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Clamping will be a disaster

The coalition plans to ban clamping and towing away on private land. To the casual observer this sounds attractive, but to many law abiding motorists, and those householders and tenants and landowners who own car parks it is a recipe for disaster.

There will be a small percentage of drivers who continue to ignore reasonable requests not to park on private land or who will overstay their welcome. People who run car parks need to ensure that, for the benefit of all, such abuses are dealt with.

In particular, the proposal by Government to ban towing away on private land means that if someone parks say, in front of a fire exit to a block of flats, an ambulance bay at A&E or even on your front drive, there is nothing you can do about it if the ban becomes law. The suggestion by the Home Office Minister responsible, that the Police will have powers to tow away vehicles on private land is naive.

The problem is that the management of parking on private land is largely unregulated. The British Parking Association has long campaigned for better regulation and has put a proposal to Government which would improve the way parking on private land is managed. It would protect the motorists from the excesses of some clamping operators who have for too long fuelled a sensationalist media portrayal of this activity. We call on the Government to reconsider its intention of a total ban and instead regulate this sector properly.

These provisions will be included in The Freedom Bill to be brought forward in February. The reality is that landowners will be denied the freedom to manage their land, with the State dictating which freedoms they can have and which they can't.

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