

# CCTV Traffic Enforcement in Barnet

Your guide to driving and parking in Barnet and the use of CCTV in the borough



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## Introduction

**Barnet's car ownership is double that of the London average. With the M1, M25 and A406 all running through the borough, Barnet is a major route for London commuters and this has a significant impact on our residential traffic.**

To create a safer driving environment for all road users including pedestrians, Barnet introduced CCTV traffic enforcement cameras in April 2016. The introduction of these cameras, at some of the borough's schools and at key junctions, is part of our strategic approach to deliver the aims of Barnet's Parking Policy which are:

- To keep traffic moving
- To make roads safer
- To reduce air pollution



# Driving in Barnet

## We have installed CCTV traffic enforcement cameras at schools and traffic junctions across the borough.

We are introducing these cameras at key locations. This could help prevent banned turns, yellow box junction obstructions and parking on school 'keep clear' markings. Barnet contains some of the busiest commuter roads in London, including the M1, A1 and North Circular roads. These measures will certainly help to keep traffic moving, improve air pollution and make our roads safer.

### Traffic regulations

There are different types of traffic regulations in Barnet. For everyone's safety, it is important for each driver to ensure they are familiar with traffic regulations and the signs that we use. This guide aims to assist you with this. Further information on the individual traffic regulations can be found in the Highway Code.

Traffic regulations are in force 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in an effort to improve road safety and increase traffic flow in the borough.

The Deregulation Act 2015 means that CCTV can only be used to enforce certain types of parking contraventions. This includes vehicles that are parked on bus stop clearways and school 'keep clear' markings.



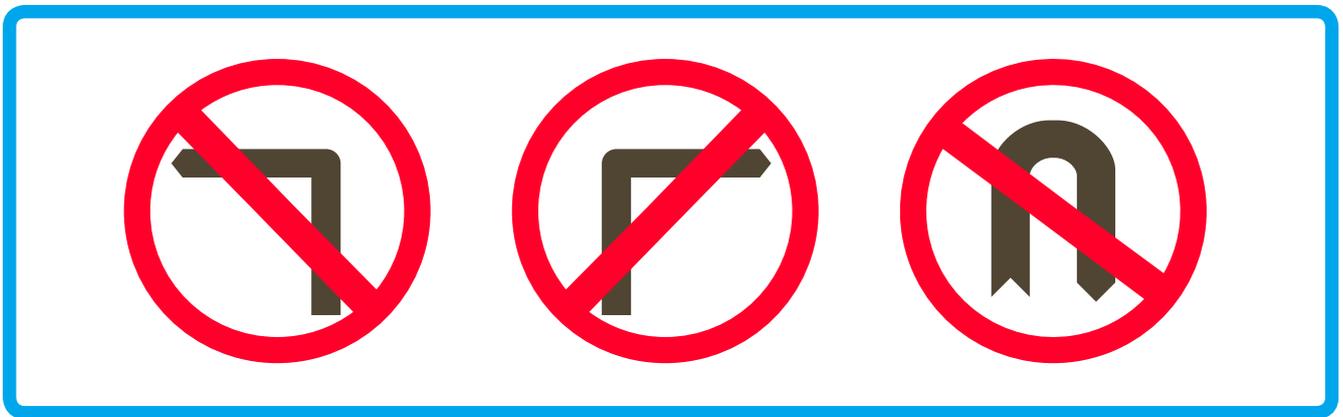
# Road signage and markings

There are places on our roads where making a turn or u-turn is dangerous and can block the road for others.

## Banned turns

Banned turns are in place to manage traffic flow, deter vehicles from blocking the road and making dangerous turns. These are commonly located at road junctions and intersections to improve safety and aid traffic flow – especially at known accident hotspots.

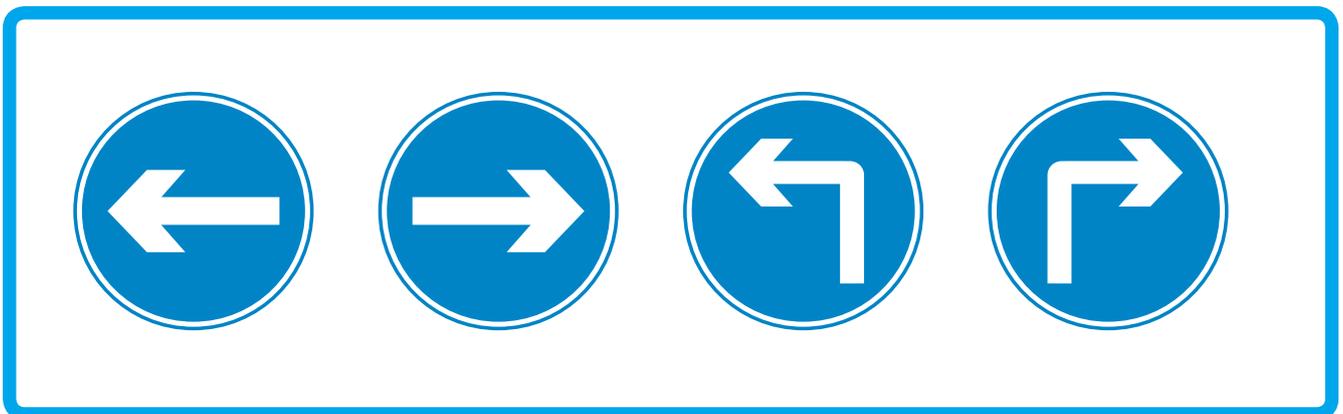
Banned or restricted turns and routes tend to have red signage and are there for everyone's safety. Never be tempted to drive into a no entry or one-way road; it's an offence to even reverse back past a sign, or to push a vehicle through a prohibited area or in the wrong direction.



## Directional instructions

Directional arrows are to guide you to the correct route or lane as you approach junctions or other potentially risky zones. These signs are blue, and are often backed up by signs painted on the road.

Different instructions may be displayed on an automated display sign depending on time of day or traffic need; check carefully each time you approach one.



## Prohibited vehicles

Some streets within the borough are restricted to certain types of vehicles. These restrictions apply some, or all, of the time depending on how they are signed. There may be a few reasons that we do this:

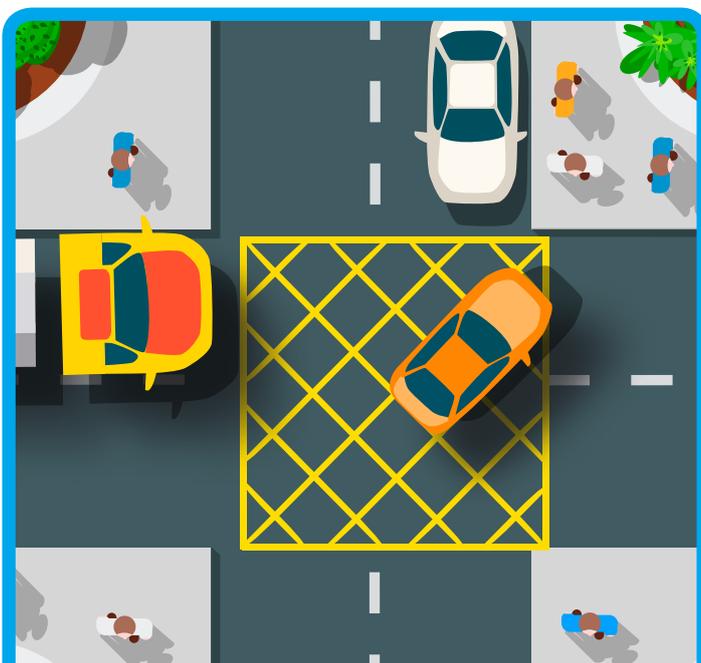
1. to reduce traffic flow and heavy vehicles on residential streets
2. to deter drivers from using short cuts through residential areas
3. to limit traffic close to schools or nurseries

Most maps do not show where these restrictions apply so we recommend you approach with care to determine whether your vehicle is allowed access. If your type of vehicle is prohibited, you will need to find an alternative route or you could risk being fined.

## Box junctions

You must not enter the box until your exit road or lane is clear. However, you may enter the box and wait when you want to turn right, and are only stopped from doing so by oncoming traffic, or by other vehicles waiting to turn right.

Our yellow box junctions have been carefully placed to keep traffic moving sensibly and safely. Stopping in box junctions causes severe road congestion and traffic delays. These are all painted as yellow grids on the road but a 'box junction' may be of any shape, based on the need of the junction.



A box junction may take a variety of shapes and does not need to be a square.

### Did you know?

You may enter the box and wait when you want to turn right, and are only stopped from doing so by oncoming traffic, or by other vehicles waiting to turn right.

The only exception to stopping in a yellow box junction is if you need to turn right and are waiting with other cars to do so, or for a space in the oncoming traffic to make your turn.

Many pedestrian crossings are near to box junctions and it is important to have clear box junctions for pedestrian safety.

### School 'keep clear' markings

The school run can be a stressful part of the day for road users, as it means a 20 per cent increase rush hour traffic. Aim to give yourself an extra ten minutes in case of delays and consider avoiding school areas if possible. Do not be tempted to park on the yellow 'keep clear' markings at school entrances – they are there to keep children safe.

Keep clear safety zones can also be found around hospitals, fire stations, police and ambulance stations. You cannot wait, stop or park in them during the times displayed.



Please note that school 'keep clear' markings operate during school holidays as well so check the hours of operations on the signs at the location.

### Did you know?

School 'keep clear' markings or school zigzags are enforced 52 weeks of the year and not just during term time.

## Top tips

The Highway Code remains the best source of general advice for driving in Great Britain. Below we have given some top tips on how to comply with moving traffic restrictions when driving.

You can view our moving traffic contravention procedures which will also give you information on all of the contraventions we enforce. Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc).

### Banned turns and directional signs

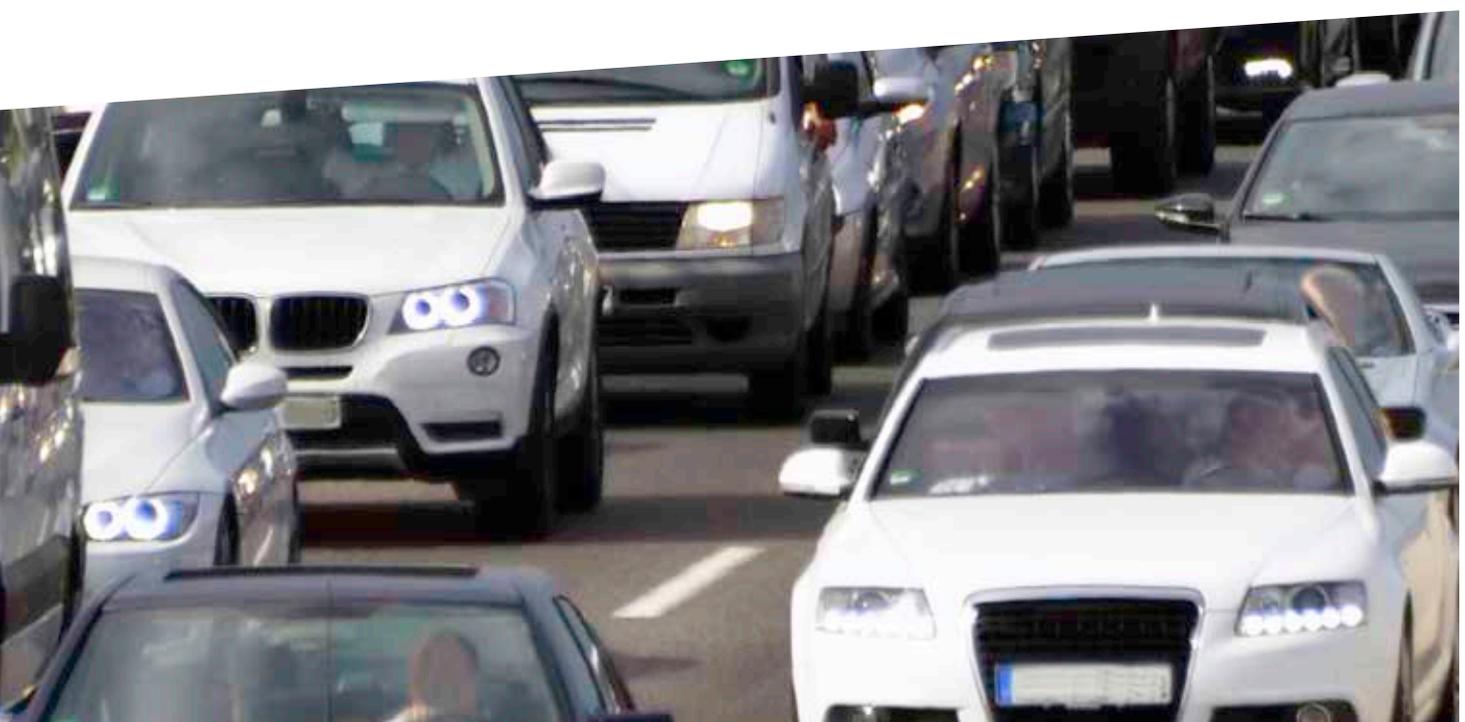
Please remember to always follow signage and road markings. These restrictions promote road safety and traffic flow for all road users by limiting dangerous turning and manoeuvres and directing drivers to keep to the correct side of islands.

### Box junctions

Take time to ensure that there is enough room for your vehicle to exit the junction before entering it. Be aware of vehicles around you and that they may stop unexpectedly.

Do not assume a manoeuvre is permitted just because you witness another vehicle performing it.

Do not over rely on satellite navigation systems to correctly navigate you through moving traffic restrictions. You may be taken through an area that could incur a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).



# Myth-busting

## Driving in London can be challenging and sometimes stressful.

Getting to know the rules of the road and planning your route carefully will help you get to your destination quicker and safer, and you'll also avoid the risk of receiving a driving penalty.

Please refer to the Highway Code for further information.

### Myth 1

Civil Enforcement officers (CEOs) receive a bonus based on the amount of PCNs they issue to drivers.

#### Fact

There is no bonus for CEOs based on the amount of PCNs issued. Also, our enforcement contract does not include targets or quotas of required PCNs.

### Myth 2

The parking department target motorists, using enforcement as a 'cash cow' for the council.

#### Fact

By law we cannot use enforcement as a way to generate income and would prefer it if nobody received a PCN. Money from PCNs is ring-fenced for certain purposes including the provision of public transport services, highway maintenance and improvements, and environmental projects

### Myth 3

The signs and road markings are deliberately confusing to catch people out.

#### Fact

We make every effort to ensure that our signage and road markings are clear. Our signs comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions which prescribes traffic signs and road markings used throughout the UK. Traffic schemes are also regularly reviewed to ensure they meet changing needs and priorities. There are also CCTV signs throughout the borough to advise motorists that we use CCTV.

### Myth 4

The appeals system is unfair.

#### Fact

The appeal processes are set down in national legislation. We consider any challenge on its own merits and will take into account any mitigation put forward. In addition, the Environment and Traffic Adjudicators (formerly the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service) administer appeals against PCNs issued by London Local Authorities and Transport for London. They are an independent tribunal service with no affiliation to any particular council.

# How to pay your Penalty Charge Notice or appeal

Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) are issued to the keeper of the vehicle as registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) at the statutory address registered.

If you do receive a PCN, you have the option of paying or challenging the charge. If you wish to appeal, you should view the video evidence, which can be found by visiting [www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc) and entering your vehicle registration and PCN number.

## Moving traffic contravention PCNs & appeals (see below for the different bus lane process)

### Step 1

You will be notified of the moving traffic contravention PCN through the post. You may either pay the PCN or make formal representations within 28 days – from the date of the Notice. A discount is available for the first 14 days. If neither option is taken, the penalty charge increases by 50 per cent and a Charge Certificate would be issued.

### Step 2

If your formal challenge is successful, we will send you a Notice of Acceptance letter and cancel the PCN (or reissue to a new owner). No further action will be required on your part. If your formal challenge is unsuccessful, we will send you a Notice of Rejection letter plus an appeal form which you can use to make an appeal to the independent Environment and Traffic Adjudicators. We will include a unique code allowing you to submit your appeal online. If you write to us within 14 days of the date of this notice and we do not accept your representations, we will give you the chance to pay the reduced amount for another 14 days from when we write back to you

### Step 3

You can either pay the charge or make an appeal to the Environment and Traffic Adjudicators. You'll be able to opt for either a postal or personal hearing. We aim to provide you with copies of our evidence at least three days prior to the hearing date.

### Step 4

If your appeal is allowed by the adjudicator, we will be directed to cancel the PCN and no charge will apply. If your appeal is refused by the adjudicator, you will be given another 28 days from the date of the decision to pay the PCN before any further increase. The charge due will normally be the full, not the reduced, penalty. The adjudicator's decision is legally binding on both parties.

## Bus lane PCNs or appeals

### Step 1

You will be notified of a bus lane PCN through the post, and you may either pay the PCN or make informal objections at this stage – please note that, unlike moving traffic PCNs, there is no statutory appeal option at this point. If your informal challenge is rejected (or you have not made a challenge) and no payment is received, you will be sent an Enforcement Notice.

You will have 28 days to either pay the charge or make formal representations to the council. If neither option is taken, the penalty charge increases by 50 per cent and a Charge Certificate will be issued. If making a formal challenge at the Enforcement Notice stage, the remaining appeal process is as opposite from step 2.

## Pay a PCN

A 50 per cent reduction applies if the PCN is paid within 14 days of the Notice being served – you can find the date of service on the PCN documentation and this date is already adjusted to allow for postal days.

**Online:** [www.barnet.gov.uk/pcn](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/pcn)

**Payment by phone:** 03300 882629

**By post to:** Barnet parking services, PO BOX 197 Lowton Way, Hellaby, Sheffield, S98 1LW

If you choose to pay by cheque or postal order, please ensure these are payable to 'London Borough of Barnet' and that you write the PCN number ('AG number' on the notice) and the vehicle registration number on the back of the cheque or postal order.

# Useful contacts and information

## The Highway Code

[www.gov.uk/highway-code](http://www.gov.uk/highway-code)

## CCTV Enforcement Guidelines:

[www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc)

## CCTV Enforcement Locations:

[www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc)

## Barnet's Annual Parking Report

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/news/categories/parking-roads-and-pavements>

## London Tribunals

[www.londontribunals.gov.uk](http://www.londontribunals.gov.uk)

This is the independent tribunal which hears appeals against PCNs in London.

## Certification for CCTV devices

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-certifications-granted-for-approved-devices](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-certifications-granted-for-approved-devices)

Department for Transport's list of approved CCTV devices which includes those used in Barnet.

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For more information:

tel: 020 8359 7446 Email: [parking.permits@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:parking.permits@barnet.gov.uk)

or visit: [www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/mtc)