



**LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.**



The Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes M.P.,
Chairman, Women and Equalities Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/NMP1876
19 November 2021

Dear Chairman,

Gender Sensitive Parliament (House of Commons) inquiry: car parking facilities for Members with children

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the car parking facilities on the Parliamentary Estate and the clarification of the rules. I am sorry to hear that a Member had a negative experience whilst trying to park on the estate. As I said to your Committee, right of access to Parliament for members is fundamental and members should feel empowered to avail themselves of this right, especially when their need is driven by their health or personal requirements. Further, there is an equality of membership in Parliament and there should not be any distinction between the rules applicable to ministers and members.

I wrote to the Head of Access and Services who has provided me with a comprehensive summary of their rules for car parking, as per below, for both the Commons and the Lords. None of these should prevent Members from parking where they need to, however, in some areas permission should be sought in advance and in one case the area is temporarily out of bounds due to safety and remedial works. These areas will soon be reinstated.

I have also been reassured that the House can be flexible with restrictions in some of the other areas on the estate, where there is a specific demand or requirement. In Ms Davies-Jones' case, the Head of Access and Services would be happy to provide permission for her to use the Star Chamber Court when she is on the Estate with her child. The doorkeepers and security staff would then be advised accordingly. In terms of other areas:

Speaker's Court – parking is by permission permitted Mr Speaker and is mainly used by ministerial and security vehicles. One MP has a reserved space due to a disability. You are welcome to seek permission for this area.

Star Chamber Court – there are designated disabled bays for use by blue badge holders. There are currently four, so they need to be managed carefully. As above, please do advise any Members to seek permission where needed.

Commons Court – there are 3 spaces accessible on the east side of the court. However, the Flat Roofs Project will mean that these will shortly no longer be accessible until works are completed.

Northern Estate – there is currently no vehicle access onto the Northern part of the Estate for private vehicles due to ongoing project and maintenance works in the area. This includes entrances at Derby Gate, Commissioners Yard and Curtis Green. In this case and above, access should be returned shortly.

New Palace Yard (above ground) – this area is used as a drop-off zone for ministerial and security vehicles, as well as contractor deliveries. As such, parking is not allowed to ensure that sufficient space can be allocated to those who need to visit the estate temporarily and do not want or need to have a car parked there.

I hope this offers a constructive solution for the member in question.

With every good wish,

Yrs sincerely,
Janet M. G.