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Benjamin Brown  
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Our Reference: 202500463266  
Your Reference: Engine Idling Law

3 June 2025

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March regarding reviewing enforcement of engine idling law. The Scottish Government recognises the negative impact that vehicle idling can have on human health and the local impact on air quality. Vehicle idling can cause air pollution which is why unnecessary idling is an offence. As you will be aware, through the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 all local authorities in Scotland have legal powers to request drivers of parked idling vehicles, including buses and taxis, to switch off their engines, and to issue a fixed penalty notice of £20 if a reasonable request is refused. Use of these powers is not mandatory and local authorities are best placed to make the decision on whether to adopt them, taking into account their specific circumstances and priorities with regard to local air quality management.

We have issued guidance to all local authorities to assist them in undertaking these duties. Local Authorities may also apply for funding support to assist them in undertaking idling enforcement. Authorities making use of the powers are proactive in undertaking educational and awareness raising campaigns to complement the role of enforcement, including signage and mechanisms for the public to report idling. Most authorities target their enforcement activities in areas of known concern, for example around schools. From our engagement with Local Authorities we know that the guidance does encourage issuing of fixed penalties only where a reasonable request to switch off a parked idling vehicle is refused however, they suggest that the vast majority of idling drivers switch off their engines when requested and that therefore very few fixed penalties are issued. With this being the case, we have no current plans to increase the level of fines for engine idling under regulation 8(b) or the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Regulations 2003.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



We are currently reviewing the 2003 guidance, and have been engaging with local authorities as part of this process. Any updates to the guidance will be published in due course.

Yours sincerely,



**GILLIAN MARTIN**

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