

Mark Camley  
Chief Executive  
The Royal Parks  
The Old Police House  
Hyde Park  
LONDON W2 2UH

14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Dear Mr Camley

I was very disturbed and angry to hear (at second hand) that you were planning to push ahead with a parking charges scheme for the Royal Parks and that the Minister would be implementing this through a regulatory order, without debate in Parliament, before the New Year. I trust this is not true.

If it is true, you are acting totally contrary to what I was led to believe in conversations I had with your and the royal Parks staff earlier in the year or with the spirit of your public consultations exercise. I am well aware of Section 1 para 1.4 in the consultation document. But my very clear understanding from our discussions was that there would be opportunities to discuss further the specific proposals as they emerge and that parliamentary approval would be sought giving representatives an opportunity to cross-question ministers in Parliament further before any decision was finished. It would be most regrettable if you were now trying to short circuit that process.

It has become very clear that there is very strong public feeling on the issue; that the position of each of the Royal Parks is different; that various key elements in your proposals were not incorporated in the public consultation (the very expensive option of industrial standard – petrol interceptor – car park surfacing on which I have written to Margaret Hodge) and that, even within a charging strategy, there are several options with quite different implications which should be discussed with local councils, parliamentary representatives and amenity societies.

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**Please reply to: Dr Vincent Cable MP**  
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Whilst your MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he will allow authorised staff to see the information if this is needed to help and advise you, and may pass all or some of this information to agencies such as the DSS, Inland Revenue or the local council if this is necessary to help with your case. He may wish to write you from time to time to keep you informed of related issues that you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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I am seeking a meeting with Margaret Hodge as a matter of urgency but, if the premise on which this letter is based on is correct, I believe you should also urgently meet me, the Friends of Bushy Park and associated bodies to discuss your proposals, whatever these now are.

Simply to press ahead regardless, ignoring the views of the local public and their elected representatives and short circuiting further discussion, would be arrogant in the extreme and will also make the Minister appear so, which I am sure is not her intention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Cable', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**DR VINCENT CABLE MP**