

# Text messages help ward off parking tickets

By Janelle Oswald

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- 1 SOUTH Londoners Paul Johnson, 33, and Wilson Baptiste, 29, have developed a strategy to beat over-zealous traffic wardens.
- 2 The initiative, called Warden Watch, was inspired by numerous confrontational encounters with traffic wardens (for minor traffic offences) which led to them feeling duped, swindled and ripped off by what they call ‘road vultures’ – but most importantly, broke.
- 3 Warden Watch is a text message service that allows the public to help each other avoid getting parking tickets. It is a members’ only club, and once signed up, each member is given a sticker which is displayed on their car. The ‘warden watcher’ texts ‘ww’ followed by the spotted car’s registration to 60030, alerting the driver when a traffic warden is lurking suspiciously near their car. The whole process costs the ‘warden watcher’ the same price as sending an ordinary text



- and is free for the person informed. Speaking to *The Voice*, Johnson said: “Warden Watch does not at any time encourage users of this service to park illegally or use this service to break the law. We just want to 7 wardens who are over-zealous.”
- 4 Since its launch, Warden Watch has gained support from shop owners, the public and of course motorists. Last year city councils and private firms grossed £350 million from parking tickets, which has enraged drivers.
  - 5 Warden Watch now has a website that educates drivers on the rules of the road and gives advice on how to appeal against tickets that have been issued incorrectly.

- 1p 5 Welke woorden in alinea 1 of 2 geven **precies** hetzelfde weer als 'road vultures'? (alinea 2)  
*Citeer (= schrijf over uit de tekst) de woorden in je uitwerkbijlage.*
- 1p 6 Wat moet je volgens alinea 3 **precies** doen als je een lid van Warden Watch wilt waarschuwen?  
*Let op: antwoord in het Nederlands!*
- 1p 7 Kies bij 7 in alinea 3 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.  
A fine  
B reward  
C stop  
D teach
- 2p 8 Geef van elk van de onderstaande beweringen over Warden Watch aan of deze juist of onjuist is op grond van de alinea's 4 en 5.  
*Omcirkel achter elk nummer 'juist' of 'onjuist' in je uitwerkbijlage.*
- 1 Ze worden niet alleen door foutparkeerders gesteund.
  - 2 Ze krijgen subsidie van de gemeente.
  - 3 Ze geven informatie over de verkeersregels.
  - 4 Ze helpen hun leden bij het protesteren tegen onterecht ontvangen bekeuringen.

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#### Bronvermelding

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