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1. Introduction

The Gedling Borough Council (GBC) Waste & Recycling Policy fits the Gedling Plan vision 'Serving People, Improving Lives' and the stated priority within this to promote a sustainable environment through the objectives set out below:

- Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy.
- Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral.

Domestic waste collection across the borough is undertaken by GBC as the Waste Collection Authority, whilst the recycling, reprocessing, treatment and disposal of waste from the seven district and borough councils in Nottinghamshire is managed by Nottinghamshire County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority. It is important to note that although both Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have a role in collecting, processing and disposing of waste, as local authorities, but we cannot control where waste comes from or significantly influence the manufacturing process.

A long-term waste disposal contract between Nottinghamshire County Council and Veolia also stipulates what materials can and cannot be recycled.

Policy Aims

This policy aims to provide the framework for the following:

- A proportionate and considered approach to waste collection across the Borough
- Clarity and communication for residents to support GBC's recycling targets
- Reduction in black bin (residual) waste
- Increase in recycling rates
- Reduction in contamination of waste streams
- Clarity of measures that will be taken for those who continually contaminate or do not comply with this policy
- Minimisation of the carbon impact of the Waste Service, including fleet mileage and route optimisation

Legal Framework

This policy operates within the current legal framework set out below.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990

This deals with the protection of the environment and specifies responsibilities relating to litter and waste. The Act places a legal duty on local authorities to collect controlled waste and to recycle. Section 46 of this Act provides the legal powers for enforcement.

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Environment Act 2021

This sets out legal frameworks for environmental governance (part 1) and includes commitments to secure improvement on five priority areas;

- waste and resource efficiency (part 3)
- air quality and environmental recall (part 4)
- water (part 5)
- nature and biodiversity (part 6); and
- conservation covenants (part 7)

It legally binds the government and future governments to address these priority areas in order to improve the state of the environment. With regards to waste, it included details on a new direction for resources and waste management.

One of the proposed changes is that the Waste Collection Authorities will be required to introduce weekly separate kerbside food waste collections from 2025/26. This will be dependent on current contractual obligations, with the aim of increasing capture rates for organic material, allowing the banning of this material from landfill or incinerators in due course. The Act also aims to standardise the range of single use plastics to be collected and will as a result increase the range currently collected in Nottinghamshire to allow for plastic film, food trays and carrier bags. Items currently found to be contaminates in many of our recycling bin collections at present. Additional items such a fruit juice cartons may also be added. The Government is shortly to make decisions on the details of the Act implementation, which will serve to help increase recycling rates and will necessitate further changes to this Policy.

Other Legislation

A range of directives, strategies and guidance are also relevant to the work of the Council in setting policy for waste, which include but are not limited to:

- Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive (WEEE) (2003) sets targets for electronic waste recycling and lays out rules for recycling electronic waste
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulation (2011) this regulation requires that metal, glass, paper and plastic are collected separately where it is technically and environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP) to do so
- The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012) states that household, industrial and commercial waste are classed as controlled waste and are subject to the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Circular Economy Package (2018) sets ambitious, legally binding EU targets for waste recycling and reduction of waste to landfill, including:
 - Recycle 65% of waste by 2035,
 - Recycle 70% of packaging by 2030,
 - o Reduce landfill to a maximum of 10% of waste by 2035.

It promotes a shift towards a more circular economy. This is an economic model that optimises the use of a within the economy by increasing the

- duration of a product's useful life and ensuring when a product has reached the end of its life its resources can be productively used repeatedly.
- The Revised Waste Framework Directive (2018) introduced in 2006 and revised in 2008 and again in 2018. The Waste Framework Directive provides an overarching legal framework for the management of waste across Europe, covering recycling targets and waste management plans and introducing the concept of the Waste Hierarchy.
- European Directive on the Landfill of Waste (2020) aims to reduce reliance on landfill as a disposal option and seeks to decrease the impacts of landfill to both the environment and human health through rigorous operational and technical requirements.
- Waste Management Plan for England (2021) provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and outlines how the plan will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the <u>Waste</u> (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

2. Waste & Recycling Policies

The Standard Service for Individual Domestic Properties

All bins provided remain the property of GBC. The domestic waste collection comprises of three types of collection:

Bin Colour/Type	Waste	Bin Size	Frequency	Note
Black wheeled bin	Residual Waste	180L / 240L	Fortnightly	 1-5 residents in a property = 240L 6-7 residents in a property = 2 x 180L 8 or more residents in a property = 2 x 240L
				Note 1: when a residual waste bin is lost, stolen or damaged, the above household size criteria is used to determine the replacement bin size. Note 2: apart from the situation above, there are no plans to replace bins unless required under government legislation. Note 3: residents are able to request a smaller 180L bin if
				that suits their personal requirements.
Green wheeled bin	Mixed Recycling (excluding glass)	240L	Fortnightly	If the demand is justified, residents can order additional recycling bins, free of charge.
Box*	Glass	44L	Four Weekly	If the demand is justified, residents can order additional glass boxes, free of charge. *GBC are currently exploring the possibility of a 120L wheeled bin

Optional Services for Domestic Waste from Individual Properties where Fees/Charges Apply

GBC sets fees and charges annually and these reports specify the definitions and application of each fee and charge to be applied.

Bin Colour / Type	Waste	Bin Size	Frequency	Note
Brown wheeled bin	Garden	240L	Fortnightly (Note 1)	Hedge trimmings, leaves, grass cuttings, plants, weeds, pruning are collected fortnightly for around 10 months of the year March – December. Contracts for this waste service run from April 1st – March 31st. Note 1: as garden tonnages drop substantially during the winter months, it is not efficient or cost effective to run the Garden Waste service over the winter months. Note 2: the Garden Waste service excludes the following materials (refer to section 5 for acceptable)
				 section 5 for acceptable weights): Food waste (raw or cooked) Branches over 10cm diameter Garden furniture Treated wood Soil/rubble General household
				wasteTurfAnimal bedding or waste
Individual items	Bulky Waste Type 1 - domestic fridges/freezers and electrical items Type 2 - bulky non-electrical items	N/A	As and when ordered	State pension-aged residents are entitled to a free one-off collection per year in Gedling. A bulky waste amnesty is currently offered for all residents for a limited number of weeks per year, typically in January/February.

Multiple Occupancy Properties (flats or apartments)

In areas where separate collections are not possible, large communal wheeled bins are provided where this is practical. GBC will provide sufficient bins to allow residents to recycle their recyclable waste and to dispose of any residual waste that cannot be recycled.

All multiple occupancy properties shall receive the same fortnightly collection service as other single occupancy properties in the borough, including recycling services.

Churches

Provision is equivalent to that provided to domestic properties. Any additional requirements will be treated and charged as Trade Waste. There will be no glass collections.

3. Requirements of Residents

Bin Collection

GBC has the right to determine how bins should be presented for collection, and to decline to collect any bins that are not presented correctly. GBC will not return to a property where any bins have not been presented in accordance with the requirements set out below until the next scheduled collection.

If any bin is contaminated the resident will be required to sort the contents into residual and recycling waste accordingly. No side waste shall be presented and the bin lid must be closed. At the discretion of GBC, residents may be authorised to leave or re-present their bin for collection within an agreed timeframe.

Bins may be collected at any time from 6am onward. Collection times can vary and be impacted by vehicle breakdowns, traffic conditions, adverse weather etc.

Residents should present bins in line with the following requirements:

- Correct contents in the correct colour GBC supplied bin
- Green bins should not be contaminated with incorrect items (refer to section 5)
- Easily seen with handles facing out towards the road
- Avoid causing an obstruction for pedestrians or vehicles, at the boundary of the property (unless a variation is agreed with GBC)
- Residents shall label their bin with the property number/name clearly visible this will enable staff to return the bin as close to the correct collection point
- No form of advertising is permitted on bins unless authorised by GBC
- Residents are responsible for the cleaning and general maintenance of their bins
- All bins must be presented with the lid closed partly open lids can get caught in the collection vehicle's machinery and cause a hazard
- Bin contents should not be compressed (excessively pushed or forced down), or overloaded in the case of a box
- If using the bulky waste service, items should be presented on the scheduled day of collection in line with the applicable booking in a visible location.

It is the responsibility of the resident to correctly dispose of waste that is not collected by GBC due to any bins not being presented correctly.

Bin Return

After emptying, GBC staff will return the bin/box as close to the collection point as possible.

Residents should store their bin back within the curtilage (boundary) of the property no later than 24 hours after midnight on the official council collection day (unless advised to leave out by GBC because it was uncollected).

Prohibited Items - Black Bins

The following items are **not** to be deposited in black bins:

- Asbestos
- Batteries
- Building materials
- Car parts
- Chemicals
- Electrical equipment (Under the 2003 WEEE directive)
- Fluorescent tubes/low energy light bulbs
- Furniture
- Gas Bottles
- Hot ashes
- Infectious materials
- Liquid waste, including paints and oils
- Sharps
- Soil and rubble
- Weed killer
- Excessive amounts of animal waste (guidance is 7kg)
- Any item that does not fit in the bin
- Any item exceeding 25kg

Prohibited Items - Green Bins

The following items are **not** to be deposited in green bins:

- Bagged waste please leave your recycling items loose in the bin
- Batteries please put in a plastic bag on top of your bin on collection day (not including car batteries or industrial batteries).
- Cardboard/ plastic takeaway packaging (due to food residue)
- Cling film
- Crisp packets
- Foil
- Food and drink waste tea bags, egg shells, plate scrapings etc.
- Fruit punnet packaging
- Garden waste Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings etc.
- Glass please put clean glass and jars in your glass collections box.
- Large metal biscuit/sweet tins
- Light bulbs
- Mirrors
- Nappies
- Paper Tissue
- Pet food pouches
- Plastic carrier bags, bin liners

- Polystyrene
- Pyrex
- Shredded paper
- Spray bottle tops/triggers
- Sticky labels
- Tetra Pak packaging (Waxy outer with foil lined inner) juice and milk cartons
- Textiles
- Wallpaper

Battery Recycling

GBC provides a kerbside battery recycling collection service from domestic properties. Residents should place batteries in a bag or other secure container on top the black or green bin and this will be collected on the same collection day. Batteries must kept separate so that they can be recycled.

Small Waste Electronic Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Recycling

GBC provides a kerbside small (laptop size) WEEE recycling collection service from domestic properties. Residents should place items left on top the black or green bin and this will be collected on the same collection day. Small WEEE items must be kept separate so that they can be recycled.

There is limited capacity for collection so on occasions where an item cannot be taken a sticker will be left informing the resident that the item(s) will be removed on the next collection date.

Side Waste - Black Bin

No side waste shall be left outside of the black bin, whether in bags, on the ground, or on top of the bin. No side waste will be collected, with the exception of small WEEE items and batteries for recycling. The responsibility for the disposal of excess residual waste, including that in communal areas, falls to the resident.

Side Waste - Green Bin

Recyclable materials presented as side waste on the green bin collection date will be collected, provided that it is not contaminated, and is presented in a way that it can be easily handled. Recycling materials shall not be presented for collection in plastic bags or sacks. Please ensure side waste for recycling is clean, and where possible kept dry.

Trade or Commercial Waste from Residential Properties

Residents are responsible for their bins. If commercial or trade waste is contained in a household waste bin, then the bin will not be emptied. If this occurs, then enforcement action may be taken.

Assisted Collections

Residents with disabilities or additional needs may request an assisted collection if there is no one else in the household (16 years and over) who is able to take the bin to the boundary. The request requires authorisation at the discretion of GBC. Validation by a Council officer, a home visit or an evidence request may be required.

Residents are required to ensure that the bin is in an accessible location, gates should be unlocked and in good working order to allow entry. Aggressive or dangerous animals should be secured to allow safe access.

If circumstances change, the Customer Services department must be notified to cancel the assisted collection.

Assisted bin collections may be subject to a periodic review and residents may be asked to re-submit their application if required.

Replacement, Additional or Larger Bin Request

Replacement Bins - Residents that require a replacement bin due to it being lost or damaged will be required to make a replacement request and may be subject to a charge.

For the avoidance of doubt, additional capacity black bins will not be provided to any property that does not have a full set of recycling bins unless there are exceptional circumstances. If a household's circumstances change, and as a result alter the volumes of waste being produced e.g. a member of the household leaves home, residents must inform GBC through the online process or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Green Bins/Glass Boxes - households that produce an exceptional amount of recyclables can request additional green bins and glass boxes at the discretion of GBC free of charge, through the request function on GBC's website or by phoning the Customer Services team.

Brown Bins - All brown delivered form a part of the optional Garden Waste service for which a charge is made. Additional bins may be requested and are subject to an additional charge for the service.

Additional and/or Larger Bin - requests for a large or additional general black bin will only be granted in the following circumstances:

- a) Large Households/number of residents a large household can request additional or larger black bin online. These requests may be subject to verification and spot checks.
- b) **Medical Conditions** a request for a larger black bin due to additional waste as a result of a medical condition may be made online. These requests may be subject to verification and spot checks.
- c) Other Exceptional Circumstances a resident should outline the exceptional circumstances for a request, and should also demonstrate full compliance with recyclable waste, for a request to be considered.

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The criteria for a larger bin or additional capacity for residual waste will be subject to an annual review.

Moving House

When residents move home, all bins and glass boxes must be left at the property ready for the new occupant to use. When moving house, residents who have an assisted collection must inform GBC so that amendments to the collection round can be made.

New Build Properties

There will be a charge for the provision of an initial set of bins/box for newly built properties. Where appropriate, developers or the builder will be charged for new bins in accordance with GBC's fees and charges policy. If developers fail to make this provision, the resident may be liable for the purchase of the bins. No collections will be made from a new build property until such time as bins of the required standard are in place.

4. Requirements of Gedling Borough Council

Bin Use

GBC has the right to determine how bins should be presented for collection, and to decline to collect any bins that are not presented correctly.

Damage during Collection and Replacement Bins

If the bin is damaged during collection, GBC will either repair or replace it within 10 working days at no cost to the resident, subject to stock availability. A replacement bin may have been reconditioned, i.e. cleaned and repaired.

Waste Calendars

A calendar will be issued annually for waste and recycling showing bin collection days and can also be found either on GBC's website, by contacting Customer Services, or by signing up to the bin reminder email. During Bank Holiday weeks, collections may change.

Bin deliveries

Bin deliveries (either to new properties, as a replacement, or additional bins) will normally take place within 10 working days of request, but this can be delayed during periods of increased demand, and are subject to stock, vehicle and staff availability.

Bulky Waste

GBC offers a separate chargeable service for large household items from domestic properties. There are two different types of bulky waste collection:

- Type 1 domestic fridges/freezers and electrical items
- Type 2 bulky non-electrical items

There is an initial charge for the first item and a reduced charge for each additional item. If there is a mix of type 1 and type 2, then there is a charge per type.

If an item is not presented in line with this policy in a visible location on the scheduled day, or if it is contaminated, it will not be collected and a new booking will be required. A refund will not be given if the staff have attended. It is the responsibility of the resident to present bulky waste for collection correctly.

Healthcare Waste Collection Service

There are two types of healthcare waste currently collected from domestic households. The first type of waste is classed as offensive and relates to waste such as incontinence waste. This type of waste can go into the black bin. However, households producing exceptional amounts of this type of waste can request a larger or additional black bin upon completion of an application.

The second type of healthcare waste is classed as infectious and relates to waste such as dressings and needles. This waste may contain blood and as such, may be

hazardous. GBC offers a separate collection service, currently provided through Rushcliffe Borough Council, for infectious waste in yellow sharps boxes (please note: these sacks and boxes are not provided by GBC). Residents requiring an infectious healthcare waste collection should contact the Customer Services.

Note: Purple boxes cannot be collected as these contain Cytotoxic and Cytostatic waste, which require a suitably permitted facility.

5. Missed Collections

Reporting a Missed Collection

All missed collections must be reported to GBC by residents within 3 working days (Monday - Friday). Each missed collection report will be investigated and, where appropriate, GBC will aim to return within 7 working days, unless advised otherwise by GBC or in unforeseen circumstances.

The missed collection procedure will only be actioned if the bin/box was been correctly presented and/or was not contaminated (see below).

Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather or other conditions disrupting the collection services, GBC will attempt to maintain services. However, collections will only be made where the collection area has been deemed safe by staff. Key factors that will affect collections can include (but not limited to) road conditions, safe access, poorly parked vehicles, and risks to the public and staff.

If the decision to suspend the service is made depending on the duration of the disruption, GBC will return to uncollected bins within 7 working days. In the event of the disruption lasting a number of days, then extra waste/recycling may be accepted upon a return to collections. In these circumstances, GBC will advise residents of issues, arrangements, and timescales for a return to services through social media, GBC website, and the waste email alert service.

Blocked Roads

If a road is inaccessible on the day of collection due to poorly parked vehicles, road works or other obstruction, then the scheduled collection may not be possible. Wherever possible, GBC will attempt to maintain services, however the safety of the public and staff, alongside any risk to property, will be a priority. GBC will aim to return to make the collection within 7 working days or when the known obstruction has moved e.g. in the case of road works.

If a vehicle is regularly causing access issues then GBC will initially seek to advise and educate the registered vehicle owner. However if this fails to work and they continue to cause access issues then the council may take appropriate enforcement action.

Inaccessible Bins

If a bin is inaccessible on the day of collection e.g. due to locked gates etc., then the scheduled collection may not be made. Wherever possible, GBC will attempt to maintain services. However, GBC will not take any action with regards to removing any blockage, e.g. alerting residents and requesting that they unlock their gates and/or remove the obstruction

Contaminated Bins

Contamination refers to a prohibited item that has been placed in the wrong bin. Details of what can be placed in each bin are available on GBC's website. GBC's collection staff are authorised to inspect bins for contamination prior to collection. Typically a bin will not be collected if it is contaminated with prohibited items. Our Waste Supervisors have the authority to re-direct a green bin into the residual waste stream in exceptional circumstances to support efficient service delivery.

For any contaminated bin that has not been emptied a sticker may be placed on the bin and recorded by the collection staff. The sticker is designed to inform the resident of the contamination, as the aim for the council is primarily to advise and educate. However, if a resident ignores that advice and continues to purposefully contaminate a bin, then the council may take enforcement action (refer to section 6).

If a bin contains a very small amount of contamination, e.g. a couple of small items, the collection staff may remove the contaminant where possible and collect the bin as normal. Any arising residual waste will be placed in the black bin where possible, or within the property boundary. However, a sticker may be placed on the bin informing the resident that the item(s) placed in the bin are not recyclable, and be recorded by the collection staff.

When a bin has not been collected due to contamination, the resident must remove the incorrect items and either place them in the correct bin prior to the next scheduled collection for that particular bin, or, correctly dispose of the waste in accordance with legal requirements.

Collection staff will not return to a property until the next scheduled collection day.

Overloaded Bin/Box

Any bin that is too heavy to be moved by collection staff or be lifted by the collection vehicle will not be collected. A guidance weight limit for any bin is <60kg, and for boxes the limit is <25kg.

Waste that is compressed in bins may not empty when lifted and tipped into the vehicle. The emptying process does not permit the staff to get in and loosen materials, so if it sticks and cannot be emptied, then the bin may be unemptied or partially emptied. In such circumstances, it is the responsibility of the resident to loosen the contents. An additional visit for collection will be at the discretion of GBC and missed collections may be restricted in these circumstances.

Returning for missed collections

If a resident reports a bin as not being emptied and the resident is unable to wait until the next scheduled collection, GBC will assess the reason for missed collection as follows:

1) **Collection staff error** – this is the <u>responsibility of GBC</u> and we aim to return within 7 working days. Black bins will always be prioritised over green bins due to the nature of the waste stream.

- 2) Adverse weather conditions or blocked roads this is the <u>responsibility of GBC</u> and we will aim to return to all affected properties on the next available collection date.
- 3) **Contamination** this is the <u>responsibility of the resident</u>, who will be notified by a sticker on the bin/box to remove the prohibited items from the bin/box, to correctly dispose of it, and to advise GBC that this action has been taken.
- 4) **Unpresented bins** this is the <u>responsibility of the resident</u> and staff will not revisit properties categorised as unpresented. Note: GBC uses a real time monitoring system to monitor the collections. All bins/boxes not presented will be logged as unpresented. Bins reported as unpresented on the system will be accepted as factual. It takes longer to report an unpresented bin than it does to collect a bin, so there is no incentive for the staff to report unpresented bins.

Damaged during collection

If a bin/box is damaged during collection, GBC will either repair or replace it within 10 working days at no cost to the resident, unless advised otherwise by GBC. Only bins that have been numbered by the resident will be repaired or replaced.

Abandoned bins/boxes

Residents can report an abandoned bin/box through Customer Services. When an abandoned bin/box has been reported to GBC, it will normally be removed within 10 working days.

6. Education and Enforcement

Non-compliance

Building awareness and having an educational approach is important to help residents understand their role, and assist with improving recycling and operating efficient services this includes engagement / working closely with property managers and social landlords. When a resident does not adhere to this waste and recycling policy, the process from education through to enforcement will follow a staged approach:

Education

In the vast majority of cases, contamination of a bin is due to a lack of understanding of requirements. For example, the current long-term recycling contract between Nottinghamshire County Council and Veolia accepts some but not all types of plastics, with plastics being all plastic bottles; yoghurt pots and margarine tubs. Carrier bags, plastic films and plastic food trays are not recyclable at present. The Council will always seek to provide clearer guidance, advice and education as follows:

An initial non-compliance will result in a sticker being placed on the bin, and a note added to the Council system.

A recurrence of that non-compliance will result in education, support and advice being provided to ensure that the Policy is fully understood, and allows the resident time to address any issues or misunderstandings regarding the presentation of their waste and recycling for collection. This may be through a personal visit, or by provision of information. In some circumstances the bin may be temporarily removed.

In almost all situations, this education process will resolve the issue.

Enforcement

GBC's approach to enforcement in relation to instances of non-compliance with this waste and recycling policy broadly follows the Nottinghamshire Principles for the Reduction of Contamination, approved by the Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC) which sets out measures to reduce contamination of recycling and minimise levels of residual waste.

The adopted approach is proportionate and fair. Information to support residents in their understanding of waste and recycling requirements is provided on the GBC and County Council websites. GBC has a duty to take action where a resident's non-compliance is causing a nuisance to the environment or impacting on others by causing a detriment to local amenities.

In exceptional circumstances, the Council may withdraw the waste and recycling service or progress to enforcement though a Section 46 Notice.

A Section 46 Notice is issued to inform the resident how they must present their bin correctly in order to avoid further action.

If a resident continues to present the waste incorrectly and/or fails without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of a Section 46 Notice, a warning letter will

then be sent detailing how the resident has breached the Notice, what they need to do to rectify this, and the consequences of any further breaches.

If the resident continues to present the waste incorrectly, the Council may issue a Notice of Intent to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), which will detail the reason why, the amount of the penalty, and the right to make a representation to the council within 28 days.

Following the 28 day period and subject to consideration of any representations made by the householder, a fixed penalty notice will be issued. This will explain the reasons why, the amount payable, how payment can be made, the period in which it must be paid, the right to appeal to the First Tier Tribunal, and the consequences of nonpayment.

Enforcement of Blocked Roads Preventing Access

As with non-compliance, the Council will always adopt an educational approach to instances of roads being blocked by vehicles parked inconsiderately as follows:

Education

Initially, information is placed on the windscreen of the vehicle(s) preventing access.

A recurrence would mean a letter is sent to the registered vehicle owner notifying them of the issue, and providing information about the email reminder service for waste collection.

If it continues then a second letter is issued to the registered vehicle owner.

Again, in almost all situations, this will resolve the issue.

Enforcement

In exceptional circumstances, the Council may instigate the following process in line with the required process for the issuing of Community Protection Warnings and Notices, the application of the applicable tests, and its Environmental Enforcement Policy:

- Community Protection Warning to the registered vehicle owner.
- Community Protection Notice to the registered vehicle owner.
- Fixed Penalty Notice issued to the registered vehicle owner.