

STATEMENT FOR 20TH JULY BANES CABINET MEETING

SYLVIA SINCLAIR, DIRECTOR, ST JAMES'S SQUARE BATH LIMITED

I am speaking on behalf of St James's Square Bath Limited which represents approximately 130 homes in St James's Square. I wish to support the Council's proposal to require "Inner Zone" hotel guests to park their cars in Council owned car parks, rather than on our residential streets.

I would like to make three points:

1. Firstly, St James's Square residents regularly face disruption and annoyance from hotel guests taking up scarce residential parking spaces. In particular, The Royal Crescent Hotel often valet parks many cars in St James's Square for several days. This is despite the hotel only being a stone's throw from the Charlotte Street car park and having its own large, off-street parking facility. Our flats and houses, and those in our surrounding area, do not have the luxury of off-street parking. While The Royal Crescent Hotel is located in the newly named "Hotel Inner Zone", it has been highlighted to Councillors Rigby and Warren that this hotel uses its rear entrance in Zone 7, which is in the "Hotel Outer Zone", to obtain parking permits. Councillor Rigby has confirmed that this anomaly will be corrected, and the hotel will be required to follow the same rules as other Inner Zone hotels and not use its "back door" to park guest cars in Zone 7.

2. Secondly, the current rules incentivise private car journeys to Bath by allowing hotels to have, what is in effect, unlimited guest parking. These visitors should be coming to Bath by train or bus, or at the very least, using the Park and Ride. Many other UNESCO cities in Europe, such as Florence and Siena, have their historic centres completely closed off to visitors' cars. Despite this, visitors still come and stay, and they do so in very large numbers.

3. Finally, hotel guests should "pay their fair share" and be treated the same as other visitors to Bath. The Royal Crescent Hotel offers rooms from about £500 to £1500 per night during the week rising up to £1000 to £1500 per night at weekends. Valet parking is offered at an additional charge of £30 per stay for which the hotel's actual cost is minimal. I think you will agree £15 for parking at the Charlotte Street Carpark is very affordable in comparison and will have no effect whatsoever on the hotel or guest numbers. This small contribution to BANES will ensure that guests are putting something back into our city and our community.

Thank you.