

# R/Malicious Compliance Stories

**\*\*NOTE: This book is intended for humans over the age of 12, reading when under age could be inappropriate i am not responsible for anything you learn - Author\*\***

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# How I parked wrong, paid my ticket, and yet got my money back thanks to a malicious compliance.

I posted it elsewhere and I was told you might like it, so here is a story from about a decade ago, when for nearly a year I was exchanging letters and e-mails with a Glasgow City Council in Scotland.

1. On one summer Saturday afternoon I was moving to a new flat. There was “no parking” lines in front of my new building, but loading was allowed, so I left my car there and started to run up and down the stairs with boxes of my belongings. After last heavy box landed on the floor of my new flat, I really needed a drink, so I started to rummage the boxes looking for a glass or a cup. One thing led to another and when at 2 am I finished unpacking, I went to bed for a well deserved sleep.
2. My building had two entry doors, so it was only Tuesday morning when I used the same doors again and bumped on my car parked right in front of them. “Damn, I forgot to move my car after I emptied it of my boxes, let’s hope I did not get a ticket” – I thought. There was nothing on my windscreen, no letter came to me over next couple of weeks, so I just sighed in relief and forgot about all this.
3. Few months later a strange letter came. Glasgow City Council informed me that I haven’t paid some fine and that if I don’t pay it now, I will have to pay 50% extra. I had no idea what it is about, so truthfully I answered by asking what is it all about as I can’t recall any unpaid tickets.
4. In the next letter they have informed me, that the ticket is for parking my car on double yellow line. I answered, again truthfully, that I don’t park on double yellow lines, as as a former trucker I am aware how annoying it is for drivers of bigger vehicles, not to mention that I would like a fire engine to get to my place in case there is a fire. They answered that they have a proof. I then politely asked them to show me that proof.
5. In the next letter there was a picture of my car clearly parked on double yellow lines. I instantly recalled the situation described in points 1. and 2. I’ve seen no reason to play fool if I was clearly in the wrong, so since there was a copy of the ticket attached to the picture, I’ve decided to pay the fine instantly. It was written on the ticket that if I pay

within 28 days from receiving the ticket (not: from the day of it's issue), then I only need to pay 30 pounds. I wrote a letter apologizing for my behaviour, explaining that it was a genuine oversight, but since I was in the wrong, I am to pay a ticket, so I attached a cheque for 30 pounds.

6. The cheque was cashed, yet some weeks later I've received yet another letter demanding to pay 60 pounds. It claimed that since I failed to pay and it is now more than three months, I have now to pay 50% extra. I answered that I paid within 28 days from the moment I saw the ticket for the first time, I got a 50% discount and that they've already cashed a cheque so it is surely some mistake.
7. They answered again that they count this 30 pounds towards the total of 90, so I still have 60 pounds to pay. I answered again, that I paid within 28 days from the date the ticket was first delivered to me, so we should be square.
8. I was lectured that if the ticket is put behind the winscreen wiper, it is considered to be delivered properly. I expressed my doubts, pointing out that if it was delivered properly, I would be aware of it's existence. I pointed out that a ticket that is placed behind a windscreen of the parked car can be removed by anyone so this is hardly safe and reliable method of delivering important documents.
9. The answer explained matter to me in details: the ticket, that was placed behind a windscreen wiper of the car registered to me can be considered as a ticked delivered to me, as removing such ticket is an offence, so I can't expect them to act on the basis of assumption that such ticket would be removed. In my answer I politely thanked for this knowledge, admitting that it is new to me. I also informed them that I've put a cheque for 60 pounds into envelope and I placed it behind a windscreen wiper of the bin lorry.
10. This time it took them longer to respond. Response can be summed up very shortly "WTF? What bin lorry?" I was happy to explain. I quoted their previous letter and pointed out that since this bin lorry was registered to Glasgow city council and putting important documents behind a windscreen wiper of a vehicle belonging to the recipient is considered to be a proper way of delivering them, I consider the cheque to be delivered properly and hope that this will help to bring matter to its end.
11. Next answer arrived much quicker. It is probably due to this rush that was slightly below the standards expected from the official letter send to a taxpayer by a city council. To sum it up, the letter stated that one should not place important document behind the windscreen wiper of a vehicle, as it can be easily stolen. There were also some doubt risen about my sanity.  
I was happy to ensure them, that I feel perfectly well both on the grounds of my body and my psyche. I reminded them that stealing is a crime, and therefore we should not act on the basis of assumption that someone would steal their cheque from under the windscreen wiper of the bin lorry.
12. I guess they were no longer amused. The next letter contained PLENTY OF GIANT, RED LETTERS and informed me, that the matter will be now dealt with by Sheriff Officers and Messengers in Arms. But if I don't like it, I can always appeal to a Parking Tribunal in Edinburgh. Of course I did not liked it, so I appealed to a Parking Tribunal in Edinburgh.

13. The Parking Tribunal in Edinburgh was initially unable to understand the issue: I paid my ticket, I agree that my car was parked on double yellow lines and I still want to appeal? I then explained to them that I am not willing to contradict the ticket itself, but I am not happy with the fact that I am charged extra money even despite the fact, that I paid a fine within 28 days from receiving a ticket. They finally agreed to consider the case and set a date during one of their sittings in Glasgow, thus sparing me the trouble of travelling to Edinburgh.
14. About a week before set date, I've received a letter from Glasgow City Council. It said that my ticket was cancelled. Now, that's a different story. I rushed to write a letter in which I pointed out that if the ticket had to be cancelled, then I assumed it was issued wrongly and therefore I paid money I should not have paid. I demanded my 30 pounds to be returned to me.
15. I never got any more letters regarding this matter. But on one sunny summer Sunday I logged into my internet banking to discover a payment of 30 pounds from Glasgow City Council.

Please note: I posted it on my blog years ago, so it's possible you could see it before. But it is definitely my own, true, story :-)

# **Company refuses to pay me overtime, I left jobsite with job incomplete and client unhappy.**

This happened years ago, when I was just starting to wake up to companies abusing employees, and employees taking it cause they are just thankful to have a job.

I worked as a sales rep for a company in the technology field. Two way radios and alarms to be specific. Said company never had enough technical staff so I started training myself, and asked our lead technician to teach me to program and sort out minor problems, as well as do installations. Which was nice, since I was doing client visits 1-4 times a month, depending on how big the client was, and then I could sort out problems while I was on site.

I ended up doing most of my client's installations, and the manager of the technical department was happy cause its less work for him, and he knows I do the jobs properly cause I want to keep my clients happy. Accordingly he had no problem signing my timesheets and overtime hours as well. OT was around 10-20 hours a month, so 2-5 hours a week. Which I think was a great deal considering I was doing the jobs of 2 people actually.

It went well for a few months until one day just before payday I get called in by the MD/owner. He had my timesheets for the past few months in front of him. He asked me what they were, and I gave him an explanation. He scratched my OT out, saying sales reps don't get paid OT. I tried to explain to him why I was claiming OT, and that he can ask the tech manager, but he was having none of it. I was pissed as it was a little extra money, but whatever.

About a week later I was at a client about 160km(100mi) from the office. We had an big installation and was almost done except for programming and tidying up some cables. I checked the time, and told the apprentice technician to pack up. He was like but we are not done with the job. I told him I don't care, I don't get paid OT, its 2pm and its still a 2 hour drive back to the

office. We packed up, client comes out and I gave him the explanation, saying we will be back the following morning(to finish what was effectively 30-45min of work)

Client wasn't happy, but understands that I don't get paid to work late. I was on the road about 15min when my phone rings. It was the owner(same one that said I don't get paid OT) he asked what was I doing and why I wasn't finishing the job, as the client was not happy. I told him the explanation above, and then I said that he said I don't get paid overtime, so I'm not working late, and will drive back to finish tomorrow. Silence for about 5 seconds as I assume he realised I was following his express instructions, and there was nothing he could do.

He told me to go back and finish the job and we can talk about it later. I told him no, unless he pays me OT. He says he will, I tell him to put it in an email before I will turn back. I could hear him go red in the face, he said he will send it now. I switched on my laptop, connected my dongle(this was still before smart phones and email on out phones). A few minutes later the email came through, We turned around and finished the job. I got paid my overtime, and never again was there a query over my timesheets or hours booked. I was the only rep out of 5 that got paid overtime.

# **My job tried to charge me for personal calls on my work phone even though I had an unlimited plan.**

So I need to preface this by saying this happened a long time ago. Like back when cell phone plans had minutes.

I was working as a contractor in a hospital for a medical supply company. I was in a "team lead" kind of role in a small department, supervising about 20 people total. Part of my job description was to carry around a departmental cell phone at all times, even though I was an hourly employee. Kind of a bogus deal, but whatever. Employees would call me whenever, 24/7 for troubleshooting or if they were calling in sick. I never got paid for these phone calls, but to me at the time it wasn't a big deal.

This particular area was also in the mountains, and I didn't always get the greatest reception with my Tmobile phone. I got great reception with my work phone, so every once in awhile I'd use it for personal use.

After about a year of this I get an email from my boss's boss's secretary asking me to pay for each of the calls I made. I said "Sure, send me the phone records." After that, I went through the phone records over the past year and saw I'd used it maybe 10% of the time for personal calls. After adding everything up, I emailed her back.

"I added everything up, and turns out I owe you guys x amount of dollars for my personal calls. Technically, I'm an hourly employee, so I should be getting overtime each time I pick up the phone for work purposes. Will we just subtract the difference for all those hours owed?"

I never heard back. I didn't push it and they didn't either.

# **Working many hours, need a medical or religious reason for time off? Okay!**

Small MC by myself and a few others in my department at work.

Work is remote but six days a week at 58-60 hours a week. Yes, it's mandatory overtime, yes, it pays well. But months of it are wearing, and it's hard to see an end in sight as the job deals tangentially with the current plague. So, no reduction in hours until gestures vaguely gets better.

However, this is a stable and well-paid position with great benefits. Many people have worked at X for decades, and the special requirements for work make it very hard to be fired. There are also really strong anti discrimination protections. It is not time to go.

It's instead time for a little malicious compliance.

Previously, work has said that they aren't approving time off unless you have a medical note. Then, I guess some people asked about religious observances because it's both Lent and Ramadan now. Higher ups said okay, so it's medical note or religious holiday.

It's fine, whatever. I can get a note for my doctor's appointment this week. The benefits are great as I said, so seeing one is not a problem. But guess what?

I'm a lifelong Lutheran and church member, although I hate mornings and the plague means no more Saturday night services. So the extent of my belief now is watching the occasional service on YouTube, giving money, and sending in extra food for the time when church restocks a local food pantry. My wife is more devout and actually believes God intervenes in our daily lives. Personally, I can't think of God as a vending machine, and I don't really get a subjective experience of joy from church. It's a way to meet people, do good, and learn some moral lessons, and my brain loves routine. The sameness of every service is comforting.



But guess who decided to become much more pious now in order to get time off somewhat regularly? Hey, I'll watch the service if it gives me the day! I am happy, my wife is happy, and I have technically complied with the rules.

I have even thought of getting my therapist (I have been struggling since my favorite cat passed away and my beloved grandmother is getting near her time), to write me a note eventually saying "S needs a vacation, she is clinically burnt out!" at some point.

TL;DR: Can only miss work with medical or religious justification. Guess who's rediscovered her faith?

# Want me to take part in sports day? Don't go regretting how I take part.

I just seen a Malicious Compliance story on a school sports event where the writer walked a race because she was told to do so by a teacher. Well, it reminded me of what I did in a school sports event.

This is in the UK so some things may not translate to other countries. So just a heads up.

This was in the 90s, my first year of Secondary school. We had sports events for every year group of both Infants and Junior schools, but only for the first year of Secondary school. Sort of like they were weaning you off the events in order to focus on education instead of health.

I was never any good at sports and never really had any interest in it. Probably the only sports/game that I enjoyed was a good game of Bulldog. Well, back to the story.

In secondary school, they had different sports from javelin, long jump, 100 metre sprint. Basically a miniature Olympics. You understand. However, you don't win medals or trophies. Coming first place in an activity didn't mean much in the grand scale of things. It was more a points based thing for your class.

There were nine classes in the year. Each student that took part in an activity got a single point simply for taking part. However, the amount of points you earned was linked to what position you earned. If you were in ninth place you got 1 point, eighth place you got 2 points, seventh was 3 points and so on. So at the end the class with the most points wins and the head of the school would proudly say that that class had the best students.

However, most of the students just weren't bothered with sports. You still had some that were and put in the most effort, but the rest only put in half the effort. Basically competing for the middle ground as to try and not be last. Well, that's how they thought.

There was one thing though. As you remember, I mentioned that simply taking part in an activity gets you a single point, you end up being forced into doing an activity. Only 1 male and 1 female per class was allowed to take part in javelin, or long jump etc as to prevent activities being flooded by entire classes. Also because different activities were run side by side, no student could be registered for activities that overlapped each other.

The teachers would put on their desks the events time tables for students to put their names down for events that they wanted to do. First come first serve sort of thing. Well, the teachers also had this thing where if they don't see an activity with a name on it, they would pick a name out of a hat to do it while making sure that they don't overlap with an activity the student had chosen.

I didn't bother putting my name down on anything and everyone else in my class did, so I got volunteered for a few activities. Javelin, 100 metre sprint and 800 metre run.

I basically shrugged and told the teacher that I would do it, but don't complain when they regret it.

Well, sports day came round and I was lazily waiting for my turn. When I got called for javelin throw I did... well, I didn't do anything exciting. As you know in Javelin throw, you run a stretch to build up momentum before throwing from a set line. I walked the stretch and then threw the javelin.

The commentator wasn't sure what to say so he turned it into a comedy act. Talking about how I'm moving surprisingly fast and that I'm sure to make a record throw. That sort of thing.

Then the 100 metre sprint. I jogged that. Not to mention walking the 800 metre event.

I did tell the teacher not to regret it, and I did maliciously comply with taking part in the sports event.