

Scrap Mersey Tolls Press Release 25 July 2018

LATEST PENALTY FIGURES FOR MERSEY GATEWAY

Despite a ruling in May that Mersey Gateway tolls were not enforceable, the latest figures show that Merseyflow on behalf of Halton Council have been continuing to issue penalty notices at an annual rate of over 800,000 and that the rate is increasing.

The figures which have been issued by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal also show that few drivers appeal to the Tribunal. For the four months February to May there were over 2,300 penalties being issued each day, but only seven of them resulted in an appeal to the Tribunal.

The figures previously released by the Tribunal went up to the end of January and showed that the Council had not won a single contested appeal. The position is still the same as at the end of May - Halton Council have not won any contested appeals.

John McGoldrick of Scrap Mersey Tolls said that "The figures show that Halton Council continue to cause misery to thousands of drivers every week. Some of those may be deliberately not paying the tolls, but most are the result of a mistake, and all of them are due to the terrible way that tolls are collected and enforced."

"We are pleased to see, that at least up to the end of May, the Council have not won a single case at the Tribunal. It makes you wonder why so few people fight the penalties. The main reason will be that most drivers are scared, and even if they think the penalty is not justified will pay rather than risk increasing penalties. For those drivers who are prepared to fight there is another reason why so few cases were appealed to the Tribunal. For a long period the Council was not issuing 'Notices of Rejection'. This meant that drivers could not appeal, though it also meant that the Council could take no enforcement action other than sending out their warning letters."

"It is past time that all of our local politicians took an interest in what is going on and tried to get the regime of tolls and penalties scrapped."

Ends

<http://www.notolls.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scrapmerseytolls/>

FIGURES FROM TRIBUNAL

Total PCNs issued - To end Jan 242,690. To end May 519,619

PCNs appealed to the Tribunal - To end Jan 3,010. To end May 3,810

PCNS allowed - To end Jan 382. To end May 928

PCNs no contest - To end Jan 2050. To end May 2,812

PCNS dismissed (i.e cases won by the Council) - To end Jan 0. To end May 0

PCNS closed by consent - To end Jan 7. To end May 40

PCNs awaiting decision - To end Jan 547. To end May 2

PCNS registration rejected - To end Jan 2. To end May 6

PCNs withdrawn by appellant - To end Jan 22. To end May 22.