



City of Westminster

Parking Tickets – Firm and Fair

Westminster Council is committed to a firm, fair policy for the enforcement of parking. This is to ensure that the valuable road space is available equally to all road users and it is to ensure the smooth running of traffic through the borough.

Parking is a contentious (hard) subject for most motorists and you should set aside your targets and concentrate on penalising (giving a ticket) only those offences that are clearly in breach of the regulations which you were asked to memorise when you first started.

Pavement Parking

First and foremost, your employment (job) is to ensure the roads are kept free and running and where vehicles are kept, separate from the pedestrians.

This means that if you observe any vehicle on a public pavement, then you are required to issue a ticket without warning. An example of this type of offence is shown here.

The offence may also be committed even if only one wheel is on the pavement, but this picture shows you a situation where you are compelled to issue a penalty notice.



Bad Parking

Parking a car on a pavement is clearly wrong, but there are situations that as an officer you will come across where the vehicle is clearly on the road, but parked badly.



The Council spends a large amount of money each year marking the roads to help and assist road users. One of the duties is the marking out of parking bays so that maximum use of the available space is made.

If you therefore find yourself near a vehicle that is not in the marked bay then you must use your judgement as to whether to issue a ticket or not.

It is worth repeating here that you are not trying to get to a target, but it's a good idea to err on the side of caution and issue a ticket anyway.

Here is another example of the type of thing you are looking for. In this case the van is taking up two spaces which is not only in breach of the regulations, but selfish as well. On this occasion an instant ticket is essential.

As an enforcement officer you must rightly issue an immediate ticket because the vehicle has stolen space made for two cars.



Note: It is worth checking your terminal to see if the vehicle has paid by phone. If it hasn't then you have a 241 opportunity as two offences have been noted. This can only help your weekly totals, which we remind you are there simply for fun and are not part of a target!.

Parking in Restricted areas;

The principal duty of your work is to keep traffic moving, and it is the painted line restrictions that show the motorist where it is safe to park (and pay) and where stopping, even for loading and unloading is not permitted.

Here is an example that should get your reaching for your ticket machine.

The van is not only parked on a restricted street, it is parked in an area where it clearly shows that there is no waiting or loading.

Sometimes you may feel that simply speaking to the driver and asking him to 'move on' would be sufficient. Experience has taught us harshly that if you do that, you miss the opportunity for a penalty charge, and you risk the driver moving off before your colleagues can also ticket him.



Special Circumstances

There are no circumstances where you can not give a ticket. This may seem harsh, but the fairness of the system means we have to treat all the same. If we let off one or two, then it would look bad for us and show people we were not firm. If we let some people off we don't get the money from the parking tickets. And that's not fair.

So, at all times remember *Firm and Fair*.