

Just the ticket! How to avoid points on your licence

TODAY STATISTICS SHOW THAT UK DRIVERS ARE NOW PAYING OUT IN EXCESS OF £100 MILLION PER YEAR IN SPEEDING FINES. HOWEVER, OFTEN THE IMPACT IS NOT SOLELY FINANCIAL, AS FOR MANY A MOTORING CONVICTION CAN HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS ON THEIR LIVELIHOOD, WITH COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS FACING NOT JUST THE LOSS OF THEIR LICENCE, BUT ALSO THEIR JOB. EXPERT MOTORING LAWYER, PHILIP HATVANY OF MOTORING LAW DEFENCE, CLARIFIES A FEW OF THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SPEEDING OFFENCE PROCEDURES.

What happens if I am caught speeding by the Police?

If you have been stopped by the Police for speeding, there are two possible outcomes. In the case of a lesser offence, you will probably receive an immediate Fixed Penalty Notice which will be issued by the Officer at the time of the offence. In this situation, what many drivers fail to realise is that they still have the opportunity to dispute the penalty should they subsequently wish to do so. However, where the speed is more than 20 mph in excess of the limit, a court summons is recommended.

What is the procedure if I am caught speeding by camera?

Many speeding offences are now prosecuted on the strength of photographic evidence from speed cameras such as a gatso or a similar device. The vehicle owner will receive a Notice of Intended Prosecution in the post. The timing of that document and your response to it can be crucial in the further progress of the case. If you simply sign the form and validate

that you were the driver, you would be more likely to be found guilty of a speeding allegation. However, if you don't return the form within 28 days identifying who was driving, then this is a separate offence carrying 6 penalty points or a disqualification. We can advise you on the alternatives available.

What is the punishment for speeding?

If you have received a summons, a conviction can result in 3–6 penalty points and a fine of up to £1000 (£2500 on motorways). For speeds that are 30 mph or more above the limit, instant disqualifications are normally recommended.

Can I contest the allegation?

There are many myths relating to technical defences for speed camera cases. We can advise you appropriately on the law and the hurdles that the prosecution have to overcome before they can proceed. If you feel that you were not driving the vehicle or were not travelling at the alleged speed, we can provide frank and

accurate advice. If the Fixed Penalty Notice/Summons can be defended, we advise you how you can avoid points and a fine. Whatever the allegation we will guide you through the process step, by step. We also offer a fixed structure, which will normally be recoverable if the defence is successful.

For advice on a motoring law matter, please telephone Motoring Law Defence on 01225 442925 for a free initial discussion with a solicitor.



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Speeding fine? **Court summons?** Motoring law allegation?



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