges until such time as further investigation /development of public transport initiatives (bus lanes etc) is fully considered.

In addition to the above, the impact to the increase in coverage of the Garthdee CPZ (as a result of the RGU Masterplan proposals) should be considered prior to any consideration in increasing charges for on street parking.

It is hoped that the comments will support debate on the proposals and would welcome the opportunity to provide further input/feedback as appropriate

Yours sincerely



Bill Somerville  
Director: Estates and Property Services