

# Statutory Interpretation Exercise

## *Parks and Recreation Act 1893 (fictitious)*

Section 1 establishes the criminal offence of

*“having a vehicle in the park”*

Collins Concise English Dictionary defines ‘vehicle’ and ‘park’ in the following terms:

**Vehicle** – *“any conveyance in or by which people or objects are transported, especially one fitted with wheels”*

**Park** – *“1) a large area of land preserved in a natural state for recreational use by the public, 2) a piece of open land in a town with public amenities”*

Consider whether an offence has been committed in the following circumstances:

- 1) Alan is stopped by a police officer whilst pushing a pram containing his new baby;
- 2) Bob has been challenged by a park warden who has quoted the Act to him and advised him that it is illegal to fly his remote control aeroplane in the area of the park;
- 3) Carol has arranged for a WW2 tank to be delivered to the park by crane, as the centre piece of a festival to celebrate the long relationship which the town has had with a tank regiment. The tank has no engine or other means of propulsion;
- 4) Dipak has spent the day skateboarding on the newly refurbished skateboard facilities opened earlier in the day by the Lord Mayor;
- 5) Erik lost control of his bus on a road adjacent to the park and on bringing it to a halt found the front wheels were sticking through a gap in the perimeter fence of the park;
- 6) Felicity is a student at the University of Donfield, and frequently takes a short cut on her bicycle through the University Science Park.