

Press Release

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Following the widely reported 'fracas' in the press last year, relating to the issue of fines at Salters Hill, Lambeth, the founder of the campaign, Jonathan Greatorex, took his appeal to the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service.

His appeal was heard last Saturday (26th January) and the Parking Adjudicator took the unprecedented step of adjourning the appeal to consider whether it was necessary to visit the site. Upon reflection, however, she decided that given the weight of the evidence against Lambeth council it would not be necessary to do so and found in favour of Mr Greatorex.

The adjudicator, Mrs Joanne Oxlade, agreed that the junction was flawed saying, "I do consider the arguments as to the inadequacy of the signage in the light of the layout of the junction, have considerable force".

In relation to the widely contested use of 'zoom' distorting the footage – a point that Lambeth up until now strenuously attempted to deny – she said, "I would also add that the Appellant has a fair point as to the distorting effect of the zoom function which results in the stills being produced".

Perhaps, however, the most staggering part of the case came in relation to the video evidence supplied by Lambeth which did not actually show a contravention occurring. In the footage supplied by Lambeth, the Give Way signs or road markings were not visible in the **original** footage. On this, Mrs Oxlade said "It is crucial to the local authority case, to show that the vehicle has failed to comply with the sign at the point that the vehicle is parallel with the sign. The evidence adduced does not do

this". Infact, so desperate were Lambeth to win this case, that when they realised that the signs and road markings were not visible in the original video of the disproved allegation, they **crudely edited the video evidence to attempt to include images of the signs on the same tape!** Clearly the time codes on the two shots did not match up and an application was made to disallow that portion of their evidence.

Mr Greatorax is now to commence proceedings against Lambeth Council for damages.

Ends.

Note to Editors:

Operations to monitor the 'Give Way Pinch-Point' at Salters Hill commenced on 27th February 2007 until they were suspended on 5th July 2007 following a Scrutiny Sub-Committee ordering an investigation into operations at the junction. During the period of a little over 4 months, a staggering 6,286 PCN's were issued at this location alone. This is an unprecedented level of tickets issued at a single location.

The full text of the ruling is available from PaTAS: case Number: 2070453822

Further information available from:
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