

Kildare County Council

'Observation Period' for Pay & Display offences

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the "Observation Period" for Pay & Display offences?

A: The Observation Period is time during which motorists can purchase a Pay & Display ("P&D") ticket for parking in P&D areas. During this time, vehicles will not receive Parking Fines for failing to display a valid P&D ticket.

Q: How is the "Observation Period" measured?

A: The Observation Period is measured by a Traffic Warden using a Handheld Computer Device. The handheld device will not allow a Parking Fine to be issued until the 15-minute Observation Period has expired.

When the Traffic Warden observes a vehicle with no P&D ticket on display, he or she enters the vehicle registration number into their handheld device. This is the start of the Observation Period. The device is now "locked" and will not allow a Parking Fine to be issued to that vehicle for another 15 minutes.

When the Traffic Warden observes a vehicle with an expired P&D ticket, he or she will not issue a Parking Fine during the first 15 minutes after the ticket expiry time. If the Traffic Warden first observes a vehicle when the ticket has already expired by say 30 minutes, they may issue a Parking Fine straight away at that point.

Q: So if I'm running into a shop for 5 minutes I don't need to pay?

The Council encourages motorists to pay in case they get delayed.

Q: I was dropping something off and stopped on Double Yellow Lines for two minutes, but I received a Parking Fine. I thought I had 15 minutes?

It's important to note that the 15-minute Observation Period only applies to vehicles parked in P&D areas. Vehicles that commit parking offences which are prohibited under the Road Traffic Act (e.g. parking on Double/Single Yellow Lines, parking in a Loading Bay, parking in a Disabled Bay without a valid permit) may receive a Parking Fine instantly. The 15-minute Observation Period does not apply to these type of offences.