

Abandoned Vehicle Policy

The department's policy sets out how it will deliver its statutory duties when tackling abandoned vehicles, under the Refuse Disposal (amenity) Act 1978, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. We will follow the Statutory Guidance issued by the Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs 'Nuisance Parking Offences and Abandoned Vehicles as applicable. The department's aim is to investigate all reported abandoned vehicle within 24 hours.

Definition of "abandoned"

There is no legal definition of "abandoned". It is down to the expert opinion of the officers to deem abandonment, however the following characteristics are generally common to all abandoned vehicles:

- Stationary for a significant amount of time.
- Significantly damaged, run down or unroadworthy (This would include the criteria for Hazardous abandoned vehicles in the procedures guide).
- Burned out.
- Lacking one or more of its plates.
- Containing waste.
- Not having a valid road fund licence

Definition of "vehicle"

- Mechanically propelled vehicles intended or adapted for use on roads whether or not it is in a fit state for such use.
- Any trailer intended or adapted for use as an attachment to such a vehicle
- Any chassis or body with or without wheels, appearing to have formed part of such a vehicle or trailer (e.g. vehicles with flat tyres, wheels removed or broken windows)
- Anything attached to such a vehicle or trailer
- Caravans

Areas where the Council will remove abandoned vehicles

- On "roads" (i.e. a highway or road to which the public has access. This will include adopted highways, footpaths, and estate access roads)
- On land in the open air.
- On council owned land.
- On housing association land. (Where permission is granted)

Private land (Where a vehicle is abandoned on land that is occupied, the London Borough of Lewisham will give the owner/occupier of the land 15 days notice of our intentions to remove the vehicle. If permission is given by the occupier no notice is required)

vehicles “only fit for destruction”

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has removed the requirement to place a 24-hour notice to vehicles which are fit only for destruction. The London Borough of Lewisham sets the value for such vehicle's as £1000. All such Abandoned Vehicles will be disposed of without prior warning to the owner.

Abandoned vehicles of value

All abandoned vehicles of value will be removed and placed in secure storage for a period of 7-days whilst investigations take place to find the current keeper. If no keeper is found the vehicle will be disposed of how we see fit on the eighth day. If the current keeper is found then they are liable to pay the removal costs of £200 plus any storage set at £40 per day before restoration of the vehicle in line with London Councils fees and charges..

Owners' requests

The London Borough of Lewisham will remove free of charge any unwanted vehicle's for residents of the borough. To qualify for the service you must supply Lewisham council with the Log Book, Letter of authorisation, and a utility bill.