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# Parking fines and penalty charge notices

## 1. Paying a ticket

How you pay a parking ticket or penalty charge notice depends on what type it is and who issued it.

You usually have 28 days to pay. In some cases, the fine is reduced if you pay within 14 days.

If you lose your ticket, contact the ticket issuer to find out how to pay.

Paying and challenging parking tickets is different in [Scotland](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/law-and-courts/parking-tickets/) (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/law-and-courts/parking-tickets/>) and [Northern Ireland](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/nireland/consumer/transport/driving-and-parking/parking-and-parking-tickets-ni/). (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/nireland/consumer/transport/driving-and-parking/parking-and-parking-tickets-ni/>)

## Penalty charge notice (PCN)

As well as for parking, you can get a PCN for:

- breaking some traffic rules, for example going against a 'no right turn' sign or driving in a bus lane
- not paying the charge for the London congestion zone, low emission zone or Dartford Crossing (Dart Charge) on time

You can pay online for a:

- [PCN from a local council \(/pay-parking-fine\)](/pay-parking-fine)
- [PCN from Dart Charge \(/pay-dartford-crossing-charge\)](/pay-dartford-crossing-charge)
- [red route PCN](https://redroutepayments.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/pay-a-pcn)  
(<https://redroutepayments.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/pay-a-pcn>) from Transport for London (TfL)
- [congestion charge PCN](https://congestioncharging.tfl.gov.uk/e/providePCN.faces)  
(<https://congestioncharging.tfl.gov.uk/e/providePCN.faces>) from TfL
- [low emission zone PCN](https://lowemissionzone.tfl.gov.uk/e/providePCN.faces)  
(<https://lowemissionzone.tfl.gov.uk/e/providePCN.faces>) from TfL

Check the ticket for other ways to pay.

## Deadlines and penalties

If you do not pay a PCN within 28 days, you'll get a 'charge certificate' and you'll have 14 days to pay the original fine plus 50% more.

**You'll get a [court order demanding payment \(/appeal-against-a-penalty-charge-notice/court-order\)](/appeal-against-a-penalty-charge-notice/court-order) if you do not pay a charge certificate within 14 days.**

## Fixed penalty notice (FPN)

You can get an FPN for parking from the police, local council or Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

You can [pay an FPN online](https://penaltynotice.homeoffice.gov.uk) (<https://penaltynotice.homeoffice.gov.uk>). Check the ticket for other ways to pay.

## Deadlines and penalties

If you do not pay an FPN within 28 days, you'll have to pay 50% more.

**If you do not pay you'll be prosecuted - you may have to pay a bigger fine as well as court costs.**

You'll only get [penalty points \(/penalty-points-endorsements/endorsement-codes-and-penalty-points\)](/penalty-points-endorsements/endorsement-codes-and-penalty-points) on your licence for certain types of parking FPN, for example for leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position.

You can also get an FPN for [speeding \(/speeding-penalties\)](/speeding-penalties) and [minor motoring offences \(/stopped-by-police-while-driving-your-rights/minor-motoring-offences\)](/stopped-by-police-while-driving-your-rights/minor-motoring-offences).

## Other parking tickets

Check the ticket or contact the ticket issuer for deadlines and ways to pay:

- standard or excess charge notices issued by a local council
- tickets from private companies, for example from supermarket car parks

## 2. Challenging a ticket

You may be able to challenge your ticket if you think it's wrong.

If you lose your ticket, contact the ticket issuer to find out how to challenge.

## Challenging a penalty charge notice (PCN)

You have 28 days to challenge a PCN. If you do it within 14 days and your challenge is rejected, you may only have to pay 50% of the fine.

Check the ticket - there are different rules for some types of PCN.

Type of PCN	How you usually challenge it
Local council	<a href="/appeal-parking-fine">Make an informal challenge (/appeal-parking-fine)</a> with the council

Type of PCN	How you usually challenge it
PCN - received on the spot, for example on your windscreen	
Local council PCN - received in the post, ie you were sent a 'notice to owner'	<a href="#">Make a formal challenge (/appeal-parking-fine)</a> (called a 'representation') with the council
Dart Charge PCN	<a href="#">Make a representation (/pay-dartford-crossing-charge/fines-penalty-charge-notices)</a> with Dart Charge
Red route PCN	<a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/red-routes/penalty-charge-notices/make-a-representation">Make a representation (https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/red-routes/penalty-charge-notices/make-a-representation)</a> with Transport for London (TfL)
Congestion charge PCN	<a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/congestion-charge/penalties-and-enforcement/challenge-a-penalty-charge/make-a-representation">Make a representation (https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/congestion-charge/penalties-and-enforcement/challenge-a-penalty-charge/make-a-representation)</a> with TfL
Low emission zone PCN	<a href="https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/low-emission-zone/penalty-charges/challenge-a-penalty-charge-notice">Make a representation (https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/low-emission-zone/penalty-charges/challenge-a-penalty-charge-notice)</a> with TfL

You will not have to pay the fine if your informal challenge is accepted.

**If your informal challenge is rejected**



You'll get a 'notice to owner'. It will explain how to pay or make a formal challenge.

## **Making a formal challenge**

You have 28 days to make a formal challenge (called a 'representation') after you get a notice to owner. You must:

- explain your reasons for challenging the PCN in as much detail as possible
- provide copies of any evidence or documents to support your challenge

You will not have to pay the fine if your representation is accepted.

## **If your formal challenge is rejected**

You'll get a 'notice of rejection' - it will give you 28 days to pay or [appeal to an independent tribunal \(/appeal-against-a-penalty-charge-notice\)](/appeal-against-a-penalty-charge-notice).

If you do not pay or appeal, you'll have to pay a late penalty ('charge certificate').

## **Challenging a fixed penalty notice (FPN)**

You need to go to a magistrates' court. The back of the ticket will tell you how to do this.

You'll be sent a summons with a date to attend a court hearing.

## **Challenging a standard or excess charge notice**

Check the ticket or contact the ticket issuer for:

- ways to challenge
- what you can do if your challenge is rejected

## Challenging a ticket from a private company

Check the ticket to find out who the issuer is.  
Contact them to find out how to challenge the private parking ticket.

If your challenge is rejected, you can appeal to an independent appeals service. Find out if the ticket operator is a member of an accredited trade association by looking at the ticket or their website.

Appeal to:

- [POPLA \(https://www.popla.co.uk/how-to-appeal\)](https://www.popla.co.uk/how-to-appeal) (Parking on Private Land Appeals), if the operator is a member of the British Parking Association (BPA)
  - [IAS \(https://www.theias.org/appeal\)](https://www.theias.org/appeal) (Independent Appeals Service), if the operator is a member of the International Parking Community (IPC)
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