

# RAC Foundation for Motoring

## Local Authority Parking Finances in Scotland

This note covers parking finances for the 32 local authorities in Scotland. As in England, local authorities are required to submit details of their finances to the Scottish Government in a standard format. They 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 the periods 2014/15.

The published data are less comprehensive than in England and do not split on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately.

### *1. Introduction*

Of the 32 local authorities, 15 had decriminalised parking (DPE) during 2014/15 including Argyll and Bute which started in May 2014 (although they had been managing their own car parks for many years) and Inverclyde in October 2014. Of the remaining 17 at least five are considering changing but for most small authorities with only one or two towns and no serious parking problems it is not worthwhile making the change.

In February 2014 Police Scotland withdraw the police-controlled traffic warden service. They agreed to retain the wardens in Midlothian, East Lothian, West Lothian, Scottish Borders, Highland, Western Isles, Orkney Isles, Stirling and Falkirk for a limited period beyond February 2014 but this has now ceased and the police are now only dealing with dangerous parking (e.g. on pedestrian crossings) by local arrangement.

Transport Scotland does not publish statistics on the number of parking fines issued although local authorities are supposed to report the number of civil offences to the Scottish Government. Some information is available from council websites including freedom of information requests.

The main cities issue about 370,000 tickets a year, a number which has been falling over the years.<sup>1</sup> The total number in Scotland is likely to be around 450,000, compared with 3.8 million in London and 4.4 million in the rest of England.

Edinburgh	180,000
Glasgow	120,000
Aberdeen	45,000
Dundee	23,000

The Scottish Parking Appeals Service does not have a website – information about how to appeal is provided on the Citizens' Advice Scotland website.

Two authorities - East Lothian and North Lanarkshire – show no income or expenditure. North Lanarkshire has DPE but has delegated the financial management to South Lanarkshire. In 2013 they estimated this would cost them around £25k per year.

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<sup>1</sup> Author's estimate from various sources.

In 2014/15, 16 showed surpluses, 13 showed deficits, one (Shetland) broke even and as noted two do not have any parking accounts. Five councils do not show any income.

## 2. Summary

Table 1 below shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Scotland.

**Table 1 Summary of parking accounts for Scotland**

		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Change between 2013/14 and 2014/15
		£million					
Parking	Income	64.6	66.2	69.7	73.3	75.4	+3%
	Costs	35.5	36.1	35.4	39.4	39.3	0%
	Surplus	29.1	30.1	34.3	34.0	36.1	+6%
All transport	Net cost	502	476	487	460	420	
	Net cost before parking surplus	531	506	522	494	456	
Parking surplus as % of all transport costs excluding parking surplus		5.4	5.7	6.6	6.8	7.9	

## 3. Income

Total income in 2014/15 was £75.4m, 3% higher than 2013/14 (Table 2). Note that this includes meter and penalty income for on- and off-street parking, but does not include income received by commercial parking facilities.

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen account for 70% of parking income (down from 71% in 2013/14). Although the cities only represent 24% of Scotland's population these proportions are likely to be a reflection of the volume of commuters and visitors the cities attract.

**Table 2 Parking income**

		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Change between 2013/14 and 2014/15	
		£million					%	
1	Edinburgh, City of	21.40	22.89	23.68	24.74	25.89	5%	*
2	Glasgow City	14.38	13.84	17.44	17.87	18.03	1%	*
3	Aberdeen City	7.80	8.50	8.07	9.20	8.73	-5%	*
4	Dundee City	3.75	3.85	3.38	3.61	3.88	8%	*
5	Fife	2.70	2.85	2.65	2.97	3.30	11%	*
6	Perth & Kinross	2.86	2.92	3.01	3.02	2.92	-3%	*
7	South Lanarkshire	2.14	2.29	2.14	2.16	2.28	6%	*
8	Stirling	2.18	2.21	2.19	2.22	2.02	-9%	
9	East Ayrshire	1.02	0.95	1.15	1.24	1.49	20%	*
10	Highland	1.48	1.22	1.22	1.24	1.35	9%	
11	Renfrewshire	1.25	1.22	1.02	1.06	1.06	0%	*
12	Argyll & Bute	0.84	0.75	0.72	0.71	1.01	41%	#
13	South Ayrshire	0.40	0.35	0.61	0.83	0.78	-6%	*
14	Moray	0.76	0.78	0.68	0.66	0.67	2%	
15	Aberdeenshire	0.59	0.70	0.67	0.70	0.64	-9%	
16	Falkirk	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.45	0.42	-8%	
17	East Renfrewshire	-	-	0.09	0.19	0.21	13%	
18	North Ayrshire	0.14	0.04	0.13	0.18	0.19	8%	
19	Inverclyde	-	-	-	-	0.16		#
20	Scottish Borders	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	-14%	
21	Orkney Islands	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.08	-8%	
22	East Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-	0.05		*
23	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.04	27%	
24	Shetland Islands	-	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.03	625%	
25	Clackmannanshire	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	7%	
26	Dumfries & Galloway	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01	-7%	
27	Angus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0%	
28	East Lothian	-	-	-	-	-		
29	Midlothian	-	-	-	-	-		
30	North Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-	-		
31	West Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-	-		
32	West Lothian	0.05	-	-	-	-		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64.58</b>	<b>66.23</b>	<b>69.70</b>	<b>73.34</b>	<b>75.38</b>	<b>3%</b>	
* DPE in operation								
# DPE became operational during 2014/15 (Argyll and Bute - May 2014, Inverclyde - Oct 2014)								

#### **4. Costs**

Table 3 ranks councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure remained flat with the three largest established parking authorities showing decreases of 2-12%. Judging by the figures, some of the other authorities, such as Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute and East Dunbartonshire appear to have been ramping up their enforcement as they switch to DPE with a consequent large increase in costs but Fife, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire have all also increased their costs significantly this year.

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs. Across Scotland it is 52% having fallen from 54% last year. Edinburgh's costs are 33% of income compared with 38% last year. Most of the mid-sized councils spend 75-90% of their income on parking management including enforcement.

**Table 3 Total expenditure**

		Total expenditure					Expenditure as % of income				
		2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	Change between 2013/14 and 2014/15	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	
1	Edinburgh, City of	8.88	8.46	9.43	8.54	-9	39	36	38	33	*
2	Glasgow City	7.01	6.57	7.56	6.67	-12	51	38	42	37	*
3	Aberdeen City	4.19	3.72	4.32	4.22	-2	49	46	47	48	*
4	Fife	2.30	1.79	2.64	3.00	14	81	68	89	91	*
5	Dundee City	2.50	2.63	2.42	2.68	11	65	78	67	69	*
6	Perth & Kinross	1.88	2.41	2.31	2.25	-3	64	80	76	77	*
7	Stirling	2.23	2.27	2.07	1.88	-9	101	104	93	93	
8	South Lanarkshire	1.71	1.83	1.70	1.67	-2	75	85	79	73	*
9	East Ayrshire	0.57	0.83	1.01	1.24	23	60	72	81	83	*
10	Highland	0.90	0.98	0.96	0.95	-1	74	81	77	70	
11	North Ayrshire	0.29	0.24	0.31	0.86	174	803	183	176	445	
12	Argyll & Bute	0.31	0.32	0.43	0.68	57	42	44	61	68	#
13	Renfrewshire	0.51	0.46	0.45	0.54	20	42	44	42	51	*
14	South Ayrshire	0.30	0.44	0.58	0.53	-9	87	72	70	68	*
15	Aberdeenshire	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.51	11	60	61	65	80	
16	Moray	0.42	0.42	0.44	0.43	-1		62	67	65	
17	East Dunbartonshire	0.06	0.11	0.28	0.38	35				711	*
18	Falkirk	0.35	0.37	0.32	0.37	15	73	82	70	87	
19	Scottish Borders	0.32	-	0.35	0.36	3	155	0	240	287	
20	East Renfrewshire	0.04	0.21	0.26	0.29	12		244	139	136	*
21	Inverclyde	-	-	0.09	0.25	191				159	#
22	Dumfries & Galloway	0.30	0.29	0.24	0.22	-10	700	1127	1593	1543	
23	Angus	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.13	-20	3925	4467	2783	2217	
24	Clackmannanshire	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.11	6	447	727	757	747	
25	West Lothian+	0.10	0.10	0.14	0.11	-27					
26	Midlothian+	0.09	0.08	0.06	0.09	68					
27	Orkney Islands	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.09	-20	94	95	129	113	
28	West Dunbartonshire+	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	8					
29	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.01	0.02	0.08	0.09	6	70	54	270	226	
30	Shetland Islands	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03	460	217	167	125	97	
31	East Lothian+	-	-	-	-						
32	North Lanarkshire+	-	-	-	-						*
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36.12</b>	<b>35.41</b>	<b>39.36</b>	<b>39.25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52</b>	
* DPE in operation											
# DPE became operational during 2014/15 (Argyll and Bute - May 2014, Inverclyde - Oct 2014)											
+ No income recorded											

## 5. *Surpluses*

Table 4 shows the parking surpluses for the past four years and the year on year change. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure (before deduction of parking surpluses/deficits).

Total parking *surpluses* amounted to £38.3m between 17 local authorities, of which Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen contribute 87%. The increase in surpluses over 2014/15 was 8%. The total of parking *deficits* is £2.1m (£1.6m in 2013/14) between 13 local authorities. Overall, parking contributed £36.3m to local authority finances in Scotland in 2014/15 compared with £33.6m in 2013/14 – an increase of 7.9%.

Edinburgh increased its income by £1.2m, decreased its costs by £0.9m and its surplus by £2.1 m. Glasgow increased its income by £0.2m decreased its costs by £0.9m and increased its surplus by £1.0m.

Edinburgh's parking surplus of £17.4m provides 60% of Edinburgh's total transport expenditure while Glasgow's surplus covers 40% and Aberdeen's 30% (Table 5a). For the rest of Scotland, outside Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, parking surpluses of £2.9m provide less than 1% of total transport expenditure (Table 5b).

**Table 4 Parking surpluses**

		Surplus				% change in surplus between 2013/14 and 2014/15	% change in deficit between 2013/14 and 2014/15	% of total transport expenditure before parking surplus/deficit				
		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15			2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	
		£million						%				
1	Edinburgh, City of	14.01	15.23	15.30	17.36	13		50	49	52	60	*
2	Glasgow City	6.82	10.86	10.31	11.36	10		19	30	33	40	*
3	Aberdeen City	4.32	4.36	4.89	4.51	-8		28	31	31	30	*
4	Dundee City	1.35	0.75	1.18	1.20	1		17	7	14	13	*
5	Perth & Kinross	1.04	0.61	0.71	0.67	-6		7	4	5	5	*
6	South Lanarkshire	0.58	0.31	0.46	0.61	32		2	1	1	2	*
7	Renfrewshire	0.71	0.57	0.61	0.52	-15		5	4	5	4	*
8	Highland	0.32	0.24	0.29	0.40	40		1	1	1	1	
9	Argyll & Bute	0.43	0.40	0.28	0.33	17		3	3	1	2	#
10	Fife	0.55	0.85	0.34	0.30	-11		1	2	1	1	*
11	East Ayrshire	0.38	0.32	0.23	0.25	8		3	3	2	3	*
12	South Ayrshire	0.05	0.17	0.25	0.25	0		0	2	2	2	*
13	Moray	0.36	0.26	0.22	0.24	9		4	3	3	4	
14	Stirling	(0.02)	(0.08)	0.15	0.14	-8		0	-1	2	2	
15	Aberdeenshire	0.28	0.27	0.24	0.13	-46		1	1	1	1	
16	Falkirk	0.13	0.08	0.14	0.05	-60		1	1	1	0	
17	Shetland Islands	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	0.00			0	0	0	0	
18	East Lothian	-	-	-	-							
19	North Lanarkshire	-	-	-	-							*
20	Orkney Islands	0.01	0.01	(0.03)	(0.01)		-60	0	0	0	0	
21	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.01	0.02	(0.05)	(0.05)		-6	0	0	-1	-1	
22	East Renfrewshire	(0.04)	(0.12)	(0.07)	(0.08)		7	0	-1	-1	-1	*
23	West Dunbartonshire	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.09)		8	-1	-1	-1	-2	
24	Inverclyde	-	-	(0.09)	(0.09)		8			-1	-2	#
25	Midlothian	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.09)		68	-1	-1	-1	-3	
26	Clackmannanshire	(0.05)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.10)		5	-2	-3	-3	-3	
27	West Lothian	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.11)		-27	-1	-1	-1	-1	
28	Angus	(0.15)	(0.13)	(0.16)	(0.13)		-21	-1	-1	-1	-1	
29	Dumfries & Galloway	(0.26)	(0.27)	(0.22)	(0.20)		-10	-1	-1	-1	-1	
30	Scottish Borders	(0.11)	0.17	(0.21)	(0.24)		15	-1	1	-1	-2	
31	East Dunbartonshire	(0.06)	(0.11)	(0.28)	(0.33)		16	-1	-1	-4	-5	*
32	North Ayrshire	(0.25)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.67)		393	-2	-1	-1	-7	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30.11</b>	<b>34.29</b>	<b>33.98</b>	<b>36.13</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.9</b>	

\* DPE in operation  
# DPE became operational during 2014/15 (Argyll and Bute - May 2014, Inverclyde - Oct 2014)

**Table 5a Major increases in surpluses between 2013/14 and 2014/15**

Change	Income	Costs	Surplus
	£000		
Edinburgh	1,158	-894	2,052
Glasgow	157	-885	1,042
South Lanarkshire	120	-28	148
Highland	110	-5	115

**Table 5b Major decreases in surpluses between 2013/14 and 2014/15**

Change	Income	Costs	Surplus
	£000		
North Ayrshire	15	546	-531
Aberdeen City	-470	-94	-376
Aberdeenshire	-62	50	-112

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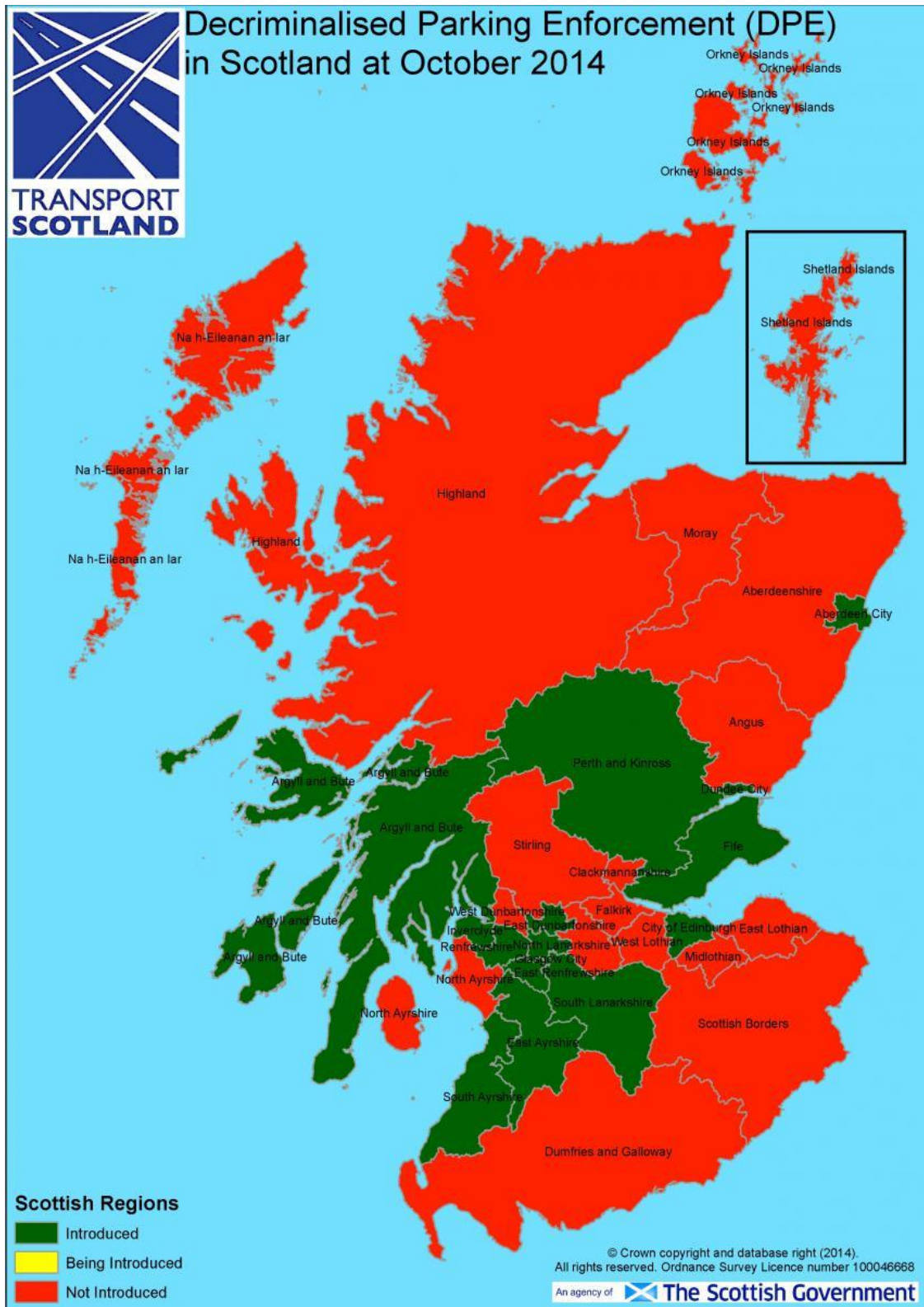
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Full tables:

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



Appendix



Note: Inverclyde started DPE in Oct 2014