

# Got an undeserved parking ticket? Find out how to challenge it.



Parking laws are in place for safety and to help traffic flow. They should benefit us all, yet they aren't always fair. Whether it's a case of an unclear sign, technology fault or unscrupulous private firm, knowing how to assert your rights can save you money.

Parking fines work differently in private and public car parks, so it's important to know the difference. Parking tickets from official bodies, such as councils and the police, are called Penalty Charge Notices (PCN). Those from private companies, such as at supermarkets or hospitals, are not PCNs, even though they can look remarkably similar.

If you're issued with a PCN that you consider to be unfair, you should gather evidence at the scene. This might include:

- ✓ Photographs of any unclear signs, obscured signage, bay markings or lines.
- ✓ Proof of mitigating circumstances, e.g. you bought a ticket/had a permit, but it fell off the window or wasn't visible for some reason that wasn't your fault.
- ✓ It's also worth checking if there is a mistake on your ticket.

Once you gathered this information, you should send it with a covering letter to the PCN issuer. If this challenge fails, you can then try the Parking Appeal Tribunal.

If you get a ticket from a private parking firm that you believe is unfair, do not pay it. There are ways to challenge it:

- ✓ Try reporting it to the landowner, e.g. a retailer or hospital. They may be willing to intervene on your behalf to cancel the ticket.
- ✓ Appeal to the parking firm directly, outlining why you believe the parking ticket was unfair and provide evidence (as listed above for a PCN).
- ✓ Appeal to the parking firm's trade body - check with the British Parking Association (BPA) or the International Parking Community (IPC).
- ✓ If this fails, there are two independent trade bodies you can turn to, each with their own appeals process: POPLA and The Independent Appeals Service.

If you need help challenging a parking ticket, why not call the Harry Hall legal helpline? Its available to all Gold members with an active policy.