

SUMMARY OVERVIEW - FIXED PENALTY NOTICES RELATING TO COVID-19



Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc

Lockdown period covering 27 March - 22 July 2020

In response to the global COVID19 pandemic, the Government introduced new legislation aimed at slowing the spread of the virus and saving lives. This included giving police the power to sanction Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to anyone breaching the guidance.

We developed this summary of the use of FPNs in Wiltshire and Swindon in order to ensure transparency and openness with our communities around any enforcement action that Wiltshire Police officers have taken with regards to these breaches.

*Figures can fluctuate due to delays in recording FPN's. Since the last report published on 10 July 2020, no further FPNs have been recorded by Wiltshire Police.

Wiltshire Police received an average of 1,012 calls each day during this period, 24% of which were 999 emergency calls. In addition to these, Wiltshire Police have created 8,017 COVID-19 logs, which includes online reports relating to COVID-19 since this service was introduced on 30 March 2020.

Throughout the Lockdown period, Wiltshire Police have adopted an approach to Engage, Explain, and Encourage compliance with Covid guidelines and we resort to Enforcement only as a last resort. Throughout this time we have had to deal with some incidents involving breaches of guidance, and as a result issued **225 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)** to 214 individuals. **11 people** have been issued with FPNs on more than one occasion.

The **majority of notices** were issued for not complying with the Government guidance on non-essential travel and people gathering in public. To date Wiltshire has issued **no FPNs** regarding individuals not wearing a face mask in public and individuals who are required to self-isolate post travel.

Wiltshire Police refer the issuing of FPN tickets to ACRO Criminal Records Office, a national police unit working for safer communities. As of 22 July 2020 ACRO have informed Wiltshire Police that over **75% of FPNs issued have been paid**.

The highest number of FPNs were issued in **Chippenham (53), Swindon (47) and Salisbury (44)** policing areas.

Of all the notices issued by Wiltshire Police during this period, **76% were issued to males** and **24% were issued to females**. The majority (66%) of notices issued by Wiltshire Police were to **individuals aged between 18-37 years old**. 43 of these FPNs were issued to individuals who do not reside in Wiltshire or Swindon.

Wiltshire has issued **0.27 FPNs per 1,000 population****. The **majority of FPNs (151) were issued to people who identified as White/White British**. (**per 1,000 population data now excludes FPN's issued to individuals who do not reside within force).

There were **10 FPNs issued to people from Black/Black British backgrounds** (a rate of 1.64 per 1,000 Black population using 2011 census data; **6 to people from Asian/Asian British background** (0.31 per 1,000 population) and **4 to people from mixed background** (0.41 per 1,000 population). 11 FPN's were issued to individuals who did not state their self-defined ethnicity.

Wiltshire's PCC has approved a process to provide scrutiny and oversight of the legality and proportionality of FPNs. A Scrutiny Panel meets regularly to review and test all pro-forma templates issued in Wiltshire and Swindon with an option to rescind unlawful and/or disproportionate notices. A review of all FPNs to date was conducted and as a result **15 FPNs were rescinded**.

These reviews also ensure learning is captured at an organisational and individual level. As part of the scrutiny disproportionality is considered and, if appropriate, local Inspectors will be tasked to engage with their local Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs).

The Scrutiny Panel reports into a Strategic Leaders meeting and is also reported into the Wiltshire Police **strategic oversight governance meeting** which is attended by the **Office of Police and Crime Commissioner**. The process as a whole is overseen by the Deputy PCC and Deputy Chief Constable.

From 13 May, the Government introduced new regulations which included the increasing of FPNs from £60 to £100.