



Parking
Services
Annual Report
2014/15 & 2015/16



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1/ Introduction

Welcome to Cumbria County Council's Parking Services Annual Report for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This report provides information on-street parking enforcement across the county between 01 April 2014 and 31 March 2016.

The Council is required to publish this information in accordance with Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

2/ Parking enforcement background

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 first enabled Councils to enforce certain parking acts. A considerable number of parking offences, primarily those concerning restricted (yellow line) parking remained the responsibility of the police and the police traffic warden service.

The Road Traffic Act 1991 brought about a number of key changes in the above arrangements. Parking "offences" enforced by Councils were "decriminalised" and brought within the civil enforcement system. At the same time a number of additional enforcement responsibilities, such as restricted (yellow line) parking, were removed from the police and also given to Councils.

The legislative framework for local authorities to carry out parking enforcement changed on 31 March 2008 when Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, replaced parts of the Road Traffic Act 1991.

Parking restrictions are introduced through a legal order known as a 'Traffic Regulation Order'. Road markings and signs provide information to motorists of the restrictions. Where a vehicle is parked in breach of a restriction a 'Penalty Charge Notice' can be issued by a Civil Enforcement Officer (this officer is employed by the Council).

3/ Aims and objectives

Cumbria County Council is responsible for the enforcement of on-street parking across the county. Enforcement is carried out by the Council's in-house Parking Services team to ensure that the finite number of parking spaces are shared fairly between residents, businesses and visitors. The Council is also responsible for issuing a variety of parking restriction exemption permits or certificates in certain areas of the county. The Service fulfils an essential role in supporting and delivering Moving Cumbria Forward: Cumbria Transport Plan Strategy 2011-2026.

The aims of Cumbria County Council's Parking Services team are to:

- Manage on-street parking to improve road safety and traffic movement.
- Manage the available on-street parking for the benefit of the local economy and community.
- Cover the costs of enforcement, including parking restriction signs and lines, from Penalty Charge Notice income.
- Provide a better understood Parking Service and improved public facing role for Civil Enforcement Officers who will act as ambassadors on behalf of the Council.





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The management of on-street parking contributes to achieving the aims of the Cumbria Local Transport Plan and specifically supports the delivery of Community Strategy and Council Plan priorities:

- To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment.
- To provide safe and well maintained roads and an effective transport network.
- To promote sustainable economic growth and create jobs.
- To be a modern and efficient council.

The Council's parking policies are available at www.cumbria.gov.uk/parking

4/ On-street parking enforcement

In May 2014 Cumbria County Council's Cabinet made the decision to return on-street parking enforcement duties to the authority from the various district councils who had previously delivered the service under the terms of an Agency Agreement. Off-street enforcement still rests with the district councils and other land owners. The decision to bring the on-street service back in-house was taken to ensure the delivery of a cost effective and consistent parking enforcement service across Cumbria. Civil Enforcement Officers enforce on-street parking restrictions where Traffic Regulation Orders are in force. Elsewhere, where parking causes an obstruction of the highway, the police are responsible for enforcement as with moving traffic offences.

During the course of the 2014/15 financial year responsibility for on-street parking enforcement transferred from a number of district councils to Cumbria County Council as follows:

- 01 November 2014 – enforcement in the Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council areas.
- 01 February 2015 – enforcement in the Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council areas.
- 23 March 2015 – enforcement in the Barrow in Furness Borough Council areas.

On-street parking enforcement in the South Lakeland District Council area was delivered by Cumbria County Council Civil Enforcement Officers throughout 2014/15. For the entire duration of 2015/16 on-street parking enforcement was carried out by Cumbria County Council's in-house Parking Services team.

The management of traffic and parking sits within a dynamic and changing context, therefore constant adjustment and improvement is necessary to guarantee effective and responsive management. The Council will continually monitor the performance of the Parking Services to assess the effectiveness and impact of the parking enforcement activity undertaken by Cumbria County Council.

5/ Penalty Charge Notice issue statistics

From 01 April 2014 until 31 March 2015, a total of 26485 Penalty Charge Notices were issued.

- 10721 were issued in the higher band (£70 but reduced to £35 if paid with 14 days from the date of issue).
- 15764 were issued in the lower band (£50 but reduced to £25 if paid within 14 days from date of issue).

A breakdown of the issue and contraventions of tickets issued by Cumbria County Council and the district councils on behalf of Cumbria County Council between the above dates is provided below.

From 01 April 2015 until 31 March 2016, a total of 29670 Penalty Charge Notices were issued.

- 11970 were issued in the higher band (£70 but reduced to £35 if paid with 14 days from the date of issue).
- 17700 were issued in the lower band (£50 but reduced to £25 if paid within 14 days from date of issue).

A breakdown of the issue and contraventions of tickets issued by Cumbria County Council between the above dates is provided below.

Standard Penalty Charge Notice Codes On-street – 2014/15 and 2015/16

Code	Description	Contravention Level	Issued 2014/15	Issued 2015/16
01	Parked in a restricted street during prescribed hours	Higher	5620	6550
02	Parked or loading / unloading in a restricted street where waiting and loading / unloading restrictions are in force	Higher	1304	1206
12	Parked in a residents' or shared use parking place or zone without either clearly displaying a valid permit or voucher or pay and display ticket issued for that place, or without payment of the parking charge	Higher	162	139
16	Parked in a permit space or zone without clearly displaying a valid permit	Higher	376	595
19	Parked in a resident's place	Lower	5	7
20	Parked in a loading gap	Higher	0	0
21	Parked wholly or partly in a suspended bay or space	Higher	37	4
22	Re-parked in the same parking place or zone within one hour after leaving	Lower	98	133
23	Parked in a parking place or area not designated for that class of vehicle	Higher	133	172
24	Not parked correctly within the markings of the bay or space	Lower	251	236
25	Parked in a loading place during restricted hours without loading	Higher	1330	1554
26	Parked in a special enforcement area more than 50 cm from the edge of the carriageway and not within a designated parking place	Higher	4	12
27	Parked adjacent to a dropped footway	Higher	130	130
30	Parked for longer than permitted	Lower	4579	5321
35	Parked in a disc parking place without clearly displaying a valid disc	Lower	10831	12003

40	Parked in a designated disabled person's parking place without displaying a valid disabled person's badge in the prescribed manner	Higher	1036	906
42	Parked in a parking place designated for police vehicles	Higher	3	2
45	Parked on a taxi rank	Higher	294	335
47	Stopped on a restricted bus stop or stand	Higher	146	158
48	Stopped in a restricted area outside a school, a hospital or a fire, police or ambulance station when prohibited	Higher	23	50
55	A commercial vehicle parked in a restricted street in contravention of an overnight waiting ban	Higher	66	103
62	Parked with one or more wheels on any part of an urban road other than a carriageway. (footway parking)	Higher	1	3
99	Stopped on a pedestrian crossing or crossing area marked by zigzags	Higher	56	51

Penalty Charge Notice statistics – 2014/15 and 2015/16

Code	Total 2014/15	Total 2015/16
Number of PCNs issued	26485	29670
Number of PCNs paid	22460	24297
Number of PCNs paid at discount rate	19000	21053
Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	5016	6659
Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or a formal representation is successful	2021	1101
Number of PCNs written off for other reasons (eg CEO error or driver untraceable)	1790	1258
Number of vehicles immobilised	0	0
Number of vehicles removed	0	0

6/ Financial summary

The income and expenditure of local authorities in connection with their on-street charging and their on-street and off-street enforcement activities are governed by Section 55 (as amended) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The management and enforcement of parking can generate a surplus income and the above Act states that local authorities can only spend parking income on traffic and transport measures.

The Cumbria County Council parking enforcement budget is comprised of income from Penalty Charge Notices, less any expenditure on enforcement, processing and administration, parking enforcement infrastructure and debt recovery. There are no on-street parking charges within Cumbria other than contractor's waivers. A summary of the expenditure and income is summarised in the table below.

On-street parking account summary for Cumbria County Council

	Income	Gross Expenditure	Net Expenditure
2014/15	Penalty Charge Notices - £355,253.00 Contractor's waivers - £3,119.00 Total income - £358,372.00	£710,977.99	£352,605.99
2015/16	Penalty Charge Notices - £765,118.01 Contractor's waivers - £24,620.73 Total income - £789,738.74	£960,243.10	£170,504.36

In 2014/15 the outturn position showed net expenditure of £352,605.99. The expenditure stated above includes the total cost of delivering the service including administration of the parking permit schemes.

In 2015/16 the outturn position showed net expenditure of £170,504.36. The expenditure stated above includes the total cost of delivering the service including administration of the parking permit schemes.

The Net Expenditure position for operating the Parking Service has reduced from £352,606 in 2014/15 to £170,504 in 2015/16. In 2014/15 the majority of the parking services were delivered by the district councils, this was reflected in the expenditure and income, as the district councils were paid a fee to deliver the service and the income was shared between the districts and the County Council. Following the transfer of the function and staff to the County Council the Council became responsible for all income and expenditure. Therefore the 2015/16 figures reflect the gross expenditure of delivering the service and the total income generated. The outturn demonstrates that the cost of delivering the parking service has reduced by £182,102 in its first full year under County Council control.

The service will continue to be reviewed with the aim to reduce expenditure further in 2016/17. The reshaping of the Service will continue exploring more cost effective ways to deliver on-street parking enforcement and administer the various parking permit schemes.

7/Contact details

e: parking@cumbria.gov.uk

w: www.cumbria.gov.uk/parking

t: 0300 303 2992

Please note - cost of calls may vary depending on mobile provider

Cumbria County Council

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