Got a parking ticket? The 14-day checklist

Everything below comes from the regulations, GOV.UK, the tribunals and MoneySavingExpert. Dates are for England; Wales is the same structure. Not legal advice.

Day 0: before you do anything

☐ **Which kind is it?** A council **Penalty Charge Notice** is a civil penalty with a free independent tribunal. A private company's **Parking Charge Notice** is an invoice under an alleged contract. Different rules, different letters.

☐ **Do not pay yet.** Paying closes the case. You cannot appeal a ticket you have paid.

☐ **Photograph everything now:** the ticket, both sides; the signs and lines from the driver's eye level; where the car was in relation to them; your pay-and-display ticket or app receipt.

☐ **Read the ticket like a lawyer.** Wrong street, wrong registration, wrong date, a contravention that does not match what happened, no date of notice: each can be fatal to the ticket.

Council PCN: the clock

Deadline	Rule
14 days	Pay at 50% (21 days for postal camera PCNs)
28 days	Informal challenge (windscreen tickets) or formal representations (Notice to Owner / postal PCN)
56 days	Council must answer formal representations or they count as accepted
28 days	Appeal to the tribunal after a Notice of Rejection. Free.
+50%	Charge Certificate if you do nothing
21 days	Order for Recovery: pay or file a witness statement

Most councils re-offer the 14-day discount if they reject an informal challenge, so a genuine challenge is close to risk-free. Check the wording of your rejection letter.

Private charge: the clock

Deadline	Rule
14 days	At least 40% off (Code 8.2.2)
28 days	Appeal to the operator (Code 8.4)
+14 days	Discount stays open after a rejection if you appealed in time (Code 8.1.2(e))
28 days	POPLA or IAS after the operator rejects. Free.
£100	Maximum charge (Code 8.2.1)
14 days	ANPR Notice to Keeper must arrive within 14 days of the day after you left (PoFA Sch 4 para 9)

If you are the keeper, do not name the driver. The operator can only pursue you if its notice meets every condition in the Act.

The numbers (official statistics)

- London 2024-25: 49.3% of decided parking appeals were allowed, and 68.5% of those wins were not contested by the council (London Tribunals).
- England outside London and Wales 2025-26: 41.6% of tribunal appeals allowed; 67.5% of wins not contested (Traffic Penalty Tribunal).
- MoneySavingExpert: at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, "up to 64% of appeals end in success or a reduced charge".

Five things that lose appeals

1. Paying and then appealing.
2. Admitting it and asking for sympathy at the tribunal. Mitigation is not a ground of appeal there; it goes to the council as "compelling reasons".
3. "I was only a couple of minutes over" outside the 10-minute grace period in a paid bay.
4. Arguing a private charge of £100 is unfair. The Supreme Court decided that in 2015. Argue the signs, the contract and the keeper-liability conditions instead.
5. Ignoring a court claim form or an Order for Recovery.

Free app: photograph the ticket and Appeal My PCN writes the first challenge for you in about 30 seconds. No account. **Rejected?** The Reply Pack, the Private Parking Charge Defence Kit and the Missed the Deadline guide are at **appealmypcn.uk/kit**.

Sources: SI 2022/71 and SI 2022/576 (legislation.gov.uk); gov.uk/parking-tickets; Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 Sch 4; BPA/IPC Single Code of Practice v1.1; londontribunals.gov.uk annual statistics 2024-25; tpt.gov.uk Annual Report 2025-26; moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/parking-ticket-appeals.