

# Newport City Council

## Civil Parking Enforcement FAQs

### **What does Civil Parking Enforcement mean?**

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) means that the responsibility for enforcing the majority of on-street parking restrictions is the responsibility of the local authority rather than the police. CPE has applied throughout Newport from 1 July to on-street parking restrictions, as well as the council's off-street car parks.

### **Why is the council undertaking Civil Parking Enforcement?**

Gwent Police have withdrawn from parking enforcement from 30 June 2019. As the only other organisation able to apply for these powers, Newport City Council took over Civil Parking Enforcement duties from Gwent Police on 1 July 2019. Gwent was the last police force to withdraw from parking enforcement, meaning that all local authorities in Wales now undertake CPE.

### **What are the benefits of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)?**

The main aims of the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) enforcing CPE, are to maintain the free flow of traffic and encourage compliance with parking restrictions. Compliance with parking restrictions plays an active role in maintaining road safety for drivers as well as pedestrians.

The main benefits of CPE are:

- Improved road safety for drivers and pedestrians, avoiding accidents and saving lives
- Improved traffic flows benefiting the economy and the environment
- Improved visibility at junctions
- Reduction in congestion leading to improved air quality
- Improved turnover of parking spaces
- Improved community protection from illegal and inconsiderate parking and enforces residents parking schemes
- Releases Police resource to tackle criminal activities

### **What kind of contraventions are covered by Civil Parking Enforcement?**

Parking incorrectly can result in being issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). These contraventions can include, but are not limited to; parking on yellow lines, overstaying time limits on parking bays, parking on pedestrian crossing zigzag markings, parking across drop kerbs and parking more than 50cm from the edge of the kerb.

Parking incorrectly, even for a few minutes, can cause inconvenience and even danger to other road users and pedestrians - which is why it is important to enforce parking regulations so motorists will be more inclined to park safely and legally. This will therefore reduce the inconvenience and danger placed upon safe parkers and road users every day.

### **What are the changes to parking rules?**

None - there are no changes to the rules for parking as part of CPE. Parking contraventions that could currently result in you receiving a ticket from the police, will still be parking contraventions once CPE has been introduced. The only difference will be who issues you the ticket and how the payment or appeals process is administered, as this will no longer be done by the police but by the authority.

For the past few years, limited resources have meant that the police can only give a low priority to enforcing parking contraventions. Because the local authorities receive numerous complaints about illegal or inconsiderate parking, we consider it a far higher priority and will take action using the increased resources available through CPE. Therefore you may receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for parking somewhere you have previously parked, as our team will be enforcing contraventions daily.

### **What is a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)?**

A Penalty Charge Notice will be issued to a vehicle parked in contravention of parking regulations either on-street or off-street in council-managed car parks. These contraventions can include, but are not limited to; parking on yellow lines, overstaying time limits on parking bays, parking on pedestrian crossing zigzag markings, parking across drop kerbs, and parking more than 50cm from the edge of the kerb. Once a PCN has been issued a Civil Enforcement Officer cannot cancel a ticket.

### **Who issues Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)?**

Newport City Council has employed a team of 12 Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) and 2 Senior CEOs to carry out parking enforcement as outlined in Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, which provides for civil parking enforcement. CEOs are deployed daily across Newport and it is likely that officers will be seen enforcing at locations where previously traffic wardens were not deployed. The CEOs will issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to vehicles parked in contravention of parking restrictions on and off street. These contraventions can include but are not limited to; parking on yellow lines, overstaying time limits on parking bays, parking on pedestrian crossing zigzag markings, parking across drop kerbs, and parking more than 50cm from the edge of the kerb.

### **What happens to the income from the Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)?**

The payments generated from issuing PCNs are allocated to covering the cost of operating the enforcement service. Any surplus parking enforcement income is ring fenced for traffic improvement projects as required by legislation.

### **Are there targets for issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)?**

Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) do not have targets to issue a set number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). The aim of parking enforcement is not to maximise income for councils but to improve traffic management for the benefit of the whole community.

### **How much will a Penalty Charge Notice Cost (PCN)?**

There will be two bands of PCN – lower level and higher level - with the more serious offences such as parking on yellow lines or parking in a disabled bay without displaying a valid blue badge, being subject to a higher level PCN. The charge will be £70 for a higher level offence and £50 for a lower offence, with a 50% reduction for paying within 14 days and a potential 50% increase if payment is not made within 28 days.

### **What happens if I receive a Penalty Charge Notice Cost (PCN)?**

You have two options if you receive a PCN:

**Pay:** You only pay 50% of the full penalty if you pay within 14 days (taking Day 1 as the date on the PCN). After 14 days, the penalty increases to the full amount. In any case, payment needs to be made within 28 days, beginning with Day 1.

**Challenge:** Following the instructions on the reverse of the PCN you will be able to submit a written challenge within 14 days of the PCN issue. If your challenge is rejected, the discounted rate will be restarted for a further 14 days.

You can pay or challenge a PCN online at [www.swpg.co.uk](http://www.swpg.co.uk) or by following the instructions on the reverse of the ticket.

### **What happens if I ignore a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)?**

If you ignore a PCN it will not go away. The Penalty Charge will increase if it is not paid or if a challenge is not made. Further delay in dealing with the PCN can lead to action by Enforcement Agents (bailiffs), with their costs added to the civil debt.

### **Will vehicles be clamped or removed?**

In line with government guidance, Newport City Council does not intend to introduce the use of vehicle clamping or removal at this stage, believing that at present it is an unnecessary measure to control contraventions of the regulations. However, the application to the Welsh Government for transfer of powers included the request for the powers to introduce clamping / remove vehicles should the council agree it has become necessary and the enforcement of persistent evaders is an issue.

### **How can I report a parking problem?**

You can inform us of a parking problem and request parking enforcement patrols at a specific location by following the *Report a Parking Problem* link on our website at [www.newport.gov.uk/cpe](http://www.newport.gov.uk/cpe). Please note that we are unable to respond immediately to parking issues, however this information will be used to inform the service and wherever possible, increase the frequency of visits in problem areas.

### **How can I avoid getting a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)?**

Following these parking tips will help you to park in a way that does not cause inconvenience to other members of the public and help avoid a PCN:

- Always check the lines on the road and, where applicable, the signs by the side of the road - they tell you what restrictions apply.
- Read the Highway Code which will help explain what the signs and lines mean.
- Do not continue to park contravening any restrictions where previously you have been parking, as the restrictions will now be more effectively enforced.
- Do not park on double yellow lines.
- Do not park where there are yellow line waiting or loading restrictions in force.

- In pay and display car parks, always make sure you read the signage and always make sure you purchase the appropriate pay and display ticket in accordance with the instructions on the signage and park within the bay.
- Do not stay longer than is permitted by the signs or by the ticket you have purchased.
- Do not block entrances to private properties – dropped kerbs.
- Do not double-park.
- Do not park on pedestrian crossings or the white zig-zag markings near to the crossing.
- Do not park on 'School Keep Clear' markings or the yellow zig-zag markings near to schools.
- Do not park in loading bays unless you are loading/unloading goods.
- Do not park in bays reserved for disabled badge holders or specific classes of vehicle unless you are entitled to do so.
- Always make sure you have parked within the bay markings.

### **Where should I park?**

There are no changes to the rules for parking as part of CPE. Parking contraventions that could currently result in you receiving a ticket from the police, will still be parking contraventions once CPE has been introduced.

Information on parking within Newport is available on our parking page -

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Parking/Where-To-Park/Where-To-Park.aspx>

### **What does CPE mean for residents parking schemes?**

There is no change to resident parking schemes because of CPE.

Information on resident parking, including applications for a permit, can be found on our parking page:

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Parking/Residents-Parking/Residents-Parking.aspx>

Parking in a residents parking bay without a valid permit displayed will remain a parking contravention after CPE has been introduced and could result in you being issued with a PCN.

### **I am a Disabled Blue Badge holder - how does Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) affect me?**

CPE does not change the rules for parking for blue badge holders and full details of the scheme can be found here - <http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Care-Support/Disabilities/Blue-badge.aspx>

Blue badge holders can still receive a PCN for parking contraventions they are not exempt from. For example, Disabled Blue Badge holders have the following exemptions:

- Exemption from waiting restrictions shown by yellow lines, for a maximum period of three hours. The vehicle must not return and park in the same street within one hour after the period of first parking.
- Exemption from any time limit imposed on vehicles waiting in a parking place or limited waiting bay.

- Exemption from the requirement that a period must elapse before a vehicle which has been taken away from a parking place may again be left in the same parking place (this does not apply to yellow lines).

If a Disabled Blue Badge is not displayed correctly then a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) will be issued. Disabled Blue Badges should be clearly displayed and visible through the front windscreen of the vehicle so that the Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) can determine all details. When parked on either single or double yellow lines, the holder is required to set the arrival time using the clock. If the arrival time has not been displayed correctly or has expired then a PCN will be issued.

Information on Newport's disabled parking can be found here <http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Parking/Disabled-parking.aspx> and please refer to the guidance booklet issued with your blue badge for full details. The golden rule is to read the signs, lines, and information boards in all situations whether on or off street.

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