

Questions and Answers regarding traffic regulations at Holyrood Park

Why is this happening?

Historic Scotland have reviewed traffic management throughout Holyrood Park as part of their overall Visitor Safety Management Plan. As part of this review it was decided to reinforce and re-educate people about the traffic regulations pertaining specifically to the Park which included prohibiting commercial vehicles using the Park as a through route.

This decision was taken to:

- Improve visitor safety
- Reduce unnecessary traffic flow through the Park
- Avoid increased wear and tear on the roads which in turn results in higher maintenance costs being incurred by Historic Scotland.

Historic Scotland has a legal duty to protect Holyrood Park, its significantly important cultural and natural heritage, and promote its benefits for recreational users.

Historic Scotland, Lothian and Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council are jointly reinforcing these measures in order to preserve an area of natural beauty that can be enjoyed across the city, as well as easing traffic congestion for people who live in the vicinity of the park.

How do you define a commercial vehicle?

The Park Regulations define a commercial vehicle as driving or using any vehicle:

“constructed or adapted for the purpose of any trade or business or as a dwelling, other than a vehicle designed to seat not more than seven passengers (in addition to the driver) and used only for the carriage of passengers and their effects pursuant to a contract for the use of the vehicle as a whole; except in either case for the purpose of transacting business with persons residing in the Park or land under any licence from the Secretary of State (now Scottish Ministers through Historic Scotland), or for removing any vehicle, which has broken down in the Park.”

Basically any vehicle that is being used for a trade or business purpose. This could include cars, small vans, large vans, trucks, articulated lorries, mini buses, coaches, etc.

What if I don't have any advertising displayed?

Whether a vehicle has advertising on it or not is irrelevant. A commercial vehicle is defined as described in the previous question under the Park Regulations. Vehicles carrying advertising may be committing a separate offence.

What if I use my vehicle for business and also for domestic use? Will I no longer be able to use it to take my family to the park?

The Holyrood Park Regulations prohibit the driving of any vehicle ‘constructed or adapted for the purpose of any trade or business’. Whilst using commercial vehicles is prohibited, using such vehicles for domestic purposes is being afforded some discretionary leniency on the basis that domestic users are welcome to make use of the facilities that Holyrood Park offers. The onus however is on such users to satisfy the enforcing authorities that the use is domestic. If they are not so satisfied then their discretion will not be exercised. The park must not be used as a through road for commercial vehicles, and this is the starting point.

How many vehicles go through Holyrood Park on a daily basis?

Approximately 20,000 at weekends and 25,000 on weekdays.

(ISIS Holyrood Park Traffic Survey 2006)

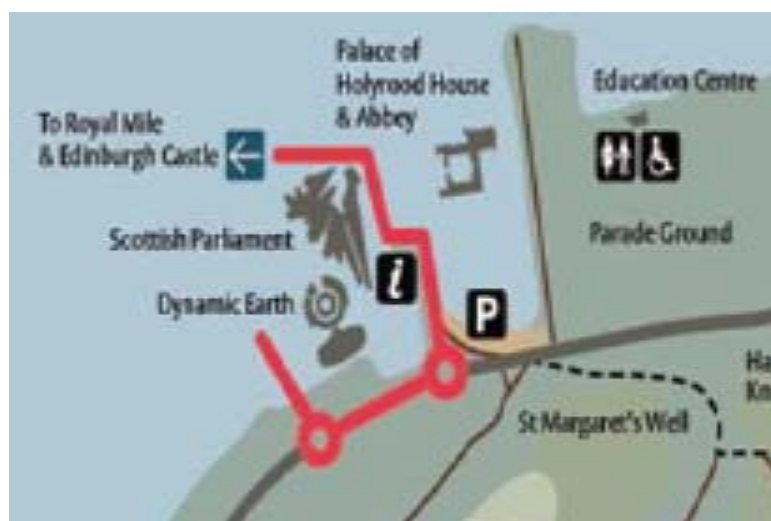
How many of these are commercial vehicles?

Approximately 5% (1000) at weekends and 9% (2250) on weekdays.

(ISIS Holyrood Park Traffic Survey 2006)

Are any sections of the Park roads exempt from this restriction?

Yes one section of road within the Park is exempt from these Regulations. This is between Dynamic Earth and Parliament/Holyrood Palace via Holyrood, Queens Drive and Horse Wynd.



Does this mean that Council gritting trucks will be banned?

No. Vehicles operating for or on behalf of Historic Scotland operations will be exempt.

What about hearses?

Any vehicles adapted for business use is prohibited, and will therefore require prior permission before being permitted to use the Park roads.

What about mail vans?

Royal Mail or other mail delivery company vehicles are not exempt, unless delivering to or collecting from a property within the Park

What about Coaches and Mini buses?

Please refer to the Coach Permit Scheme which is in operation for vehicles bringing tourists, community or educational groups to the Park.

Coaches and mini buses are not permitted to travel through the Park empty.

What about taxis?

Historic Scotland has been advised by the Procurator Fiscal that Taxis's, whether Private Hire or Black Cabs, whether empty or full and including those carrying advertising are exempt from this Regulation, This is not special dispensation. The original Park regulations provide for them being permitted to use the park.

Acts for which written permission is required. Taxis are permitted to use Park roads under Section 4 (2). Driving or using any vehicle constructed or adapted for the purpose of any trade or business is prohibited without written permission, other than a vehicle designed to seat not more than seven passengers (in addition to the driver) and used only for the carriage of passengers and other effects pursuant to a contract for the use of the vehicle as a whole;

Section 3. (4) does however prohibit – soliciting passengers with a hackney carriage within the Park boundary.

Where will the money from the fines imposed by Lothian and Borders police go?

The money from the fines issued by Lothian and Borders Police goes to the Edinburgh Justice of the Peace Court.

Your road signs do not conform to the Road Traffic Act

Roads signage within the Park is covered by Park Regulations - Prohibited Acts Section 3. (1) Within the Park the following Acts are prohibited- failing to conform to any directions for the regulation of traffic given by a Park Keeper or Police Constable or by a notice or sign.

I pay my road tax am I entitled to use this road?

The roads within the Park are classed as Crown Property and do not form part of the City road network. Access is permitted to the Park roads subject to the conditions laid down in the Royal Parks Act.

Additionally Holyrood Park is under the ownership and care of the Scottish Ministers and managed through Historic Scotland. Historic Scotland look after the Park and the road infrastructure. Historic Scotland is an agency of the Scottish Government and two thirds of its funding goes towards the upkeep of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It receives no direct funding for the upkeep of the Park roads.