

Chair's Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee Accounts for the year April 2008 to March 2009 which includes the external audit opinion from Grant Thornton UK LLP and the accounts for the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee.

The PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee, formerly the National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee, has been established to enable Councils having Civil Enforcement Area Orders to exercise their functions under Section 81 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and Regulations 17 and 18 of the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007. These functions are exercised jointly with the other councils in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16 of the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) General Regulations 2007.

The functions exercised by the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee on behalf of its constituent councils are appointing independent adjudicators to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, subject to the consent of the Lord Chancellor, and providing these adjudicators with administrative staff and accommodation and providing hearing venues. Its remit in relation to the Tribunal is limited to these matters. Further information on the Traffic Penalty Tribunal can be found in the Adjudicators Annual Reports which are available on the tribunal's web site at www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk.

This is the first set of accounts under the name of PATROL which stands for Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London and more accurately reflects the geographical reach of the Joint Committee and the increasing scope of moving traffic regulation. In 2008/09, 46 new councils became party to the Joint Committee.

In recognition of the devolution of traffic management to Wales and the separate regulations applying the principles of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the Joint Committee laid the foundation for an Executive Sub Committee (Wales) to consider matters arising from this separate legislation.

During the year, the Joint Committee received the results of the Independent Committee on the Review of Parking Documentation and Notices in relation to the Traffic Management Act 2004. The specimen documentation and guidance notes produced by this committee has been published with the aim of providing a reference tool for councils and members of the public.

Continuing the theme of public awareness, the Joint Committee launched a public information web site – www.patrol-uk.info aims to provide motorists who are not yet at the point of appeal with access to common information supplied by all member councils on the civil enforcement process for both parking and bus lanes. In addition, the web site links to individual member council web sites for local information. The web site has an accompanying leaflet which takes the reader through the various stages of the civil enforcement process.

The Joint Committee introduced these initiatives to coincide with the introduction of the Traffic Management Act (2004) in March 2008 however it is hoped that the ongoing development of public information will continue to be beneficial for both the public and the Joint Committee's member councils

Ken Gregory
Chair of the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee