

RAC Foundation for Motoring

Local Authority Parking Finances in Scotland 2015-16

This note covers parking finances for the 32 local authorities in Scotland. Local authorities are required to submit details of their finances to the Scottish Government in a standard format. The figures are normally published in February/March, nearly a year after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure for 2015-16.

The published data are less comprehensive than in England and do not split on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately. However, a recent report by the Scottish Parliament Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee¹ published the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) and penalty income issued in Scotland for the first time. This information is expected to be provided in the future.

1. Introduction

Table 1 shows that as of March 2017 16 councils were operating Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) using local traffic wardens and civil enforcement, while six more were actively working towards DPE. The remaining ten authorities were not currently considering DPE but still use fixed penalty notices issued instead of fines and enforced by the Justice of the Peace courts. PCNs are for £40, £50 or £60. These amounts are discounted by 50% for payment within 14 days or increased by 50% if enforcement action is required. The average recovery per PCN issued is £32 (see appendix 2).

Table 1: Parking arrangements for local authorities in Scotland

Using DPE (start date)	Considering using DPE	Not using DPE
Aberdeen City (2003)	Aberdeenshire	Clackmannanshire
Argyll & Bute (2014)	Angus	Dumfries & Galloway
Dundee City (2004)	Falkirk	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)
East Ayrshire (2012)	Midlothian	Moray
East Dunbartonshire (2014)	North Lanarkshire	North Ayrshire
East Lothian (2017)	Stirling	Orkney Islands
East Renfrewshire (2013)		Scottish Borders
Edinburgh, City of (1998)		Shetland Islands
Fife (2013)		West Dunbartonshire
Glasgow City (1999)		West Lothian
Highland (2016)		
Inverclyde (2014)		
Perth & Kinross (2002)		
Renfrewshire (2010)		
South Ayrshire (2012)		
South Lanarkshire (2005)		

¹ http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/Meeting%20Papers/20161221_REC_Committee_Public_Paper.pdf

Police Scotland no longer enforces parking offences but now only deal with dangerous parking (e.g. on pedestrian crossings) by local arrangement.

Several of the authorities not using DPE have rejected it because of the cost of setting it up and running it for the small number of parking offences.

2. Summary

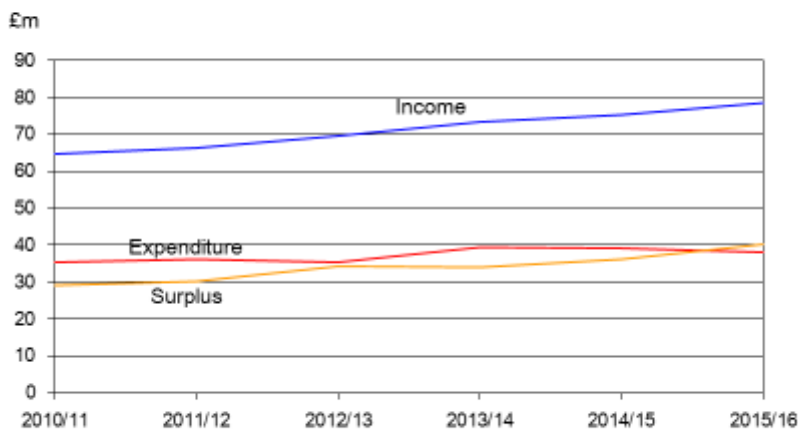
Table 2 below shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Scotland.

Table 2: Summary of parking accounts for Scotland

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change: 2014-15 to 2015-16
		£million					
Parking	Income	66.2	69.7	73.3	75.4	79.3	5%
	Expenditure	-36.1	-35.4	-39.4	-39.3	-39.0	-1%
	Surplus	30.1	34.3	34.0	36.1	40.3	12%
All transport	Total expenditure *	506	522	494	456	458	
	Parking surplus as % of total transport expenditure	5.9%	6.6%	6.9%	7.9%	8.9%	

* excluding contribution from parking

Fig 1 Parking Revenues - Scotland



Source: Scottish Government

Table 3: Comparison of income and expenditure in 2015-16 for different nations of UK

2015-16	London		England (excluding London)		Wales		Scotland	
	£m	% of income	£m	% of income	£m	% of income	£m	% of income
Income	597		906		36		79	
Expenditure	-265	44%	-483	53%	-22	61%	-39	50%
Surplus	332	56%	424	47%	14	39%	40	51%

Table 4: Changes in income and expenditure 2010-11 to 2015-16 for different nations of UK

	London	England (excluding London)	Wales	Scotland
Income	8%	11%	18%	19%
Expenditure	-14%	-3%	4%	6%
Surplus	37%	31%	48%	34%

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 6% per annum over the past five years compared with 2% for inflation (as measured by the consumer price index).

3. Income

Total income in 2015-16 was £79.3m, 5% higher than 2014-15 (Table 5). Note that this includes meter and penalty income for on- and off-street parking, but does not include income received by private parking companies

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen accounted for 71% of local authority parking income (up from 70% in 2014-15). Although the cities only represent 24% of Scotland’s population these proportions are likely a reflection of the volume of commuters and visitors the cities attract. Five councils did not show any income.

Two authorities - East Lothian and North Lanarkshire – show no income or expenditure. North Lanarkshire has parking enforcement but has delegated the financial management to South Lanarkshire. In 2013 North Lanarkshire estimated this would cost it around £25k per year. East Lothian is expected to move to DPE in 2017.

Table 5: Parking income

	£million	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change: 2014-15 to 2015-16	DPE?
1	Edinburgh, City of	22.89	23.68	24.74	25.89	27.71	7%	✓
2	Glasgow City	13.84	17.44	17.87	18.03	19.53	8%	✓
3	Aberdeen City	8.50	8.07	9.20	8.73	9.20	5%	✓
4	Dundee City	3.85	3.38	3.61	3.88	4.49	16%	✓
5	Fife	2.85	2.65	2.97	3.30	2.96	-10%	✓
6	Perth & Kinross	2.92	3.01	3.02	2.92	2.86	-2%	✓
7	South Lanarkshire	2.29	2.14	2.16	2.28	2.46	8%	✓
8	Stirling	2.21	2.19	2.22	2.02	1.67	-17%	o
9	East Ayrshire	0.95	1.15	1.24	1.49	1.53	3%	✓
10	Highland	1.22	1.22	1.24	1.35	1.52	13%	✓
11	Argyll & Bute	0.75	0.72	0.71	1.01	1.09	8%	✓
12	Renfrewshire	1.22	1.02	1.06	1.06	1.07	1%	✓
13	South Ayrshire	0.35	0.61	0.83	0.78	0.80	3%	✓
14	Moray	0.78	0.68	0.66	0.67	0.68	2%	x
15	Aberdeenshire	0.70	0.67	0.70	0.64	0.42	-35%	o
16	Inverclyde	-	-	-	0.16	0.33	105%	✓
17	Falkirk	0.49	0.46	0.45	0.42	0.22	-47%	o
18	East Renfrewshire	-	0.09	0.19	0.21	0.21	0%	✓
19	North Ayrshire	0.04	0.13	0.18	0.19	0.17	-13%	x
20	Scottish Borders	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.14	8%	x
21	Orkney Islands	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.09	6%	x
22	Shetland Islands	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.07	140%	x
23	East Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	0.05	0.05	6%	✓
24	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	-8%	x
25	Clackmannanshire	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	-30%	x
26	Dumfries & Galloway	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	40%	x
27	Angus	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	-40%	o
28	East Lothian	-	-	-	-	-		✓ 2017
29	Midlothian	-	-	-	-	-		o
30	North Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-	-		o
31	West Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-	-		x
32	West Lothian	-	-	-	-	-		x
	Total	66.23	69.70	73.34	75.38	79.32	5%	

✓DPE in operation. o DPE under consideration. x No DPE.

Table 6: Number of PCNs²

'000s	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Aberdeen City	47.3	46.5	37.8
Argyll & Bute	-	5.9	8.1
Dundee City	23.2	25.4	31.3
East Ayrshire	7.6	6.2	5.4
East Dunbartonshire	-	3.9	3.3
East Renfrewshire	4.8	4.3	5.7
Edinburgh, City of	181.8	179.3	185.0
Fife	16.6	19.3	19.9
Glasgow City	118.2	116.9	118.9
Inverclyde	-	3.4	6.3
Perth & Kinross	11.9	9.1	7.1
Renfrewshire	10.3	7.5	7.6
South Ayrshire	7.2	6.7	6.0
South Lanarkshire	18.8	22.4	23.5
Scotland total	447.7	456.8	465.9

The total number of penalty charges has increased by around 2% per annum.

Table 7: Proportion of parking income from penalty charges

	Penalties as % of parking income		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Aberdeen City	20%	19%	16%
Argyll & Bute	0%	23%	25%
Dundee City	15%	19%	25%
East Ayrshire	27%	17%	13%
East Renfrewshire	71%	100%	99%
Edinburgh, City of	21%	20%	19%
Fife	14%	18%	17%
Glasgow City	24%	24%	20%
Inverclyde		83%	85%
Perth & Kinross	15%	12%	10%
Renfrewshire	29%	22%	20%
South Ayrshire	30%	33%	27%
South Lanarkshire	28%	32%	30%
Total for DPE authorities	21%	21%	20%
London	40%	44%	43%
England excluding London	38%	34%	37%

²See reference 1

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Scottish councils with DPE earn around a fifth of the income from penalty charges which is about half of the equivalent figure in London and England excluding London.

4. Expenditure

Table 8 ranks councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Table 8: Parking Expenditure

	£million	Expenditure					Expenditure as % of income					DPE ?
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change: 2014-15 to 2015-16	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		
1	Edinburgh, City of	8.46	9.43	8.54	8.36	-2%	36%	38%	33%	30%	✓	
2	Glasgow City	6.57	7.56	6.67	6.95	4%	38%	42%	37%	36%	✓	
3	Aberdeen City	3.72	4.32	4.22	4.32	2%	46%	47%	48%	47%	✓	
4	Dundee City	2.63	2.42	2.68	2.84	6%	78%	67%	69%	63%	✓	
5	Fife	1.79	2.64	3.00	2.78	-7%	68%	89%	91%	94%	✓	
6	Perth & Kinross	2.41	2.31	2.25	2.64	17%	80%	76%	77%	92%	✓	
7	South Lanarkshire	1.83	1.7	1.67	1.83	10%	86%	79%	73%	74%	✓	
8	Stirling	2.27	2.07	1.88	1.51	-20%	104%	93%	93%	90%	o	
9	Highland	0.98	0.96	0.95	1.12	18%	80%	77%	70%	74%	✓	
10	East Ayrshire	0.83	1.01	1.24	0.96	-22%		81%	83%	63%	✓	
11	Argyll & Bute	0.32	0.43	0.68	0.73	7%	44%	61%	67%	67%	✓	
12	Aberdeenshire	0.41	0.46	0.51	0.57	11%	61%	66%	80%	137%	o	
13	East Dunbartonshire	0.11	0.28	0.38	0.55	44%			*	*	✓	
14	South Ayrshire	0.44	0.58	0.53	0.47	-11%	72%	70%	68%		✓	
15	Moray	0.42	0.44	0.43	0.43	-1%	62%	67%	64%	62%	x	
16	East Renfrewshire	0.21	0.26	0.29	0.38	30%	233%	137%	138%	179%	✓	
17	Renfrewshire	0.46	0.45	0.54	0.37	-32%	45%	42%	51%	35%	✓	
18	Scottish Borders	-	0.35	0.36	0.35	-3%		233%	277%	248%	x	
19	Inverclyde	-	0.09	0.25	0.30	19%			156%	91%	✓	
20	North Ayrshire	0.24	0.31	0.86	0.28	-68%	185%	172%	453%	169%	x	
21	Dumfries & Galloway	0.29	0.24	0.22	0.25	13%	*	*	*	*	x	
22	Falkirk	0.37	0.32	0.37	0.22	-40%	80%	71%	88%	100%	o	
23	West Lothian+	0.1	0.14	0.11	0.14	30%					x	
24	Midlothian+	0.08	0.06	0.09	0.14	50%					o	
25	Angus	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.11	-12%		*	*	*	o	
26	Orkney Islands	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.10	9%	100%	122%	113%	115%	x	
27	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.02	0.08	0.09	0.09	3%	50%	267%	225%	251%	x	
28	Clackmannanshire	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.09	-16%	*	*	*	*	x	
29	West Dunbartonshire+	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	-4%					x	
30	Shetland Islands	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.07	137%	150%		100%	99%	x	
31	East Lothian+	-	-	-							✓	
32	North Lanarkshire+	-	-	-							o	
	Total	35.41	39.36	39.25	39.01	-1%	51%	54%	52%	49%		

✓DPE in operation. o DPE under consideration. x No DPE.

+ No income recorded. * Very low values. % not relevant.

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Overall expenditure remained flat with the three largest established parking authorities showing changes of -2 to +4%. Stirling, East Ayrshire and Renfrewshire reduced their expenditures by 20-30% while North Ayrshire's expenditure fell back to the level of earlier years after a spike in 2014-15.

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditures. Across Scotland it was 49% having fallen from 52% last year, suggesting improved efficiency in operations. Edinburgh's expenditure is 30% of income compared with 33% last year. Most of the mid-sized councils spend 75-90% of their income on parking management including enforcement.

5. Surpluses

Table 9 shows the parking surpluses for the past four years and the year-on-year change.

Total parking *surpluses* amounted to £42.3m between 15 local authorities, of which Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen contributed 87%, the same percentage as 2014-15.

(When it came to the net surplus for all councils, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen accounted for 91% of the Scottish total.)

The increase in *surpluses* over 2015-16 was 11%. The total of parking *deficits* was £2.0m (£2.1m in 2014-15) between 13 local authorities. Two councils broke even and two have no income or expenditure. Overall, parking contributed £40.3m to local authority finances in Scotland in 2015-16 compared with £36.3m in 2014-15 – an increase of 12%.

Edinburgh increased its income by £1.8m, decreased its expenditure by £0.2m and increased its surplus by £2.0m. Glasgow increased its income by £1.5m, increased its expenditure by £0.3m and increased its surplus by £1.2m.

Edinburgh's surplus is the seventh largest in Great Britain and Glasgow is eleventh.

Table 10 shows the contribution parking makes to total transport expenditure for the top four local authorities. For the rest the parking surpluses are so small that they make less than 5% contribution. Edinburgh's parking surplus of £19.4m provided 60% of Edinburgh's total transport expenditure while Glasgow's surplus covered 34% and Aberdeen's 41%.

Table 9: Parking surpluses

	£million	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% change in surplus between 2014-15 and 2015-16	% change in deficit between 2014-15 and 2015-16	DPE?
1	Edinburgh, City of	15.23	15.3	17.36	19.36	12%		✓
2	Glasgow City	10.86	10.31	11.36	12.58	11%		✓
3	Aberdeen City	4.36	4.89	4.51	4.89	8%		✓
4	Dundee City	0.75	1.18	1.20	1.65	37%		✓
5	Renfrewshire	0.57	0.61	0.52	0.70	34%		✓
6	South Lanarkshire	0.31	0.46	0.61	0.63	3%		✓
7	East Ayrshire	0.32	0.23	0.25	0.57	126%		✓
8	Highland	0.24	0.29	0.40	0.40	0%		✓
9	Argyll & Bute	0.40	0.28	0.33	0.36	10%		✓
10	South Ayrshire	0.17	0.25	0.25	0.33	31%		✓
11	Moray	0.26	0.22	0.24	0.26	7%		x
12	Perth & Kinross	0.61	0.71	0.67	0.22	-67%		✓
13	Fife	0.85	0.34	0.30	0.18	-40%		✓
14	Stirling	-0.08	0.15	0.14	0.16	16%		o
15	Inverclyde	-	-0.09	-0.09	0.03	-134%		✓
16	Falkirk	0.08	0.14	0.05	0.00			o
17	Shetland Islands	-0.01	0	0	0.00			x
18	Orkney Islands	0.01	-0.03	-0.01	-0.01		30%	x
19	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.02	-0.05	-0.05	-0.06		12%	x
20	Clackmannanshire	-0.09	-0.09	-0.10	-0.08		-22%	x
21	West Dunbartonshire	-0.08	-0.08	-0.09	-0.09		-4%	x
22	Angus	-0.13	-0.16	-0.13	-0.11		-17%	o
23	North Ayrshire	-0.11	-0.14	-0.67	-0.11		-83%	x
24	Midlothian	-0.08	-0.06	-0.09	-0.14		50%	o
25	West Lothian	-0.1	-0.14	-0.11	-0.14		30%	x
26	Aberdeenshire	0.27	0.24	0.13	-0.15		-217%	o
27	East Renfrewshire	-0.12	-0.07	-0.08	-0.17		109%	✓
28	Scottish Borders	0.17	-0.21	-0.24	-0.21		-13%	x
29	Dumfries & Galloway	-0.27	-0.22	-0.20	-0.23		17%	x
30	East Dunbartonshire	-0.11	-0.28	-0.33	-0.50		50%	✓
31	East Lothian	-	-	-	-			✓2017
32	North Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-			o
	Total	34.29	33.98	36.13	40.31	12%		

✓ DPE in operation

o DPE under consideration

x No DPE

Table 10: Contribution of parking surpluses to total transport expenditure

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1	Edinburgh, City of	49%	52%	60%	60%
2	Glasgow City	30%	33%	40%	34%
3	Aberdeen City	31%	31%	30%	31%
4	Dundee City	7%	14%	13%	17%

Table 11: Major increases in surpluses between 2014-15 and 2015-16

Change £m	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
	Edinburgh, City of	1.82	- 0.18
Glasgow City	1.50	0.28	1.22
North Ayrshire	- 0.03	- 0.58	0.56
Dundee City	0.61	0.16	0.45

Table 12: Major decreases in surpluses between 2014-15 and 2015-16

Change £m	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
	Aberdeenshire	-0.22	0.06
Perth & Kinross	-0.06	0.39	-0.45

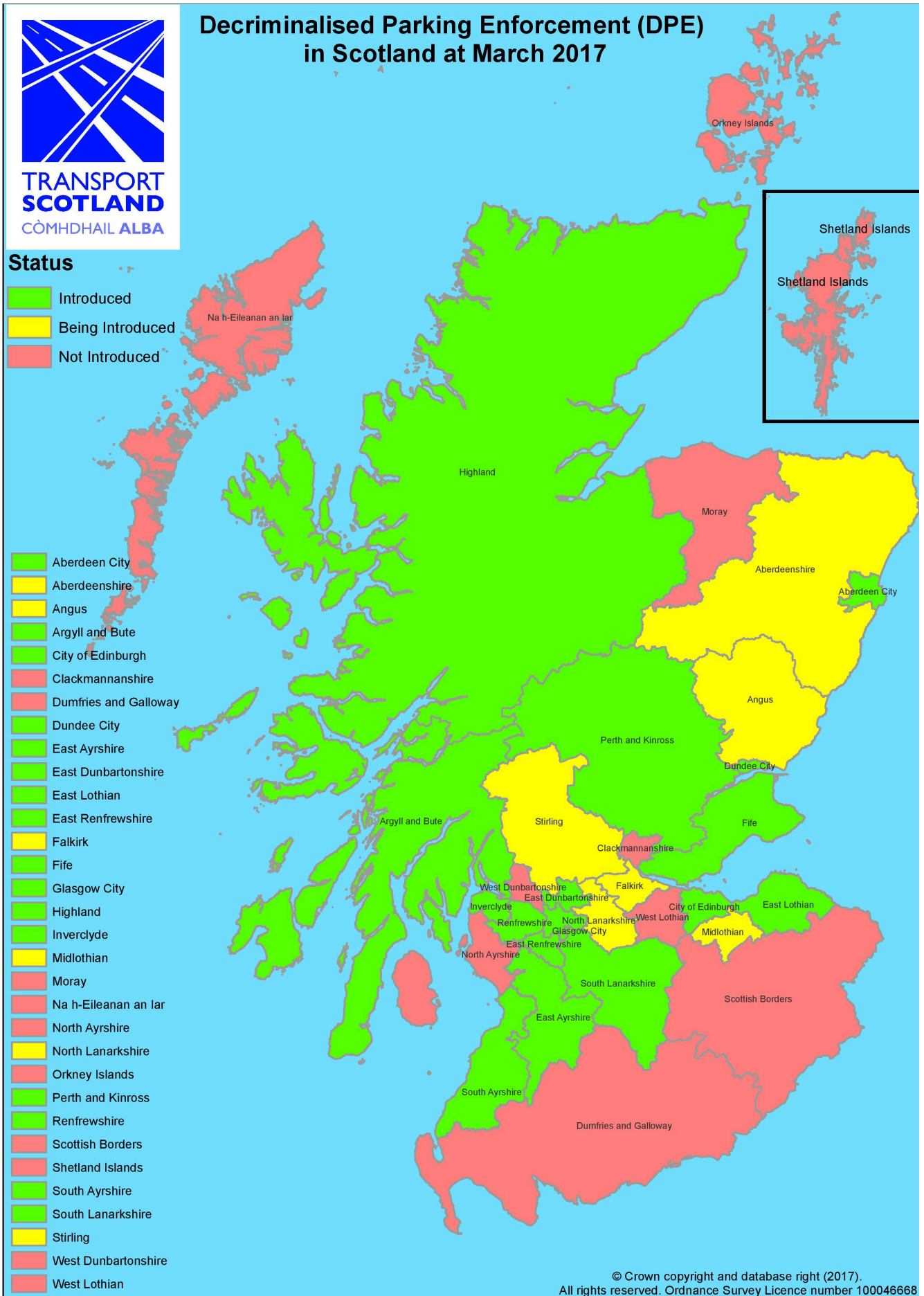
David Leibling

April 2017

Full tables:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/PubScottishLGFStats>

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Number of PCNs and net recovery per PCN

	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	No of PCNs '000s	PCN income £m	£/PCN	No of PCNs '000s	PCN income £m	£/PCN	No of PCNs '000s	PCN income £m	£/PCN
Aberdeen City	47.3	1.84	39	46.5	1.64	35	37.8	1.48	39
Argyll & Bute				5.9	0.23	39	8.1	0.27	33
Dundee City	23.2	0.53	23	25.4	0.75	30	31.3	1.11	36
East Ayrshire	7.6	0.33	44	6.2	0.25	40	5.4	0.20	38
East Renfrewshire	4.8	0.14	28	4.3	0.21	49	5.7	0.21	36
Edinburgh, City of	181.8	5.26	29	179.3	5.13	29	185	5.23	28
Fife	16.6	0.43	26	19.3	0.59	30	19.9	0.50	25
Glasgow City	118.2	4.33	37	116.9	4.35	37	118.9	3.99	34
Inverclyde				3.4	0.13	39	6.3	0.28	44
Perth & Kinross	11.9	0.44	37	9.1	0.35	38	7.1	0.30	42
Renfrewshire	10.3	0.30	29	7.5	0.23	31	7.6	0.22	29
South Ayrshire	7.2	0.25	34	6.7	0.26	38	6	0.22	36
South Lanarkshire	18.8	0.62	33	22.4	0.73	33	23.5	0.75	32
Scotland total	447.7	14.46	32	456.8	14.84	32	465.9	14.74	32

Source: Report by the Scottish Parliament Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee December 2016

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Rural/Meeting%20Papers/20161221_REC_Committee_Public_Paper.pdf