

From: John Thompson
Sent: 10 February 2015 10:59
To: Amanda Farquhar
Subject: Re: Aberdeen City Council - Prohibition of camping in designated areas byelaw 2014

Dear Amanda Farquharson

Thank you for your email.

The Motorhome Tourism Organisation on whose behalf I replied have not changed their opinion of the clauses of the By-Law restricting the use of Motorhomes and Campervans. This bylaw was intended to prevent unlawful encampments by travellers. It is apparent that there are a lack of official sites for these groups, which has led to the unofficial encampments.

We fail to see that Aberdeen City has any more of a "unique situation" than any other town or county in the UK regarding travelling populations .

There was no need to include Motorhomes and Campervans (which we note was suggested by Waitrose (John Lewis partnership) after an initial consultation, to which we were not party, despite requests for information) and particularly the drastic, potentially criminal restriction on their "use" or occupation between 6pm and 6am. Your TROs already prohibit sleeping, camping or cooking in the off-street car parks. As taxed, tested and insured motor vehicles they have a right to use the highway in the same manner as any other vehicle. We would further point out that Motorhomes over 5 tonnes are not "goods vehicles" which are category N vehicles in the current DVLA/EU classification. All Motorhomes are "Passenger vehicles" no matter the size, together with cars, buses and coaches and therefore are category M vehicles, the body configuration has no relevance.

Yours sincerely

John J Thompson