

**Department of Transport**

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Your reference

Our reference
TTP 2/22/06

Date

/0 September 1982

Dear Ms Whitaker

ORANGE BADGE SCHEME

1. As I deal with general policy questions on the Orange Badge Scheme, Ann Frye has asked me to reply to your letter of 2 July. I am sorry that I have not been able to do so earlier.

2. A package of changes aimed at tightening up and improving the operation of the scheme was announced by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State last year and I think I can do no better than to send you the enclosed copy of the associated Press Notice which sets out our plans. The separate offence, with a maximum penalty of £200, for misuse of badges by able-bodied people came into force last October. We have also consulted interested bodies on draft Regulations and the new circular to local authorities about the administration of the scheme generally. In the course of these consultations organisations representing the disabled expressed strong reservations about the provisions under which issuing authorities may withdraw badges or refuse to issue further badges in cases where badge holders themselves persistently misuse badges or knowingly allow others to do so. In the light of their comments, Ministers have decided that an appeals procedure should be incorporated to cover these cases. Preparation of this new procedure has unfortunately had the effect of delaying tabling of the Regulations. We hope, however, that the Regulations can be introduced and the circular issued later this year with a view to bringing the new arrangements into force early in the New Year. We believe that the measures we are taking will go a long way towards eliminating the present widespread abuse and restoring general respect for the scheme.

3. I hope that you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

I THOMPSON

