



FIXED PENALTIES WHAT THE CHANGES MEAN FOR YOU

Changes are being introduced to give the police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for careless driving from July 2013. Careless drivers who put other road users at risk face on-the-spot penalties under new measures announced by the Department for Transport.

FIXED PENALTIES

The changes will give the police greater flexibility in dealing with less serious careless driving offences, such as tailgating or middle lane hogging, and free them from resource-intensive court processes. The fixed penalty will also enable the police to offer educational training as an alternative to endorsement. Drivers will still be able to appeal any decision in court.

In addition, existing fixed penalty levels for most motoring offences, including using a mobile phone at the wheel and not wearing a seatbelt, will rise to £100 to bring them into line with the penalties for similar non-motoring fixed penalties.

The fixed penalty for careless driving will be £100 with 3 points on the driver's licence. The most serious examples will continue to go through court, where offenders may face higher penalties.

There are no changes to penalty levels for parking offences.

Fixed penalty levels for most of these motoring offences have not increased since 2000, and are now lower than other penalties of a similar severity. In addition, raising the penalty levels for these offences offers an additional incentive for drivers to take up remedial courses which address poor driving behaviour in the longer term.

The changes, which the government aim to bring into force in July 2013, are being introduced following extensive public consultation with road safety groups and police forces.

FINES

Most motoring fixed penalty offences will rise under the changes:

- a non-endorsable (where the driver does not receive points on their licence) £30 fixed penalty notice will rise to £50
- an endorsable (where points are given) £60 and non-endorsable fixed penalty notice will rise to £100
- an endorsable £120 fixed penalty notice will rise to £200
- The fixed penalty notice for driving with no insurance will rise from £200 to £300

Graduated fixed penalties (mainly for commercial goods and passenger carrying vehicles and including offences like drivers' hours and overloading) and financial deposits (for drivers without a satisfactory UK address) will also increase:

- a £30 non-endorsable fine will rise to £50
- a £60 endorsable and non-endorsable fine will rise to £100
- a £120 endorsable and non-endorsable fine will rise to £200
- a £200 endorsable and non-endorsable fine will rise to £300

As with other existing fixed penalty notice offences, such as speeding, police forces will also be able to offer careless drivers the option of remedial training. Though penalty levels will increase, penalty points will not change. Fixed penalty notices for parking, waiting and obstruction offences will also remain unchanged.

ONLINE INFORMATION

Department of Transport
www.dft.gov.uk

To find out more call Driver Support on:

0844 824 0736

or speak to your Customer
Relationship Manager