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Information Commissioner's Office
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Emailed to: joanne.crowley@ico.org.uk

28 March 2017

GDPR consent guidance

Dear Ms Crowley

The British Parking Association (BPA) welcomes your review of the GDPR consent guidance. As the largest professional parking association in Europe we represent around 700 organisations by promoting and influencing the best interests of these members and the parking and traffic management sector throughout the UK and Europe. These organisations are many and varied and include manufacturers, car park operators, local authorities, health authorities, universities and higher education facilities, airports, railway stations, shopping centres, theme parks, construction companies, learning providers and consultants.

For more information about the BPA please see the [endnote](#).

Accessibility continues to underpin economic regeneration, as shown in the BPA's [Master Plan for Parking](#), "Proper and effective parking policies and traffic management according to properly defined standards is essential; it contributes to less congested streets and increases access to towns and cities with significant economic benefits to enable a mobile society."

We believe in raising standards in the parking profession and enabling our members to provide better services for the motorist and to do that we need to work closely with government, the ICO and other key stakeholders.

The guidance is necessary and will be helpful to our members when establishing consent. It would be helpful to provide examples of how to obtain and/or establish consent to ensure understanding. The BPA would be willing to assist in providing examples for the parking profession. The guidance should also continue to evolve as new questions arise.

Parking acts give rise to a significant amount of data which is collected in a variety of ways such as:

ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras). Timed photographs are taken of the vehicle itself entering and leaving the car park, which includes close ups of the vehicle's number plate. The duration of the stay of the vehicle is calculated from the times registered on the two sets of photographs. If a vehicle has exceeded the duration of stay either mentioned on the parking ticket or on car park signage (e.g. 'Maximum 2 hour stay for customers only'),

then the driver of the vehicle will may be required to pay an excess parking charge (which will also be mentioned in the car park's signage).

Sometimes this method of observation is used alongside ticket machines, in which you enter your vehicle registration and display a ticket to show how long you will be parking there.

Parking related data can be collected from other technologies too, such as electric vehicle charge points, sometimes a motorist has to register their vehicle registration to use certain charge points or set up a customer account to organise payment. Similarly a motorist must create an account and register their vehicle registration when establishing a service to pay for parking using mobile devices or to pre-book or post-pay for a parking space when purchasing parking over the Internet and on websites

These are just some examples. There are many others and we would be pleased to discuss these during our regular meetings with colleagues at The Information Commissioner's Office.

Conclusion

As ever the BPA stands ready to work with you and your officials on future guidance and to raise standards in the use of data in the parking profession. The Association and members are at your disposal to assist with any further information, advice or support in relation to this very important area.

We hope you will find these comments of interest and look forward to working with the ICO in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Kathryn Shipman by emailing consultations@britishparking.co.uk or calling 01444 447 317 if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Kelvin Reynolds
Director of Policy and Public Affairs

Endnote

About the British Parking Association:

The British Parking Association (BPA) is the largest professional association in Europe, representing around 700 members in the parking and traffic management profession. Our members include manufacturers, learning providers, consultants, local authorities, car park operators, including those managing parking on private land such as retail parks, healthcare facilities, universities and railway stations. We have 144 members managing parking on private land and 250 local authority members. We provide our members with knowledge and a range of benefits and resources that assist them in their day to day work.

As the recognised authority within the parking profession, we represent, promote and influence the best interests of the parking and traffic management profession throughout the UK and Europe. We also manage initiatives for the sector including the Safer Parking Scheme (on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers), the Approved Operator Scheme (for those

managing parking on private, unregulated land) and our stakeholder engagement group, the Parking Forum.

We place the consumer at the heart of our thinking and as the recognised authority in parking we actively represent and promote the sector by advancing knowledge, raising standards and professionalism, and using our influence to deliver excellence for the benefit of all.

For more information regarding us here at the BPA, please click [here](#).