

Consultation on Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) Re-Banding in Ealing

Background

Currently, two levels of charging operate within London for parking Penalty Charge Notices (PCN), which are more commonly known as parking tickets. The two-levels are Band A (the higher level of charge) and Band B (the lower level of charge).

The London Borough of Ealing is a Band B borough for parking offences meaning that the lower set of charges apply, as shown in Table 1 below.

Within each band, there is a further higher / lower split for offences that are perceived to be more or less serious. In general terms, less serious offences tend to be things like overstaying in a car park or Pay & Display Bay, while more serious offences tend to be things like parking in a Bus Stop or Disabled Bay. In all instances, a 14-day 50% discount rule applies for early payments.

The higher and lower charges for both Bands are shown in Table 1 below alongside the discounted charges:

Table 1: Comparison of Band A and Band B PCN charges

PCN Band Level	Higher charge	Discount higher charge	Lower charge	Discount lower charge
B (Current level)	£110	£55	£60	£30
A (Proposed level)	£130	£65	£80	£40

The charging bands were last reviewed in 2011 and have not changed since then. The bands apply only to Parking contraventions, as all Bus Lane and Traffic offences are already at the Band A level across all London Boroughs.

In real terms, this means that a PCN issued for overstaying in a Car Park could be settled at £30 or for parking in a Disabled Bay for £55 within a Band B borough.

Figure 1: Existing on-street penalty charge-bands in London



Figure 1 shows the split of Band A / B councils across London. When considering the banding map of London Boroughs, it should be noted that the London Boroughs of Barnet and Hounslow are currently conducting public consultations on Re-Banding to Band A.

The objective of any well-functioning parking operation should be to gain and maintain compliance with the restrictions. In simple terms, compliance is achieved through a combination of clear, well-maintained and appropriate restrictions supported by a robust and fair enforcement regime. As time passes and compliance increases, the number of parking tickets issued should reduce, as the majority of motorists follow the regulations.

The London Borough of Ealing has instead experienced considerable growth in the number of parking tickets (PCNs) issued each year for the past few years, with a raise of 41.8% observed between 2016 and 2018 (see Table 2 below). Across the rest of London, the increase for the same period was 6.8%.

Table 2: Total number of PCNs issued in the last three financial years

2018/19	2018/17	2016/17	Percentage Variance
100,134	92,102	70,608	41.8%

While some of this increase may be due to improved detection by the enforcement team, the more substantial part is likely due to the decreased deterrent effect of the value of the PCN which has not increased since 2011.

The council believes that an increase in the penalty amount is likely to restore the deterrent effect of the PCN. This will, in turn, result in higher levels of compliance and an overall reduction in the number of PCNs issued. In practice, this means moving from the current Band B to the higher value Band A.

The council is, therefore, proposing to apply to the relevant authorities to re-band the borough of Ealing from Band B to Band A for parking contraventions.

Your views

This consultation is designed to gather opinions on the proposed change to the Penalty Charge amount and to inform any application to change bands to TEC, The Mayor of London's Office and The Secretary of State.

You can submit your views on the proposed change to the Penalty Charge amount by completing the short survey below.

This consultation will be open until 30 January 2020.

What happens next

The results of this consultation will be fed back to ward councillors who will then make the decision on whether or not to apply to the Secretary of State to change the PCN bands in Ealing. Any application to the Secretary of State is also subject to the prior approval of the Mayor of London. If an application is progressed and successful, it is unlikely that any change would take effect before the start of Quarter 2 2020/21

Further information

If you would like further information on the consultation, please contact Parking Services via email – parkingservices@ealing.gov.uk. Please mark the subject of the email as 'Parking Consultation'.

Draft Consultation Questions

Introduction

The council is proposing to apply to the relevant authorities to re-band the borough of Ealing from Band B to Band A for parking contraventions.

The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. All the information you provide as part of the public consultation will be used and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (incorporating the EU's GDPR).

This consultation will be open until 30 January 2020.

Your interest

1. Please select the statement(s) that apply to you:

- I live in Ealing
- I work in Ealing
- I visit or pass through Ealing
- I run a business/organisation in Ealing
- I work in a community or voluntary sector organisation
- I work for a public sector organisation
- Other (please specify)

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that further action from the Council is required to discourage illegal parking offences?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / Can't say

Please let us know the reasons for your answer below:

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that increasing the amount of the Penalty Charge Notice (parking ticket) is an effective way of discouraging parking offences?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / Can't say

Please let us know the reasons for your answer below:

4. To what extent do you support or oppose the proposal to change Ealing's band for parking offences from Band B to Band A?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know / Can't say

5. In your opinion, what other measures could be useful in discouraging parking offences?

6. If you have any other comments about the proposed increase to the cost of the Penalty Charge Notice in Ealing, please let us know below:

About you

Please tell us a little about yourself. This information helps us to ensure we can make research and consultation more accessible and inclusive. All personal information is kept entirely confidential and is used for research purposes only. It will not be transferred to any third party.

7. Please let us know what your postcode is:

(We ask for this information so we can analyse responses by area)

8. What is your age group?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

8. Are you:

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as having a disability if s/he 'has a long term physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities'.

9. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/ can't say
- Prefer not to say

10. Which ethnic group do you consider you belong to?

- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller
- White - Other
- Any other White background
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/ multiple ethnic background
- Asian/ Asian British - Indian
- Asian/ Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian/ Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian/ Asian British - Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British - African
- Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British - Caribbean
- Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background
- Other ethnic group – Arab
- Any other ethnic group