



12 March 2019

Request that Mersey Gateway Tolls Enforcement is suspended

Dear Councillor,

The last time that our group emailed Halton councillors was prior to last April's meeting when the Council approved a new Tolls Order. Though there is some doubt as to what the Council approved because there were different versions of the new Order and the rules for urgent business do not seem to have been followed.

Our reason for contacting you today is to ask that you and the Council do whatever you can to suspend all recovery action for Mersey Gateway tolls. We realise that the Council seems to have tied its own hands, but an effort could be made.

You will know that yesterday there was [a major decision from the Traffic Penalty Tribunal](#).

The judgement of the Adjudicator means that the toll penalties are not enforceable despite whatever your Council tried to do last April. This decision was not a hasty one as the appeals go back to last summer. The reaction of your Council was as before to pretend that any judgement only applies to that case and that "It's 'business as usual'". This claim is nonsense, the Adjudicator's decision says "the findings of this case will be taken into account when they are considering other appeals made in respect of the scheme". So this decision affects every appeal that was outstanding and will affect all future appeals unless the decision is reversed; and for the moment there is no indication that the Council will try to get it reversed.

The Council are not giving figures that would show the full scale of what is happening and the last information that was given to us was as at the end of December, by when 56,000 Court Recovery Orders had been issued. It is clear that every day there are terrible events with people being hounded for demands for allegedly not paying tolls. Even just one pair of unpaid tolls can and does become a draconian demand for £525. The effects of the continuing enforcement action are horrendous, as can be seen every day by anyone who looks at the posts on our Facebook group or the messages from the various people that contact us for our advice. We have tried to draw this horror to the attention of the Press, but up to now they have not reported either the scale or the severity of what is happening. [Our last Press Release on the issue](#).

Despite the Tribunal decision we are today still being contacted by people facing demands from the 'debt enforcement officers'. The Council's disregard of the adjudicator's decision is not reasonable behaviour and we again ask that you try to get all recovery action suspended.

John McGoldrick
Scrap Mersey Tolls

To all Halton councillors