



**Civil Parking
Enforcement
Annual Report
2021/2022**

Enforcement – How and Where



For the purposes of enforcement, the County is split into 3 categories, A, B and C.

Category A such as Stamford, Lincoln and Boston covers town and city centres, along with other high traffic density routes and locations – these locations are patrolled daily.

Category B such as Horncastle, Bourne and other areas are for smaller towns and are patrolled approximately once a week.

Category C areas are all other areas, subject to parking restrictions, not covered by category A or B and are patrolled on an ad hoc basis and when resources are available.

Enforcement Officers are allocated to a patrol location to meet the Councils requirements; however, category C areas are also patrolled using cars and scooters. These routes are planned so that the most efficient use of an Officer's time is made, along with lower transport and fuel costs.



The Council's parking enforcement contractor APCOA continues to work in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to supervise, manage and coordinate the deployment of Officer's throughout the County.

Why do we enforce?

The enforcement of parking restrictions is a key component of effective traffic management and assists to improve traffic flow. Poor, dangerous and obstructive parking can pose a danger to pedestrians by blocking pavements and forcing them onto the streets; it also reduces visibility for other motorists and impedes traffic flow. All residents, visitors and businesses benefit from better enforcement of parking regulations and the reduction of incorrectly parked vehicles.

The Councils approach to parking enforcement is to be fair but firm and our procedures manual outlines how we intend to deliver the best possible service to motorists. This document can be found via www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parking/parking-enforcement.

What do we mean by a fair but firm approach?

Fair

We will explain and communicate the parking rules.

Where possible we will photograph parking contraventions to support the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice.

We will regularly monitor traffic signs and road markings to help motorists parking throughout the County.

Firm

We will review the provision of parking services regularly to see how they can be improved.

We will take consistent enforcement action to deter inconsiderate parking.

We will pursue people who try and evade penalty charges to recover debt owed to the Council.

We will work with our partners and the police to help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and to protect parking staff against abuse and violence.

We intend to seek prosecution of any attempt to threaten or assault any employee involved with parking enforcement.

Parking Suspensions



Lincolnshire County Council has the power to suspend parking within a designated parking bay to allow events to take place or access by a specific vehicle for highway/bay maintenance to be carried out. In such cases, advance notice is placed alongside the bay and is distributed to nearby properties giving the date, times and length of the suspension.

Essential maintenance is often difficult due to parked vehicles. The use of suspensions, whilst inconveniencing residents and displacing parking temporarily, is an effective way to ensure essential maintenance is undertaken. For instance, if the Council can improve access to service gullies and drains, the Council can help to minimise the risk of flooding.

Temporary parking restrictions and parking bay suspensions have also been implemented to help accommodate special events. Approximately 100 bay suspensions were processed in 2021/2022.

Parking Waivers



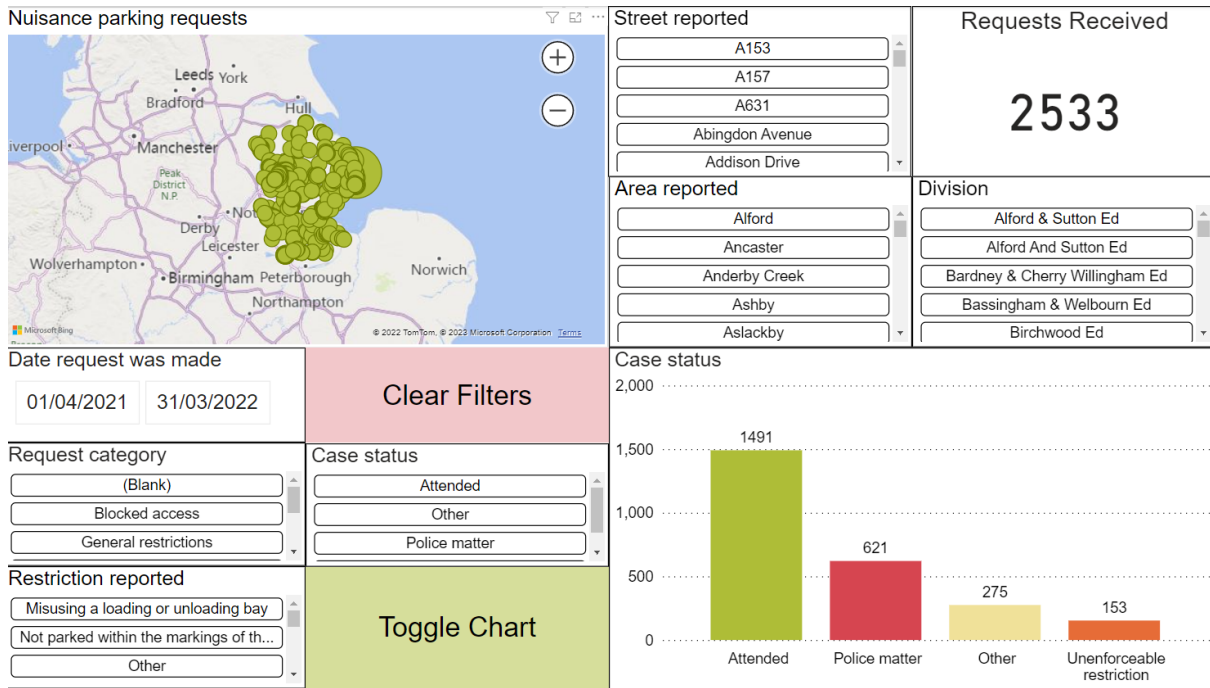
Lincolnshire County Council understands that sometimes it is necessary for a vehicle to be parked in contravention of parking restrictions to undertake works at adjacent or nearby properties. A waiver permit will only be granted when it is essential that the vehicle is parked close to the property and the impact on other road users, businesses or pedestrians is kept to a minimum.

A permit will allow for extended parking in permit holder bays and limited waiting bays. In extenuating circumstances a permit may be granted to allow parking on single yellow lines, loading bays or in restricted zones such as pedestrianised areas but only if there are no other suitable parking alternatives. The below shows the number of parking suspensions implemented and which areas of the County they have occurred. Approximately 1,200 parking waivers were processed in 2021/2022

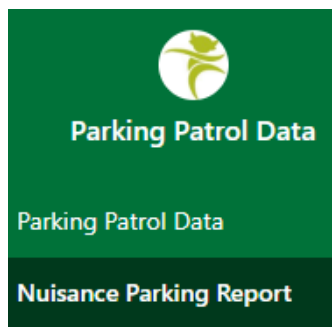
Nuisance Parking

Any vehicles seen to be parked in breach of parking restrictions could be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. Nuisance parking is an issue that impacts a lot of residents and something local Councillors are often approached about. A new online reporting tool was developed in late 2020. The new system has proved extremely popular and vastly improved the way in which we communicate and respond to nuisance parking requests.

A fraction over 2,500 requests were received in 2021/2022 of which nearly 1,500 were attended and action was carried out by our enforcement team.



Lincolnshire County Council actively encourage members of the public to utilise our nuisance parking reporting tool as this enables us to shape patrols when required and react to non-compliant parking practices that we may not be aware of.



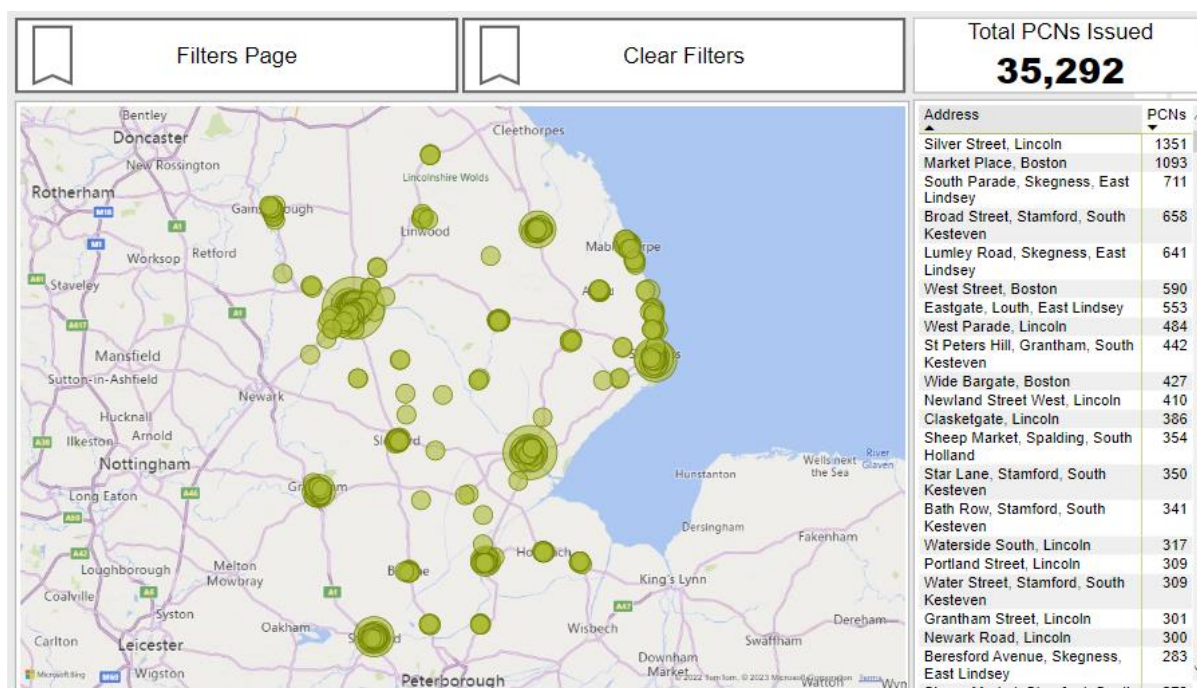
All data relating to this and parking patrol data is stored on our Open Data Power BI platform and is accessible to all Councillors.

Penalty Charge Notice Issue Statistics

Lincolnshire County Council has always taken an open and transparent outlook when publishing PCN data and we update our statistics regularly on our website. All data can be broken down by District area, street name and even Electoral Division. The following weblink provides a member of the public with direct access to our interactive data.

[On Street Penalty Charge Notices \(PCNs\) 2021-2022 Interactive Map - Lincolnshire Open Data \(ckan.io\)](https://ckan.io)

In the 2021/2022 financial year, a total of 35,292 Penalty Charge Notices were issued. The below highlights some of the streets across the County where the most parking contraventions occurred.



Previous Penalty Charge issuance statistics are shown below:

2017/2018 – 31,029

2018/2019 – 34,986

2019/2020 – 34,790

2020/2021 – 24,225 (Covid 19 Implications)

2021/2022 – 35,292

Transparency in Finance

The table below shows a breakdown of the costs incurred by the Council and any surplus generated from Civil Parking Enforcement.

In line with the Traffic Management Act 2004, any surplus arising from on-street parking and enforcement is ring-fenced and can only be used for the provision of the enforcement service, supplying or making good parking facilities, transport projects, environmental projects or if the council feels that none of these are required, the funds can be set aside against potential losses for up to 5 years.

Lincolnshire County Council receives no income for on-street parking, preferring to provide free limited waiting parking in town centres, helping to support local businesses and services by encouraging more visitors.

The 2021/2022 financial figures highlight that a deficit of £48,668.58 was recorded and has been balanced and drawn down from the CPE reserves.

Recent deficits (excluding COVID implications) have primarily occurred due to the increase in National Living Wage requirements. Any increase directly impacts upon our Enforcement contract's monthly costs and these increases rise each year. It is projected that contract costs will rise in excess of £50,000 from April 2023. Any shortfall between income and costs can be covered from any surplus in the Parking Account or the Council's General Fund. Whilst costs are on the rise, the real time cost of a Penalty Charge Notice has remained the same for many years and long before CPE was introduced to Lincolnshire in 2012. The British Parking Association have been vocal in requesting a review from Central Government into a potential increase to Penalty Charge Notice monetary levels, and Local Authorities remain active in ascertaining what developments may occur in the future.

From an operational viewpoint, we ensure that our patrols are as efficient as possible and that areas which are known to suffer from non-compliant parking are frequented as often as resource allows. Taking proactive measures such as these increases customer satisfaction but also results in a more accessible Highway with greater parking opportunities for visitors to local amenities.

		2021/22
Income	Penalty Charges	£1,172,269.84
	Other reimbursements / contributions	£65,135.72
	Total	£1,237,405.56
Costs	Enforcement Contract	£790,506.28
	Notice Processing Contract	£237,895.34
	Council costs	£257,672.52
	Total	£1,286,074.14
Draw down from reserve	Total	-£48,668.58

The Future

Although still somewhat in the distance, the enforcement contract for parking is due for tender in 2024. Work has already begun to hold informal discussions with neighbouring Local Authorities and Local Authorities that have a similar geographical make up as we see in Lincolnshire. The aim of the scoping exercise is to look for innovative ways of delivering parking enforcement and associated services within the most efficient cost envelope.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the level of penalty charge has remained static for many years whilst costs, especially for staff and travel, continue to climb. This leads to an inevitable cross over where cost can exceed income. How to minimize or eliminate this financial burden whilst continuing to deliver the service in line with Council policy will be the main priority going forward.

Contact Us



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