

Your Legal Questions

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Q I have heard in the news that wheel clamping is to be banned. Is this correct and when does the ban come into effect?

A There will be a ban coming into force on 1st October 2012 which will apply to England and Wales (but not Northern Ireland or Scotland) and applies to private land only. Currently, individuals or businesses can clamp vehicles if they have a valid vehicle immobiliser licence from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) but once the ban comes into force it will be illegal to clamp, tow away or immobilise a vehicle parked on private land. This will apply even if the clumper has no intention of charging a release fee for the clamp. Anyone breaking the new law will face criminal charges and a fine if convicted.

The ban will not apply to public land so the Police, Local Authorities, government agencies such as the DVLA, together with some other bodies acting in accordance with statutory or other powers will continue to have powers to clamp vehicles.

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