

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 or on line parking payment through the ApcoaConnect App for parking in P&D areas. During this time, vehicles will not receive Parking Fines for failing to display a valid P&D ticket or purchase of an on-line parking payment.

Observation Period – Where there is no valid Pay and Display ticket displayed on a vehicle, and where no valid on-line parking payment has been made a 15-minute observation period applies prior to the purchase of/on expiry of a valid pay and display ticket or on-line parking payment. This is indicated on each parking machine.

A 15-minute observation period only applies to vehicles parked in a designated parking bay. It does not apply to any other situation.

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 or no valid on-line parking payment, he or she enters the vehicle registration into their handheld device or scans the vehicle registration with their 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 or expired on-line parking payment, he or she will not issue a Parking Fine during the first 15 minutes after the ticket or on-line payment expiry time. If the Traffic Warden observes a vehicle when the ticket or the on-line parking payment has already expired by 15 minutes or more, they may issue a Parking Fine straight away at that point.

Q: So, if I am 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?

A: It is 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 types of offences.