

What is a fixed penalty notice ?

If a person leaves litter, that person is committing a criminal offence. A fixed penalty notice (FPN) is your opportunity to avoid being prosecuted for the offence of littering. This offence carries a maximum fine of £2500 if found guilty, we would apply for you to pay our costs as well and you would gain a criminal record. By paying the fixed penalty you "discharge" the offence and nothing further happens.

When do I have to pay by?

To benefit from the process you must pay within 14 days of receiving the FPN

What happens if I miss the deadline?

A file will be prepared for prosecution.

Can I contest an FPN?

Yes.

How do I contest an FPN?

There are 2 ways.

- If you receive an FPN, you can write to the Department and "appeal" against it. This is a way for you to explain why you believe you are not guilty of the offence. Again, appeals will not be upheld because you disagree with being fined, but will be judged on the facts and whether the law has been broken.
- You can opt not to pay the FPN. If you do this, we will serve a summons on you to appear before the Magistrates Courts, at which time your case will be judged. You may contest your case by pleading Not Guilty to the offence and giving your reasons. The fact that you don't agree with being prosecuted for dropping litter is not a reason that will be accepted by the Courts. They will judge your case against the law of the land, not any opinions you may have about the merits of that law.

How do I pay?

You can pay by cheque, postal order or money order.

I've appealed and not happy with the response - what can I do now?

You can accept the decision and pay the FPN penalty within the remaining time left or you can opt not pay and await your opportunity to contest your case in the Magistrates Courts.

I am under the age of 18.

The law still applies to you, and you will be able to pay the FPN like any other person. However, you may also "discharge" the offence by opting to carry out 2 hours litter picking at a safe location, under strict supervision, somewhere in the City. This will take place on a Saturday morning. In order to select this option please contact the service to make arrangements.