

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Guidance policies for the enforcement and cancellation of Penalty Charge Notices

Policies set out in this document provide guidance only.

Each case is considered on its own individual circumstances, taking into account all the evidence available and the exceptionality of the circumstances.

31st March 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Redditch District Council has prepared the following policy guidance in respect of Civil Parking Enforcement. The policies in this document are intended to inform the public and provide guidance to council employees working in the enforcement of parking regulations.

These policies provide a foundation upon which fairness and discretion can be applied.

It is important to recognise that each case will be considered on its own merits, matters or proportionality, objectivity, fairness and reasonableness should be paramount.

Written evidence will only be considered if deemed acceptable by Redditch District Council.

These policies will be subject to ongoing review.

STANDARD CONTRAVENTION CODES AND PENALTY CHARGES

Contravention codes - on street

Code	Description	Penalty charge	Penalty Charge if paid within 14 days of date of issue
01	Parked in a restricted street during prescribed hours	£70	£35
02	Parked or loading/unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading/unloading restrictions are in force	£70	£35
15	Parked in a resident's parking space without clearly displaying a valid resident's parking permit	£50	£25
16	Parked in a permit space without clearly displaying a valid permit	£70	£35
18	Using a vehicle in a parking place in connection with the sale or offering or exposing for sale of goods when prohibited.	£70	£35
21	Parked in a suspended bay/space or part of bay/space	£70	£35
22	Re-parked in the same parking place within one hour* of leaving	£50	£25
23	Parked in a parking place or area not designated for that class of vehicle	£70	£35
24	Not parked correctly within the markings of the bay or space	£50	£25
<mark>25</mark>	Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	£70	£35
<mark>26</mark>	Vehicle parked more than 50 centimetres from the edge of the carriageway and not within the designated parking place.	£70	£35
<mark>27</mark>	Parked adjacent to a dropped footway.	£70	£35
30	Parked for longer than permitted	£50	£25
40	Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without clearly displaying a valid disabled person's badge	£70	£35
<mark>45</mark>	Parked on a taxi rank	£70	£35
47	Restricted bus bay	£70	£35
48	Stopped in a restricted area outside a school	£70	£35
61	A heavy commercial vehicle wholly or partly parked in a footway, verge or land between two carriageways	£70	£35
<mark>62</mark>	Parked with one or more wheels on any part of an urban road other than a carriageway (footway parking)	£70	£35
99	Stopped on a pedestrian crossing and/or crossing area marked by zig-zags	£70	£35

STATUTORY GROUNDS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS (Part 6, Traffic Management Act 2004)

Important note:

Although the following are the 8 Statutory Grounds to make representation, in accordance with a directive issued by the Local Government Ombudsman, full consideration will be given and account taken of all representations received, whether or not they fall within the description of "Statutory Grounds".

THE CONTRAVENTION DID NOT OCCUR

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
n the event that the vehicle is parked on a vaiting prohibition: f evidence is provided to show: 1. Goods being delivered or collected were heavy, bulky or numerous and it would be unreasonable to expect them to be carried from 'legal' parking places. 2. Loading/unloading activity was adjacent to the premises concerned. 3. Loading/unloading activity was timely (includes checking goods and paperwork, but not delayed by unrelated activity) t is in the course of business, including commercial delivery/collections, couriers, multi drop parcel carriers, removal services etc.	On school zig zag markings; On bus stop clearways; On Taxi ranks Where loading is prohibited In car parks (except when depositing materials in recycling bins) In a goods vehicle loading bay parked in a non goods vehicle Parked in a goods vehicle loading bay displaying a disabled badge

Where the motorist claims that the restriction is not clearly signed or marked

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

If signs and/or markings are missing or unclear.

If signs and markings are inconsistent with each other and/or Traffic Regulation Order.

If site visit records or photographs establish that signs and/or markings are correct and consistent with each other and the Traffic Regulation Order.

Where the motorist was carrying out building works

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

If evidence confirms that the motorist was simply loading/unloading.

If a valid dispensation to park at the location in question had been issued and was on display in the vehicle or a verbal authorisation is in force.

If works are of a statutory nature or are exempted from restrictions by a Traffic Regulation Order or legislation.

If it can be proven that works were an emergency.

In all other circumstances including vehicles used by painters, decorators etc whereby the equipment can be unloaded and then parked appropriately for work to take place.

Where the motorist claims that their vehicle was not parked in the location at the time and on the date alleged on the PCN which was issued

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

Following consideration of all available evidence:

If the motorist provides a copy of their vehicle excise license which was valid at the time of the contravention and the serial number of which differs from the number noted by the Civil Enforcement Officer.

If the motorist does not provide a copy of their tax disc, after being given a further opportunity to submit such a copy.

Or

If the serial number on the copy tax disc provided by a motorist is identical to the serial number noted by the Civil Enforcement

Officer.

Or

If there is no evidence or if the evidence presented does not support the claim or is inconclusive.

Or

There is photo evidence that was taken by the Civil Enforcement Officer to the contrary

THE PENALTY CHARGE EXCEEDED THE RELEVANT AMOUNT

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION

If the PCN and/or Notice to Owner showed the incorrect amount of penalty charge, i.e. the wrong penalty charge band.

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION

If the PCN or Notice to Owner showed the correct amount of penalty charge.

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION
If the Traffic Regulation Order which prescribes the restrictions that the vehicle was parked in contravention of was not constructed correctly.	If the Traffic Regulation Order which prescribes the restrictions that the vehicle was parked in contravention of was constructed correctly. If the motorist merely considers the restrictions to be unfair.

THE MOTORIST WAS NOT THE OWNER/KEEPER OF THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE CONTRAVENTION

Where the current registered keeper claims that the vehicle was disposed of before the contravention occurred

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION
If the current registered keeper is able to provide proof that the vehicle was disposed of before the contravention, i.e. a bill of sale, registration documents, insurance documents or a letter from the DVLA; and/or	If the current registered keeper is unable to prove that they disposed of the vehicle before the contravention or provide the name and address of the person to whom they disposed of the vehicle.
If the current registered keeper is able to provide the full name and address of the person to whom they disposed of the vehicle ACTION – send a new Notice to Owner to the person named by the current registered	If the person named the current registered keeper as the person to whom they disposed of the vehicle, either does not exist, cannot be traced or is for some other reason not considered to be bona fide.
keeper.	DVLA confirm owner details

Where the current registered keeper claims that the vehicle was purchased after the contravention occurred.

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION		
If the current registered keeper is able to provide proof that the vehicle was purchased after the contravention, i.e. an invoice, registration documents, insurance documents or a letter from the DVLA; and/or If the current registered keeper is able to	If the current registered keeper is unable to prove that they purchased the vehicle after the contravention nor provide the name and address of the person from whom they bought the vehicle. If the person named by the current registered		
provide the full name and address of the person from whom they purchased the vehicle.	keeper as the person to whom they disposed of the vehicle, either does not exist, cannot be traced or is for some other reason not considered to be bona fide.		
Where the current registered keeper claims that a contracted third party was responsible for the vehicle at the time of the contravention			
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION		
Only when a signed hire agreement exists	In all other circumstances because the registered keeper is always liable, including where the vehicle was left in the care of a garage.		

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION
f the DVLA confirm that the motorist was not he registered keeper at the time of the contravention.	If the DVLA confirms that the motorist was the registered keeper of the vehicle at the time of the contravention. If the previous registered keeper provides proof that the motorist bought the vehicle before the contravention, or the subsequent registered keeper provides proof that the motorist sold the vehicle after the contravention. If the motorist is proven to have hired the vehicle for the day on which the contravention occurred and signed an agreement to take responsibility for the PCN incurred, subject to the time of hire.

THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT

Where the current registered keeper claims that the vehicle has been stolen

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION
If the registered keeper provides a valid police crime report reference number.	If the current registered keeper is unable to provide any proof of theft. If the police crime report reference number provided by the current registered keeper does not exist or it does not match the theft or date of the theft alleged.

Where the current registered keeper claims that the vehicle was driven by a third party (i.e. a friend, relative or estranged partner)

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION
In no circumstances	In all circumstances, the registered keeper is always liable for the PCN, except when a hire agreement exists.

THE OWNER IS A HIRE COMPANY AND HAVE SUPPLIED THE NAME OF THE HIRER

HIRER			
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION		
If the hire company are able to provide proof that the vehicle was hired at the time of the contravention, i.e. a signed agreement. If the hire company are able to provide the full name and address of the person to whom they hired the vehicle ACTION – send a new Notice to Owner to the person named by the hire company	If the hire company are unable to prove that they hired out the vehicle on the date of the contravention nor provide the name and address of the person to whom they hired the vehicle. If the person named by the hire company as the person to whom they hired the vehicle, without proof, either does not exist, cannot be traced or denies responsibility for the contravention. If the vehicle was being as a courtesy car without an agreement signed to accept responsibility for Penalty Charge Notice issued.		
	t/vehicle owner want the Council to take sideration		
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATION	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATION		
The decision whether or not a Penalty Charge Notice should be cancelled will only be taken following very careful consideration taking into account all of the evidence available.			

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS If the Council has proven not to observe any requirement imposed on it by the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to the imposition or recovery of a PCN or other sum. If the Council has observed and adhered to the requirement imposed by the Traffic Management Act 2004. MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS If the Council has observed and adhered to the requirement imposed by the Traffic Management Act 2004.	PROCEDURAL IMPROPRIETY	
requirement imposed on it by the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to the imposition or recovery of a PCN or other the requirement imposed by the Traffic Management Act 2004.	MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
	requirement imposed on it by the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to the mposition or recovery of a PCN or other	the requirement imposed by the Traffic

THE PCN HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL	
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
The Penalty Charge Notice can be proven to have been paid.	No evidence of payment or receipt of payment has been received by the council.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS	
If the motorist provides proof of a medical condition, temporary or permanent, that is consistent with the conditions explained. When the notes made by the Civil Enforcement Officer support the motorist's representations.	If the motorist cannot provide some proof of medical condition, temporary or permanent, consistent with the conditions explained. Or Where other evidence contradicts the motorists claim	
WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS TO BE A DOCTOR, NURSE, HEALTH VISITOR ATTENDING A PATIENT		
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS	
If the motorist produces evidence that they were responding to an urgent medical call and there was no nearby legal parking place.	If the motorist was not attending a patient in urgent circumstances or if there were legal parking spaces nearby. If motorist was parked outside their practice or other place of work for any reason other than to collect supplies for an urgent call. If the motorist was parked in an area which does not correspond with claims made in representations, i.e. far from patients property. All other cases	
WHERE THE MOTORIST HAS STOPPED TO USE THE TOILET		
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS	
On production of medical evidence confirming a relevant medical condition and in support of the circumstances described in a representation.	In all other circumstances.	

WHERE THE MOTORIST HAS STOPPED TO COLLECT (PRESCRIBED)
MEDICATION FROM A CHEMIST

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
Only in the most serious, urgent and exceptional of circumstances and the use of a 'legal' parking place would have caused an unacceptable delay.	In any lesser circumstances.

WHERE THE MOTORIST WAS A PATIENT VISITING A DOCTOR'S SURGERY

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If the motorist can provide a letter from a doctor to confirm that the visit was very urgent and that they were unable to walk from the nearest legal parking space.	If the motorist was not the patient but only driving the vehicle carrying the patient. If the motorist was attending a pre-arranged, non-urgent appointment. If the motorist could reasonably have been expected to have parked legally elsewhere.

WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN RECENTLY BEREAVED

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If no evidence exists to the contrary, taking into account the sensitivity of this issue on first occasion. Only in respect of immediate family	Only if there is a significant reason to doubt the sincerity of representations, i.e. the Civil Enforcement Officer's notes indicating that the motorist was going about a normal day, say, shopping or working, or the bereavement considered to be a long time ago.

WHERE THE MOTORIST WAS DELAYED IN RETURNING TO THEIR VEHICLE AND PARKING TIME HAD EXPIRED

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If supported by appropriate evidence, the motorist's representations claims that the delay in returning to the vehicle was caused	If the delay described by the motorist was entirely avoidable, i.e. queuing in a shop,

by circumstances that were entirely unforeseen, unavoidable and exceptional.

If the motorist's vehicle had broken down, evidence should be provided of recovery.

If the motorist was unable to drive since parking the vehicle.

waiting for doctor/dentist appointment etc.

If the motorist simply underestimated the time needed and could have reasonably purchased more time, i.e. when conducting business, shopping or commuting.

If the motorist was unable to drive since parking due to excess alcohol in the body or had been detained and charged by the police.

WHERE THE MOTORIST IS A BLUE BADGE HOLDER/TRANSPORTING A BLUE BADGE HOLDER AND THEY DID NOT HAVE THEIR BLUE BADGE AND/OR CLOCK ON DISPLAY OR COULD NOT BE READ

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS

If it can be established that this is the motorist's first contravention of this type and they can provide evidence that they are a Blue Badge holder or were transporting a Blue Badge holder.

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

If the motorist has previously had a PCN cancelled for the same contravention and has been warned to display a valid badge and clock correctly in the future.

If the motorist was parked on a waiting restriction beyond the 3 hour time limit permitted by the Blue Badge Scheme, or on another restriction which does not provide an exemption for Blue Badge holders.

The incorrect use of the clock

WHERE THE MOTORIST WAS DISPLAYING AN EXPIRED AUTHORISATION TO PARK, I.E. DISPENSATION, SEASON TICKET, RESIDENTS PERMIT, BLUE BADGE OR VISITORS PERMIT.

If the renewal of the authorisation was delayed by the Council's administrative processes.

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS

If it can be established that other reasonably unforeseen circumstances delayed the renewal of an authorisation to park, e.g. sickness on the part of the applicant or a postal dispute (supported by appropriate evidence)

MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

In all other circumstances.

WHERE THE MOTORIST IS PARKED IN CONTRAVENTION OF A
WAITING/PARKING PROHIBITION WHILST DISPLAYING A RESIDENT'S
PERMIT

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions

WHERE THE MOTORIST IS A NEW RESIDENT AND HAD PARKED IN A RESIDENTS BAY WITHOUT DISPLAYING A VALID RESIDENTS PERMIT

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions

WHERE THE MOTORIST ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE ENTITLED TO "A PERIOD OF GRACE" BEFORE THE PCN WAS ISSUED

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions

WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS THAT SNOW, FOLIAGE, FALLEN LEAVES OR FLOODING COVERED THE SIGNS OR MARKINGS

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If it can be established that such conditions prevailed and it is likely that signs and markings were obscured as claimed and there was no alternative indication of the restriction.	If it can be established that such conditions did not cause lines and signs to be obscured as claimed. If the Civil Enforcement Officer's notes, photographic evidence etc. directly contradict the motorist's version of events. If any reasonable alternative indication of the restriction was available to the motorist. If the location of the contravention was unlikely to be subject to the natural conditions described by the motorist, i.e. it was under cover.

WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS THAT	THEIR VEHICLE HAD BROKEN
DOWN	

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

If the motorist is able to provide evidence of a breakdown, i.e. proof of vehicle recovery or a bill of sale for repair or parts If the motorist is unable to provide evidence of any kind that their vehicle had broken down.

If the cause of the vehicle "breaking down" was due to negligence on the part of the motorist, i.e. the vehicle had not been properly maintained, had run out of fuel or water or a similar reason.

If the Civil Enforcement Officer's notes contradict the motorist's version of events.

WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS THAT THEY WERE ATTENDING AN EMERGENCY OR ANOTHER VEHICLE THAT HAD BROKEN DOWN

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS

If the motorist is able to provide reasonable proof of the emergency, i.e. a credible report of an accident or incident, or that they were attending to another vehicle that had broken down.

If the motorist is unable to provide evidence of any kind that they were attending an emergency or another vehicle which had broken down.

If the Civil Enforcement Officer's notes contradict the motorist's version of events, i.e. the motorist was not seen attending an emergency or another vehicle which was broken down.

WHERE THE VEHICLE IN QUESTION WAS ON POLICE, FIRE BRIGADE OR AMBULANCE DUTIES

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If a senior officer of the service concerned supports the representations and there is no reason to doubt that the vehicle was engaged on operational guidelines.	In all other circumstances.

	TO HAVE BEEN COLLECTING OR NIES AT A BANK
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If the procedure explained in the motorist's representations is consistent with the allowance for loading and unloading. Or If specific arrangements have been agreed.	In all other circumstances
PCN IS EXPECTED TO BE ABSENT	ER LIABLE FOR PAYMENT OF THE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, E.G D OR IS IN PRISON
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions
	ER LIABLE FOR PAYMENT OF THE FOR HAVE DIED
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
Where the circumstances can be confirmed	Only if there is a significant evidence to doubthe the sincerity of the representations.
FROM A POLICE OFFICER OR TRA	D A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE (FPN) AFFIC WARDEN WHEN PARKED IN LOCATION
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If confirmation is provided by the police that proceedings for a criminal offence in connection with the same parking/waiting incident.	In all other circumstances

WHERE A COUNCIL OFFICER OR MEMBER PARKED IN CONTRAVENTION AND CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ON COUNCIL BUSINESS

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If the officer was carrying out emergency work and provides evidence/confirmation from a senior officer	If it can be established that the officer/member could have reasonably parked elsewhere.

WHERE THE MOTORIST STOPPED TO DROP OFF SOMEONE

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If the circumstances are seen by the Civil Enforcement Officer. If, in exceptional circumstances and subject to observations times, the motorist had to escort a passenger (child, elderly or disabled person) to home, or school.	If motorist was parked/stopped on school keep clear markings, pedestrian crossing, bus stop clearway, goods vehicle loading bay or other restricted or reserved parking places

WHERE THE MOTORIST STATES THAT THEY WERE IN POLICE CUSTODY WHEN PCN ISSUED

MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If proof (from the Police) has been provided that the police had instructed the motorist to leave the vehicle.	In most circumstances

WHERE THE MOTORIST STATES THEY WERE VISITING A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN URGENT CIRCUMSTANCES

at has already received a DCN
st has already received a PCN, een cancelled for the same
inforcement Officer's pocket book les significant reason to doubt representation.
l

WHERE THE MOTORIST CLAIMS THEY WERE PARKED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If land search maps confirm location is private property and not subject of the relevant Traffic Regulation Order.	In all other circumstances.
If there is insufficient evidence to establish location of vehicle.	
VEHICLE PARKED IN A LIMITE	
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If supported by appropriate evidence, the motorist's representations claim that the delay in returning to the vehicle was caused	If the delay described by the motorist was not exceptional, i.e. queuing in a shop.
by circumstances that were entirely unforeseen, unavoidable and exceptional.	If the motorist simply underestimated the time needed.
If the motorist's vehicle had broken down, subject to evidence provided. If the motorist was unable to drive, since	If the motorist was unable to drive since parking due to excess alcohol in the body or had been detained by the police for any reason, unless subsequently released
parking the vehicle.	without charge or proven innocent.
WHERE THE MOTORIST HAS STOP	PPED TO ANSWER MOBILE PHONE
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions
WHERE THE MOTORIST STATES TH INCORRECT, E	IAT THE DETAILS ON THE PCN ARE E.G. LOCATION
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
If there is reason to doubt that the PCN was issued correctly, taking into account evidence provided by the Civil Enforcement Officer.	If the PCN was fully and correctly completed.

	THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANK/PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
MAY ACCEPT REPRESENTATIONS	MAY REJECT REPRESENTATIONS
In no circumstances	On all occasions
WHERE THE MOTORIST HAS STOP	PED TO ASSIST WITH AN ACCIDEN
OR EMERGEN	CY SITUATION

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS Section Amendment Date Notes