

Some people who park illegally think they won't get the new £60 penalty.



They're wrong.



At any time



# We're Getting Tough on Illegal Parking.

Park where you shouldn't and it won't just inconvenience other users, including the emergency services; it could cause delays or even accidents. That's why a new system of parking enforcement is being introduced by Roads Service. From the end of October 2006, we'll be coming down harder on illegal parking, to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and make roads more accessible for all users; other drivers, pedestrians, public transport, emergency vehicles and Blue Badge Holders.

## A NEW SYSTEM OF ENFORCEMENT

Until now, enforcing parking regulations has been carried out by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). This responsibility is being taken over by the Department for Regional Development (DRD) and mirrors a process that has been undertaken elsewhere in the UK. Traffic attendants (working for National Car Parks Ltd on behalf of Roads Service) will provide the new parking enforcement service.



## WHY CHANGE IS NECESSARY NOW

Illegally parked vehicles not only create obstructions which increase congestion; they also frequently pose a serious road safety problem. What's more, motorists who park illegally in designated bays, such as those reserved for blue badge holders, prevent those entitled to use these bays from doing so. A suitable level of enforcement is therefore needed to deter some motorists from parking illegally.

## OUR AIM IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

It's not our goal to 'catch people out', make money or reach a quota of parking tickets. Therefore, we have not set a target number of tickets for NCP to achieve. In fact, we want to issue fewer tickets, because that means we are succeeding in fulfilling our aim. The reality is that we don't want your money; we want you to park properly and free up blocked traffic lanes which are much more valuable than the cost of a few parking tickets. We don't want to give out tickets but if we have to we will.

## PARK PROPERLY OR PAY THE PENALTY

For drivers who currently park properly, this new system means that little will change. We are not introducing any new parking restrictions. However, those people who do park illegally will be much less likely to get away with it.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PENALTIES

If you get a parking ticket known as a Penalty Charge Notice or PCN - you will be required to pay £60. However, if you pay within 14 days of getting the ticket, a 50% discount will apply and you will only have to pay £30.

**Pay early and pay less.**



## HOW TO PAY

Information on how to pay the penalty will be provided on the back of the PCN. You will be able to pay over the telephone or on the internet. We will also accept postal payments by cheque or postal-order.

## IF YOU DON'T PAY

1. If you don't pay within 14 days of the PCN being issued, you miss out on the 50% discount and you will have to pay £60.
2. If you don't pay within 28 days, a Notice to Owner document will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle requesting £60 payment. In law the registered keeper of the vehicle is responsible for the penalty, not the driver.
3. If you don't pay within a further 28 days, a Charge Certificate document will be sent to the registered keeper stating that the penalty has increased to £90.
4. If the charge certificate is not paid within a further 14 days, it automatically becomes a legal civil judgment against the registered keeper and enforcement action can be taken to recover the debt.
5. Enforcement action will be either through the Northern Ireland Court Service Enforcement of Judgments Office or by Roads Service who may clamp or remove your vehicle and hold it until all outstanding parking penalties have been paid.

## YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

If you believe you've been wrongly given a PCN, there is a 3-stage appeal process.

### Stage 1.

The driver or the registered keeper can make a case to Roads Service by writing to the address on the back of the PCN. If we agree with you, we will cancel the PCN and no further action is required. If we disagree, you will be required to pay the appropriate penalty. However, if you still think the ticket was wrongly issued, you can proceed to:

### Stage 2.

If the PCN is not paid within 28 days, a "Notice to Owner" document will be sent to the registered keeper of the vehicle. At this point only the registered keeper can make a representation to Roads Service. We agree with you, we will cancel the PCN and no further action is required. If we reject your case, we will inform you that you must pay the appropriate penalty. However, we will also provide you with an appeal form which you can use to make an official appeal to the independent adjudicator if you are still not happy with our decision.

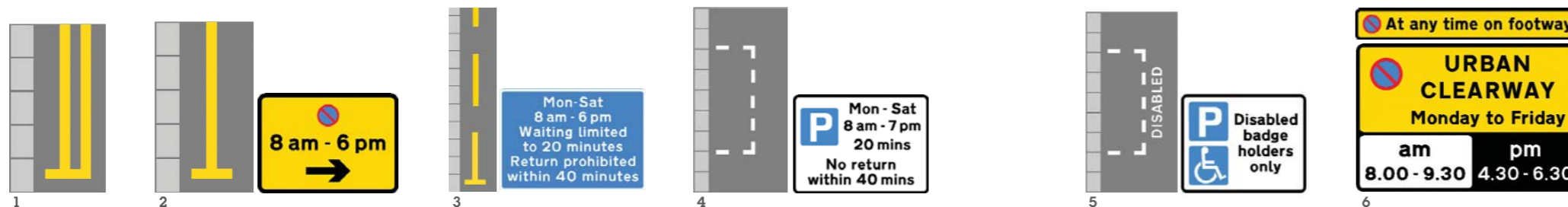
### Stage 3.

You can appeal to the independent adjudicator by completing and returning the form provided. This service which is set up by Northern Ireland Court Service is totally independent of DRD.



## CLAMPING AND REMOVING

Hopefully the cost of the penalty should be enough to deter most motorists, so clamping or removing cars is not part of our routine enforcement. However, we will clamp or remove the vehicles of people who have built up outstanding parking debt by not paying their parking tickets. We may also consider clamping or removing the vehicles of people who persistently park illegally, even if they pay their penalties. If a vehicle is clamped the motorist will have to pay £40 for the removal of the clamp, as well as the cost of the parking ticket if one was issued, plus any other unpaid parking debts. If your vehicle is removed you will have to pay a £105 fee to recover it as well as the cost of the parking ticket if one was issued, storage costs (£12 per 24-hour period) and any other unpaid parking debts.



## KNOW YOUR DO'S AND DON'Ts

All parking restrictions that are identified by markings on the carriageway and/or signs will be enforced. As a rule, if you see a parking restriction marking on the carriageway you should look for a nearby sign which will tell you what the restriction is and when it applies.

### THE MAIN ON-STREET RESTRICTIONS ARE

**Double yellow lines (1)** mean no waiting at any time. There is no need for a sign with these lines as they apply all the time. Loading and unloading is permitted on this restriction.

**A single yellow line (2)** means exactly the same as the double yellow line (i.e. No Waiting) during the times shown on the nearby sign. The example shown means no waiting between 8am and 6pm. Loading and unloading is permitted on this restriction.

**A broken yellow line (3)** accompanied by this blue sign means that waiting is limited during the times shown on the sign. In the example shown here, you can only park for a maximum of 20 minutes and you are not allowed to return to that location for at least 40 minutes. This applies between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Saturday. This marking is being phased out and will be replaced in time by the parking bay marking shown (4).

**A parking bay (4)** marking plus the adjacent white sign means the same as a broken yellow line. In this particular example you can park for a maximum of 20 minutes. On leaving you are not allowed to return to that location for at least 40 minutes. This applies between 8am and 7pm from Monday to Saturday. If no signs are in place with this road marking, there is no limitation on how long you can park.

In Belfast city centre, some of these parking bays are pay and display, so you must pay the appropriate fee as well as abide by the limitations on the sign.

**A parking bay for Blue Badge Holders (5)** is designed to provide convenient parking and should never be used by any motorist not properly displaying a valid Blue Badge. We will be especially tough on drivers who abuse these bays.

**Urban Clearways (6)** are common in Northern Ireland and are very important restrictions because they are usually placed on our busiest routes. These are identified by signs only and do not have any road markings. Therefore it's vital that you be aware of these signs, the hours of operation and where the restriction starts and finishes. It is also illegal to park on the footway in an Urban Clearway at any time.

**Bus Stops** It is illegal to park on Bus Stop markings at anytime, unless stated differently on adjacent signs.

## AND THERE'S MORE

These are just some of the restrictions that will be enforced. Refresh your knowledge of parking restrictions, including zig-zag lines at pedestrian crossings, by reading the Highway code which can be downloaded by using the link at

[www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk).

### OFF-STREET CAR PARKS

The management of Roads Service off-street car parks will also be carried out by NCP in a similar manner to our current car park contracts. PCNs will be issued to vehicles that park illegally in our car parks as well as on-street. Not all off-street Car Parks are owned by Roads Service and different conditions may apply.

## EVERYONE WILL BENEFIT

Drivers, businesses, public transport, pedestrians – all who share our roads will benefit from safer, freer flowing roads and less frustration getting from A to B. We'll also benefit from improved driving conditions for our emergency services. The introduction of this new enforcement system will allow the Department to put in place residents parking schemes in areas where commuter parking is a problem. These schemes could not be introduced previously due to lack of enforcement resources available to the PSNI. The enforcement system is new to Roads Service and it will take time for it to settle down. Residents Parking Schemes, when implemented will add many new parking restrictions to those that already exist. For those reasons, we intend to concentrate our initial efforts on managing the existing restrictions with Residents Parking schemes following on later.

**So please park properly from now on, before you, or someone else pays the penalty.**

## IMPORTANT

Waiting restrictions, such as the yellow lines shown above, do not just apply to the carriageway; they also apply to the footway or verge.



This leaflet is about changes in how parking restrictions will be enforced. It is available in a range of languages on our website at

[www.roadsni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsni.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in a different language or format, please write to:

**Roads Service  
Parking Enforcement Unit  
R205, Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast, BT2 8GB**

Este folheto oferece informações sobre a implementação de restrições de estacionamento. Está disponível em vários idiomas no nosso website em [www.roadsni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsni.gov.uk). Para receber estas informações noutra idioma ou formato, por favor, escreva para:

Roads Service  
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Niniejsza ulotka informuje o zmianach w sposobach egzekwowania przepisów dotyczących parkowania. Dostępna jest w różnych językach na naszej stronie internetowej [www.roadsni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsni.gov.uk). Informacje te można otrzymać również w innym języku lub formacie pisząc na poniższy adres:

Roads Service  
Parking Enforcement Unit  
R205, Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast, BT2 8GB

Sis lapelis patiskina automasins parkingo taisykliu pakeitimus, ir kaip bus vykdoma ju laikymosi kontrolė. Ji galima gauti ivairiomis kalbomis musu tinklalapyje [www.roadsni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsni.gov.uk). Jei noretumete ta informacija gauti kita kalba ar kitu formatu, prasome rasyti siuo adresu:

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本手冊將介紹泊車限制執行方法的變化。本手冊有多種語言版本，請登錄我方網站查看：[www.roadsni.gov.uk](http://www.roadsni.gov.uk)。如果你需要其他語言或形式的版本，請寫信到：

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